

First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro

March 4, 2018 Third Sunday in Lent

Music Director: Jean Gómez Elder of the Month: James Graham

Guest Preacher Rev. John Lamsma

PRELUDE

WELCOME

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

INTROIT *We Are Standing On Holy Ground* (insert)

* CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 139*

Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

How precious to me are Your thoughts, loving God. How great is their number!

If I could count them, they would outnumber the sand.

When I wake up each morning, You are with me.

I will praise You, for You are awesome!

Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful, are all Your works!

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

Gracious God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, gave Himself as an act of love for the life of the world. Give us such a knowledge of His presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by His risen life to serve You continually; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

* HYMN # 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Merciful God, in Your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. Have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve You in the world as agents of Your reconciling love in Jesus Christ

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Spirit of the Living God* (insert)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. This is the good news - we are God's new creation. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

* Those who are able please stand.

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

* **GLORIA PATRI** (insert)

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination	James Graham	
Old Testament Reading	Psalm 2:1-12	pew Bible p. 489
New Testament Gospel	Mark 1:9-11	pew Bible p. 34
Anthem	<i>Brethren We Have Met To Worship</i>	choir
Text	Isaiah 42:1-13	pew Bible p. 670
Sermon	<i>The Beloved Servant</i>	

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Apostles' Creed* (insert)

* **COMMUNION HYMN # 267** *Come Christians, Join To Sing*

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

OFFERING

Invitation to give

Offertory

* Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (insert)

Leader: Join me as we pray for our community and the world.

People: Comfort and relieve, O Lord, all who are in trouble, sorrow, poverty, sickness, or grief, especially those known to us, whom we name before you in silence . . . (A moment of silence while we each call to mind the names of those for whom we pray)

For those who are lonely and in distress. Lord Give them Your peace, and fill them with Your Holy Spirit. Lift them from despair to claim the life you offer in Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray.

* **HYMN # 353** vs 1,2 *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

And all God's children said: **Alleluia! Amen!**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** **Hymn # 353** vs 4 *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*

SERVICE MUSIC AND LITURGY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: This morning we welcome Rev. John Lamsma to our pulpit.

If you are visiting us today, we extend a warm welcome in the name of Christ. We are delighted you have chosen to join us. Please fill out a visitor's card so that we can welcome you personally. To learn more about us please check our website at fpog.org. Large print hymnals and audio devices are available at the rear of the church.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will meet in the Fellowship Hall on March 18 at 2:30.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Please join us at 9:45 in the Fellowship Building. Our Lenten study is "The Path to the Cross", by Ray Vanderlaan. No homework, no stress.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Contact Susie Pressley at jimmiepressley@yahoo.com

MEN OF THE CHURCH will meet for lunch on March 27 at 11:30 at the Pickle Barrel. James Graham will be our host.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Join us as we crochet and knit prayer shawls to give to those who need our prayers and remembrance. Contact Brooke Hinds for more information.

MISSIONS OF THE CHURCH: FPOG supports many ministries in our community and beyond. We'll take a little space and share some information on each in coming weeks. Noble Usherwood is the Missions Elder so, if you have questions or comments, he will be happy to talk to you.

ATLAS Ministry *"If one falls down his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" Ecclesiastes 4:10* This is the guiding principal of ATLAS Ministries, an organization started in 2000 in Iowa and now in 10 communities nationwide. Each local organization is non-denominational, locally governed and supported. It is Christ-centered, prayer-based, spirit-led. Inspired and guided by these principals, ATLAS recruits, trains and supervises a group of volunteers who serve as mentors to work with local families who are committed to long term, multi generational, multi faceted transformation. If you are interested in learning more or being a part of this ministry, contact Director, Nesial Miller at nesial@atlasministry.org, check out the website at <https://www.atlasministry.org>, or stop by the office at 122 North Main St., Greensboro.

SHORTER CATECHISM

Q. 96. What is the Lord's Supper? The Lord's Supper is a sacrament in which, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to Christ's appointment, His death is proclaimed, and those who receive rightly are by faith (and not by the mouth in a physical manner) made partakers of His body and blood, with all His benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

Christ is now in heaven, but He is truly present among His people through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is a spiritual feeding, and faith is the receptive faculty of the soul.

Q. 97. What is required to receive rightly the Lord's Supper? It is required of those who would receive rightly the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves as to their knowledge of the meaning and object of this sacrament, their faith to feed upon Christ, and their repentance, love and new obedience; for coming in an unworthy manner would bring judgement on themselves.

We Are Standing On Holy Ground

*We are standing on Holy Ground, For I know that there are angels all around
Let us praise Jesus now, For we are standing in His presence on holy ground. (repeat)*

Spirit of the Living God

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be; World without end. Amen, Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

"The cross tells us that God understands our sin and our suffering, for He took them upon Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ. And from the cross, God declares, 'I love you. I know the heartaches and the sorrows and the pains that you feel. But I love you.' The story does not end with the cross, for

Easter points us beyond the tragedy of the cross to the empty tomb that tells us that there is hope for eternal life, for Christ has conquered evil and death and hell. Yes, there is hope." Billy Graham

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Veterans and military personnel	Doris Birdsong, Andrew Boswell's sister
Dell Boettger, Jane Epps's cousin	David Blough, cancer recovery
Scotty Brazier	Nancy Jo Durham, Judy Boswell's sister
Lanie Epps Whitt	Becky Dennis
Lindsey Walker	Lucy Lathrop, Vivian Ferland's sister
Orphan Aid Liberia	Adair Moore, Jimmy Moore's brother
Johnnie Satterfield	The Owens family (friends of Linda Fowler)
Mildred Tietjen	Nancy Gloege
Ed Lewis	Stephen Jackson
Chris Penna	Bill Corry
Susie Pressley	Nick Thomas
Chris Sandoval, Beth Lewis's son-in-law	
Dylan Webb, a friend of the Hinds, who has a brain tumor	
Our Session members: Jan Brazier, Cherie Moore, Johnny Satterfield, Noble Usherwood, James Graham, Brooke Hinds	
Pastor Search Committee: Beth Lewis, Duane Blough, Hap Tietjen, Jane Epps, Spencer Hinds	

Quotes from "America's Preacher", Billy Graham

"It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love."

"I've read the last page of the Bible, relax, it's going to turn out all right."

"God has given us two hands--one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing."

"Remember: He WANTS your fellowship, and He has done everything possible to make it a reality. He has forgiven your sins, at the cost of His own dear Son. He has given you His Word, and the priceless privilege of prayer and worship."

"Heaven is full of answers to questions that nobody ever bothered to ask."

"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can."

"Whoever named these the Golden Years must not have been experiencing them!"

THE GREAT THANSGIVING

Leader : The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

In Your wisdom, You made all things and sustain them by Your power. Therefore we praise You.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. In Jesus, born of Mary, Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. He lived as one of us, knowing joy and sorrow. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, opened blind eyes, broke bread with outcasts and sinners, and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor.

Dying on the cross, He gave himself for the life of the world. Rising from the grave, He won for us victory over death. Seated at Your right hand, He leads us to eternal life. We praise You that Christ now reigns with You in glory, and will come again to make all things new.

We give You thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before He died, took bread, and after giving thanks to You, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me. In the same way He took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in My blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of Me.

Remembering Your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from Your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate His dying and rising, as we await the day of His coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to You to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to Your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By Your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.