



# First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro

August 16, 2020 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Church Musician: Tsai-Wei Li; Elder Assisting: Judy Ray  
Pastor: Rev. Meg Jackson Clark



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judy Ray

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear the good news: No matter what is happening in your life, God's blessing and love is with you.

**God wants for us lives of justice and love and truth.**

May we seek courage and strength to follow Christ, and embrace his values rather than those of the world.

**May we be blessed as we worship today.**

### HYMN

#### *How Firm a Foundation*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!

What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Lord, we confess that we are afraid.**

**We do not want to suffer for any reason, let alone for our faith.**

**Sometimes, we keep silent, fearing the reaction if we were to speak from our hearts.**

**Sometimes we speak hurtfully, believing we need to defend ourselves.**

**We are tempted to disengage rather than feel the hurt that can come from seeking righteousness.**

**Help us to hear your blessing, and to know that we need not be afraid because you are by our side. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Jesus says: Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Judy Ray

Scripture

Isaiah 51:1-3,7-11

Scriptures

Matthew 5:1-12; Luke 6:20-22

Sermon

*"Blessed and Persecuted"*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from "A Declaration of Faith"

Pat Ray

**Christ calls us to pilgrimage toward the kingdom.**

**Jesus announced the coming of God's kingdom and its hidden presence in the midst of the world's kingdoms.**

**He taught his disciples to seek God's kingdom first.**

**We believe Christ gives us and asks of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom.**

**Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.**

**No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world.**

**We are in the world, but not of the world.**

**Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom.**

Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us;  
to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;  
to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen.

## ANTHEM

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

## OFFERING

*You are invited to offer yourself and your resources in gratitude to God.*

*(You may mail in your monetary contributions to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 26, Greensboro, GA 30642.)*

## DOXOLOGY

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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, bless those who are in poor spirit, who feel empty inside and who dread the day.

God, bless those who mourn and grieve, who ache with loss for someone so much loved.

God, bless the people who are meek, who do not grasp or shout or demand to be first in line.

God, bless the people who are hungry for justice and who cannot wait for everyone to have their rights.

God, bless all who are merciful, who have learned to forgive even those who hurt them badly.

God, bless all who are pure in heart, in whom there is no vengefulness, but only love.

God, bless the peacemakers, the ones who, by their words and deeds, can change the world.

God, bless the persecuted ones, and keep them safe from those who would hurt them.

God, so rich in blessings for your children, we rejoice in your promises

and in your boundless and transforming grace.

In Jesus' name we pray, using the prayer he taught us saying...

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## SUNG BLESSING

*Blest Are They*

Blest are they, who seek peace; they are the children of God. Blest are they, who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me. Rejoice, be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

## BENEDICTION

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loves us and through grace gives us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

---

## Coming Up:

**Tuesday, August 18, 5:15 p.m. Session Meeting**

**Sunday School** each week at **9:30 a.m.** on Zoom. All invited!

## *Continue Praying For:*

Ann Corry

Bill Corry

Family of Bill Dotson

Brooke Manning-Hinds

Bruce Porter

Chris Penna

Chuck Thorp

David Blough

Deanna & Jesse Blount

Franklin Latimer Roberts

Harrison Marcus

Jane & Johnnie Satterfield

Kenneth Pressley

Lanie Whitt

Lori Howerton

Marcus Pinson

Marie Boswell

Marie Kent Rainey

Martha Burgamy

Mike Webb

Family of Randy Quintrell

Richard Aiken

Sam Marshall

Sonia & Marguerite Grimes

Tristan Epps

Nation & World Leaders

Veterans & Military Members

*Let us remember our church members and friends:* As we offer intentional prayer, let us pray for:

*Steven Brown*