

**Christ the King Sunday
ORDER OF WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.**

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Seasonal Color: Green

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Saints Alive

Suzanne Rhinehart

(With the gift of music, let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God)

PRELUDE: "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" arr. Kevin McChesney
(FPC Handbell Ensemble)

(Please stand in body or spirit and let us join together in the Call to Worship)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. you have made us, and we are yours; we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.

Go through the gates with thanksgiving, and into the courts with praise.

Give thanks and bless God's name.

You are good; your steadfast love endures forever, and your faithfulness to all generations.

Let us worship God!

***PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION**

Great Shepherd of the sheep, you have given us Christ who shepherds the church. He is the host when the table is spread. We praise your name for all the goodness you give us, the mercy that, like oil, anoints all of our lives. As we dwell secure in the sanctuary of your salvation, open to us the truth of your word. Lead us to serve you more faithfully as in Christ you have called us to do your will. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: "Now Thank We All Our God"

GTG #643

WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Even as we have done it unto one of the least of these, your children, we have done it unto you. When they hunger and thirst we are not quick to offer them the bread of life and the cup of salvation. When they are outcast or imprisoned we seldom go out of our way to visit them. When they are sick or alone, we are not quick to keep vigil at their side. We know that you are in our midst and await our response. Forgive us when we do not go out of our way to be there for you. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

"Surely, It is God Who Saves Me"

GTG #71

**Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
And God will be my Savior.**

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

pg. 803

ANTHEM: "O Christ the Same" Timothy Dudley-Smith/Craig Courtney
(Sam Choate, Flugelhorn)

O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
Our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
Eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
Unchanging still amid the passing years;
O living Word, the source of all creation,
Who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze;
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
We bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.
O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing our inmost thoughts
The secrets none can hide;
Still as of old upon your body bearing the marks of love
In triumph glorified;
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
O Prince of life, in all your saving power;
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given;
We bring our thanks for this the present hour.
O Christ, the same, secure within whose keeping
Our lives and loves, our days and years remain;
Our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
Our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain;
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
For all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
We bring our thanks for all that is to be.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Robin McGraw

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 25:31-46

pg. 29

SERMON: "Are You a Sheep or a Goat?"

Laura Sparks

HYMN: "O Lord My God" ("How Great Thou Art")

GTG #625

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Amazing Grace"

arr. Eugenie Rocherolle

*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

GTG #606

**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.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God, may your will be done as the least of your children are led to behold the hope of the gospel. Take our lives and let them be consecrated to obeying what Christ commands. Take our gifts and use them as means of hope to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Take our time and fill it with a sense of your abiding Spirit, that others may learn of your redeeming grace. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN: "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd"

GTG #274

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "The Happy Farmer"

Robert Schumann

(*Please stand in body or spirit)

Lay Leader this morning is Margy Butterfield.
Elder on Call this week is Charles Moody.

This morning we welcome Laura Sparks as our guest speaker. Laura has served as our Director of Children, Youth and Families since May 2019. A lifelong member of our church, Laura is active in mission and music ministries singing in the choir and playing handbells. Laura delivered the message during the worship service at Camp Grier in September. She is married to Jason Sparks and is mom to Lily Grace Sparks.

We welcome Laura Michael as our service pianist today. Laura is the daughter of Doug and Mimi Michael. Laura grew up here at First Presbyterian. She now lives and works in Greensboro. We thank Laura for sharing her musical talents with us today.

Copyright information for today's service music:

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing", arr. For handbells by Kevin McChesney, copyright © 2010, Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc., Irmo SC. Used by permission.

"Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me", text public domain; music Jack Noble White, copyright © 1977 Charles Mortimer Guilbert (admin. Church Publishing, Inc.); "O Christ the Same", text Timothy Dudley-Smith, copyright © 1984, Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL; music arrangement Craig Courtney, copyright © 2000, Beckenjorst Press, Inc., Columbus, OH; "How Great Thou Art", text Stuart K. Hine, music Swedish folk melody adapt. Stuart K. Hine, text and music copyright © 1949 and 1953, The Stuart Hine Trust (U.S.A. print rights admin. Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL); "Amazing Grace", arr. Eugenie Rocherolle, copyright © 2018 Hal Leonard LLC; "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd", text Sylvia G. Dunstan, copyright © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL; music 17th Cen. French melody, public domain.

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"Now Thank We All Our God", text Martin Rinkart, trans. Catherine Winkworth; music Johann Crüger, harm. Felix Mendelssohn; "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow", text Thomas Ken, music Genevan Psalter; "The Happy Farmer", music Robert Schumann.

Above selections held in public domain

WELCOME NEWCOMERS – THERE ARE NO STRANGERS WITHIN THIS SANCTUARY: If you would like more information about the church and our programs, please stop by the visitor's table in the narthex.

1. You are in God's House. We want you to feel God's presence.
2. All around you are Christian people. They will want to shake your hand and greet you in the name of Christ. Won't you meet them with a friendly smile? We would not have you leave this place without a warm welcome and a feeling that you want to come back.
3. Please sign the Friendship Book.
4. Those interested in membership information or who desire to join are asked to speak to David Roquemore, Pastor, call the church office, or check the Friendship Book.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: (10:00am) Worship bags for children are located in the entryway. In addition, children (ages 3 yrs. old – 2nd grade) are welcome to stay with their families for the entire service, or they may attend B.L.A.S.T. Children's Church following the *Time for Young Disciples*, when children will be led from the Sanctuary to our Children's Church room and they will return to the sanctuary before the closing hymn.

THE PEACE CANDLE: The smaller, glass candle on the Communion table is a *peace candle*, and here is the candle's story and meaning.

In 1986, a group of Americans attended a Russian Orthodox worship service. At the close of the service, an elderly woman pressed a three-ruble note into the hand of a Presbyterian pastor (only about \$5 in American dollars, but a significant gift for this elderly woman). The woman asked him to buy a *candle* with it, and light that candle in his church as a symbol for *peace*. That Presbyterian pastor purchased a *candle* with the money, placed it on the Communion table in his sanctuary, and lit it during each worship service. Then the church bought other candles, in glass containers, and sent them to other churches with the request that they be lit during their worship services, as a symbol of our common hope for *peace*.

These *peace candles* have since spread across our world and across denominations. Our congregation received our *peace candle* on Sunday, November 16th, 2014. And, we have shared a *candle* with our sister church of El Redentor in Guatemala. Together with sisters and brothers in Guatemala and around the world, we light our candles every time we worship to remind us to pray for peace in our lives, in our communities, and in our world.

THE MINISTERS

All Members of First Presbyterian Church

THE MINISTRY STAFF

Laura Sparks – Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

lsparks@fpcnewton.com

Catherine C. Murdock – Music Director

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kim J. Berry – Office Manager

kberry@fpcnewton.com

Jim Ten Kate - Treasurer

Bill Inscoe - Treasurer Emeritus

MISSIONARIES OF THE CHURCH

Lawrence & Inge Sthreshley – Congo

Rev. Dr. John McCall - Taiwan



THE SESSION

Class of 2023

Brenda Eckard (5)
Debby Reynolds (2)
Suzanne Rhinehart (2)
Randy Williams (4)

Class of 2024

Gary McDougal (1)
Charles Moody (3)
Amy Owensby (1)
Amy Yenderusiak (3)

Class of 2025

Lynette Inscoe (2)
David McCart (3)
Mimi Michael (4)
Randy Miller (4)

(1) Council on Discipleship

(2) Council on Caring

(3) Council on Administration

(4) Council on Sharing

(5) Council on Praise

Suzanne Rhinehart - Clerk of Session

PASTOR

Rev. Dr. David Roquemore

Pastor David Roquemore may be reached at:

828-464-06485 (Church)

droquemore@fpcnewton.com

717-512-2779 (Cell)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

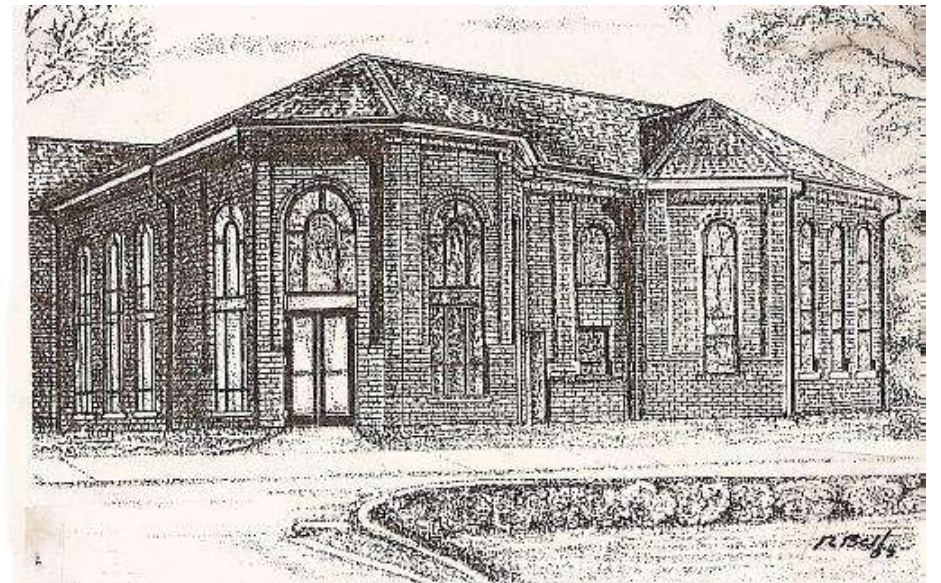
Serving the Newton-Conover area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

Sunday November 26, 2023

Christ the King Sunday

10:00 a.m.



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(828) 464 – 0648

Newton, NC 28658
www.fpcnewton.org

MISSION STATEMENT:

Following Christ together in witness, love and service.