

**14th Sunday after Pentecost  
ORDER OF WORSHIP  
10:00 a.m.**

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Seasonal Color: Green

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION: “Informed, Fed & Inspired”      Laura Sparks

PRELUDE:

“Präludium from Organ Sonata No. 10”      Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song; give praise in the assembly of the faithful.

**For the Lord takes pleasure in the people and adorns the humble with victory.**

Let us praise God’s name with dancing, making melody with tambourine and lyre.

**Let the faithful exult in glory; we will sing for joy and let the high praises of God be in our throats.**

Let us worship God!

\*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord. Day by day you guide us; every breath we take is a gift of your mercy. You strengthen our knees to serve you. You lift our hands to give you all praise. We come before you in the company of sisters and brothers to give you the worship due your wonderful name. May our words be worthy of the trust you place in us and our meditations mindful of your benevolent care. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: “The God of Abraham Praise”

GTG # 49

**WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**With the dawn comes awareness that we are to serve you in all that we do. Yet we turn our backs on you when called on to act. Our eyes deceive us when we lust after others. While we may not murder, we do not hesitate to harm. It is so easy to covet when others have what we want. We fail to love neighbors as Christ taught us to do. We hear how a new day awaits us, to put on the armor of light. We confess our unworthiness to wear your mantle of love. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

“The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

GTG # 59

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
God’s mercies never come to an end.**

**They are new every morning, new every morning,  
Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.**

**WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26

pg. 556

ANTHEM: “Do Not Be Afraid”

Sally Ann Morris

(refrain) Do not be afraid, for I am with you.

Chosen and beloved, you are my own.

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;

By your name I called you for my own.

Look up, a new thing I am doing; it springs forth; look and see it grow.

Through wilderness I’ll make a level highway;

Through deserts, make streams and rivers flow. (refrain)

I am God, who blots out your transgressions;

For my own sake I do not chide or blame.

Only this much I ask, that you love me

And seek me and honor my name. (refrain)

The Lord, the Holy One of Israel has promised to lead us on our way;

And we who love and worship God our maker

Will listen to hear the Spirit say; (refrain)

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Laura Sparks

SECOND LESSON: Exodus 3:1-15

pg. 50

SERMON: “Who Is God?”

David Roquemore

HYMN: “When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land”

GTG #52

(“Go Down Moses”)

**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: “Choral phrygien”

Jehan Alain

\*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, we offer those gifts you bestow abundantly upon us. Take them and blend them into a composite of commitment. Empower our hands to reach out to others. Enlighten our minds to perceive clearly your will. May the money we offer support the church’s endeavors, as in Christ’s name we seek faithfully to respond to your will. Amen.**

**WE LEAVE TO SERVE**

\*CLOSING HYMN: “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

GTG # 69

(“Here I Am, Lord”)

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Ancient of Days”

arr. Emma Lou Diemer

(\*Please stand in body or spirit)

Lay Leader this morning is Melva Cooper.

Elder on Call this week is Gary McDougal.

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Copyright information for today’s service music:

“The Steadfast Love of the Lord”, text and music Edith McNeill, copyright © 1974, 1975 Celebration; “Do Not Be Afraid”, text Joy F. Patterson; music Sally Ann Morris, copyright © 2009, GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL; “Go Down Moses”, text African American spiritual, music African American spiritual, arr. Melva Wilson Costen, copyright © 1990, Melva Wilson Costen; “Here I Am, Lord”, text and music Daniel L. Schutte, copyright © 1981, 2000 OCP, Portland, OR; “Ancient of Days”, music arr. Emma Lou Diemer, from *Celebration: Seven Hymn Settings for Organ*, copyright © 1975 Augsburg Publishing House. Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net A-701800, all rights reserved.

“Präludium from Organ Sonata No. 10”, music by Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger; “The God of Abraham Praise”, text 12<sup>th</sup> cen., music Jewish melody 17<sup>th</sup> cen.; “Choral phrygien”, music Jehan Alain; “Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”, traditional. Music selections 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:lsparks@fpcnewton.com)  
Catherine C. Murdock – Music Director  
Dr. Brandon Burns – Organist

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kim J. Berry – Office Manager  
[kberry@fpcnewton.com](mailto:kberry@fpcnewton.com)  
Jim Ten Kate - Treasurer  
Bill Inscoc - Treasurer Emeritus

## MISSIONARIES OF THE CHURCH

Lawrence & Inge Sthresley – 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 Inscoc (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

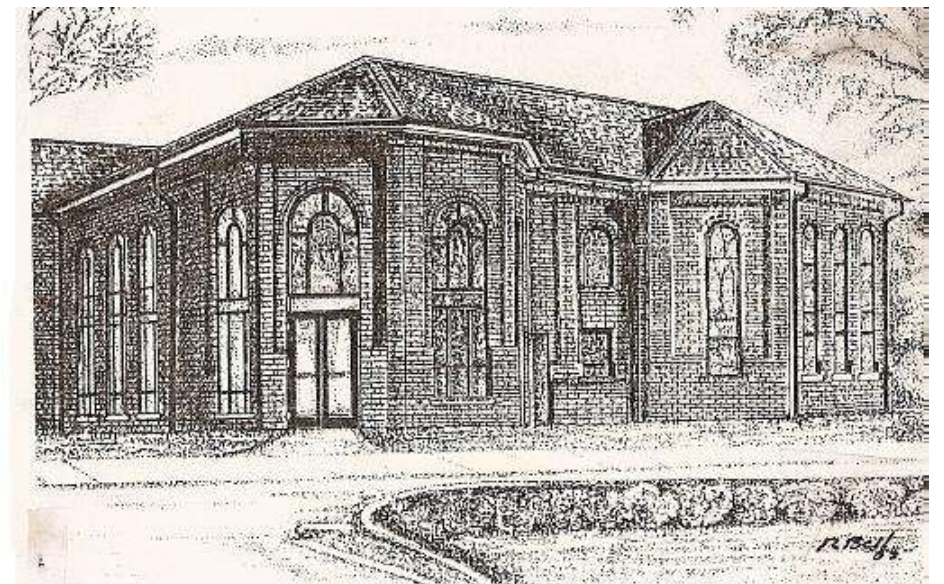
## PASTOR

Rev. Dr. David Roquemore

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton-Conover area since 1858  
Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

Sunday September 3, 2023  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
10:00 a.m.



701 N. Main Avenue  
(828) 464 – 0648

Newton, NC 28658  
[www.fpcnewton.org](http://www.fpcnewton.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT:

*Following Christ together in witness, love and service.*

### Pastor David Roquemore may be reached at:

828-464-06485 (Church)      [droquemore@fpcnewton.com](mailto:droquemore@fpcnewton.com)  
717-512-2779 (Cell)