

7th Sunday of Easter
ORDER OF WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Seasonal Color: White

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" Michael Burkhardt

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 68
Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.
We ascribe you all power and majesty, O God, and sing you our praises.
Awesome is God in the sanctuary, the same God of Israel who gives power and strength to the people.
We ascribe you all power and majesty, O God, and sing you our praises.
Let us worship God!

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION
We sing praises to you, O God; we raise a psalm in your honor. You clothe us in all goodness; we are draped in accordance with your design. As you have sent Jesus Christ to make your will known, you promise your Holy Spirit to guide us along your path. As your holiness fills our halls, hear us as we worship your name. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: "Now Thank We All Our God" GTG #643

WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE

*A LITANY OF ASSURANCE:
Rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may be glad when Christ's glory is revealed.
To God be the dominion for ever and ever.
Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand, that in due time God may exalt you.
To God be the dominion for ever and ever.
Cast all your anxieties on God, for God cares about you.
To God be the dominion for ever and ever.
Be sober, be watchful. Your enemy the devil prowls around seeking someone to devour.
To God be the dominion for ever and ever.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:
"Alleluia" (Taizé Community) GTG # 586
(Cantor sings first, congregation join as repeated)
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:6-14 pg. 118

ANTHEM: "Train Up a Child" Pepper Choplin
Train up a child in the way that he should go that he will never depart.
Train up a child in the way and she will grow with the word in her heart.
Feed them truth, guide the way, teach them promises God has made,
That they may live in God's love and grace.
Train up a child as you teach them right from wrong,
As he follows the word.
Train up a child as you lead her to be strong, be strong in the Lord.
Feed them truth, guide the way, teach them promises God has made,
That they may live in God's love and grace.
Many voices call, many things may draw them far away.
Though their paths may go far away from home,
The word shall remain, the word will remain in their hearts.
Train up a child; your rewards will go beyond the days you live.
Raise them in love; generations will be blest by the love you give.
Feed them truth, show the way, teach the promises God has made,
That they will carry on to train up a child.
And they will live in God's love forever.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES: Laura Sparks

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 pg. 235

SERMON: "Where Is Jesus?" Rev. David Roquemore

Recognition of Graduating Seniors Laura Sparks
Andrew Butterfield Elizabeth Edwards
Elizabeth "Betsy" Ingle Joseph Inscoc
Addie Joplin Courtney Roquemore

*HYMN: "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry" GTG #488

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: "Children of the Heavenly Father" Don Hustad

*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

You pour out your love upon us, O God, you give us eternal life. As your mercy is made manifest in Jesus, may thanksgiving be shown by our gifts. Accept what we offer as signs of our humble gratitude for all that you do on our behalf. Make us useful servants of Christ in bringing your sons and daughters to a greater sense of your glory. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" GTG #547

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE: "Fugue in D Major, BWV 532" J. S. Bach

(*Please stand in body or spirit)

Lay Leaders this morning are members of FPC Youth.

Elder on Call this week is Suzanne Rhinehart

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"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" from Six General Hymn Improvisations, Set 1, arr. Michael Burkhardt, copyright © 1992, MorningStar Music Publishers, St. Louis, MO; "Alleluia 7", trad. Liturgical text, music Jacques Berthier, copyright © 1984 *Les Presses de Taizé* (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.); "Train Up a Child", text and music Pepper Choplin, copyright © 1995, GlorySound, div. of Shawnee Press, Inc., Delaware Water Gap, PA; "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry", text and music John C. Ylvisaker, copyright © 1985, John C. Ylvisaker; "Children of the Heavenly Father" from The Collected Works of Don Hustad, arr. Don Hustad, copyright © 1960, Collected Works copyright © 1976, Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL; "Go, My Children, with My Blessing", text Jaroslav, J. Vajda, copyright © 1983, Concordia Publishing House; music Welsh 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; "Fugue in D Major, BWV 532", J. S. Bach.
Music 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
Dr. Brandon Burns – Organist

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Kim J. Berry – Office Manager
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 | (4) Council on Sharing |
| (2) Council on Caring | (5) Council on Praise |
| (3) Council on Administration | |

Suzanne Rhinehart - Clerk of Session

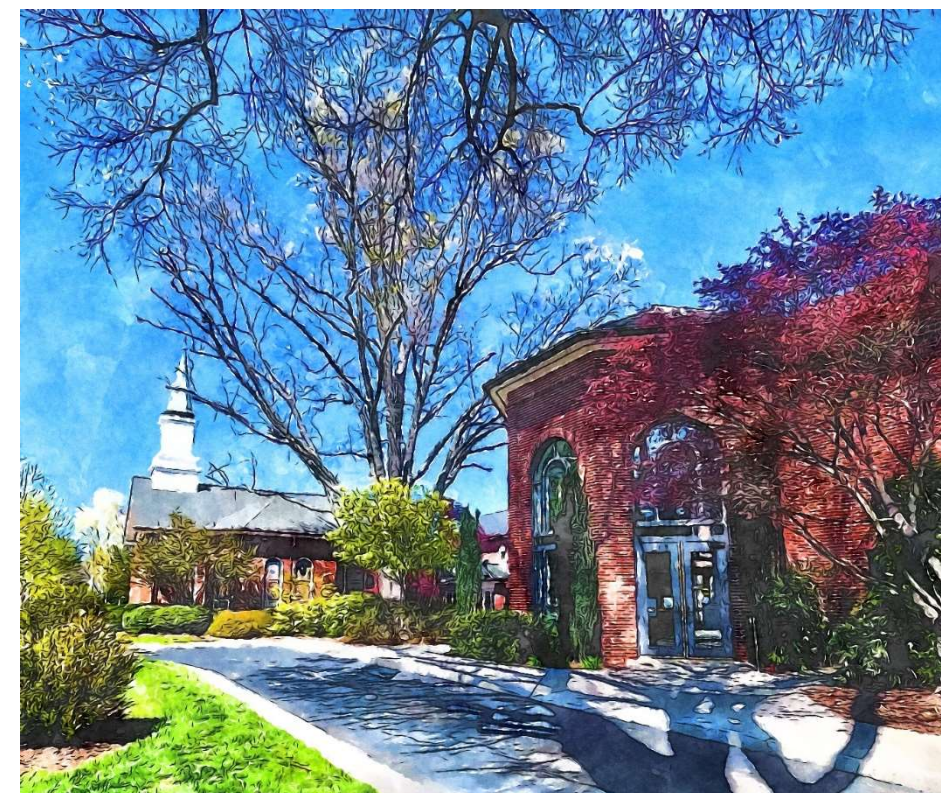
PASTOR
Rev. Dr. David Roquemore

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, May 21, 2023
Youth & Graduation Sunday
10:00 a.m.



701 N. Main Avenue
(828) 464 – 0648

Newton, NC 28658
www.fpcnewton.org

MISSION STATEMENT:

Following Christ together in witness, love and service.