

**4th Sunday of Lent
ORDER OF WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.**

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Seasonal Color: Purple

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

*(Please take a moment to silence your cell phones and electronic devices.
And, with the gift of music, let us prepare our hearts, minds, and souls
for this special time with God and with one another.)*

Moment for Mission: “March Madness” Council on Sharing
“Rise Against Hunger”

Prelude: “Lonely People” Daniel and Catherine Peek

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

*Call to Worship

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

*Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Shepherd God, you caused your Spirit to come mightily upon David.
You promised your children your comforting presence and direction.
You sent Jesus as the light of the world to remove the scales from our eyes.
We behold your grandeur and offer the praise due your name.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn: “Days of Elijah” Francis Robin Mark

These are the days of Elijah declaring the word of the Lord;
And these are the days of Your servant Moses,
Righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial
Of famine and darkness and sword;
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
“Prepare the way of the Lord!”

(refrain) Behold, He comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice, the year of jubilee
And out of Zion’s hill, salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh.
And these are the days of Your servant David
Rebuilding the temple of praise.

Oh, these are the days of the harvest
For the fields are as white in Your world.
And we are the labourers in Your vineyard
Declaring the word of the Lord! (refrain)

There is no God like Jehovah, there is no God like Jehovah;
There is no God like Jehovah, there is no God like Jehovah;
There is no God like Jehovah, there is no God like Jehovah;
There is no God like Jehovah. (refrain)

WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE

*A Litany of Confession:

For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
May Christ give us the light, that we may awaken to his truth.
Walk as children of light as you pursue what is good, right, and true.
May Christ give us the light, that we may awaken to his truth.
Take no part in works of darkness but try to learn what is pleasing to God.
May Christ give us the light, that we may awaken to his truth.

*Congregational Response: “Shout to the Lord” Darlene Zschech

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, Let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the (King);
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

Anthem: “From a Distance” Julie Gold

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: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 pg. 259

Time for Young Disciples Laura Sparks

Second Lesson: John 9:1-41 pg. 102

Sermon: “Let’s Be Different” Scott Cranford

*Hymn: “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” GTG # 649

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: “Come See About Me” Harold L. Jenkins

*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, as Jesus released Lazarus from the hands of death, may our
ministry give to others the promise of new life. Accept the gifts that we
offer to proclaim your love. Use our talents in ways that will set others
free. May the liberating truth of Christ’s gospel be heard anew in the
land.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*Closing Hymn: “Life’s Railway to Heaven” M.E. Abbey/Charles D. Tillman

Life is like a mountain railroad, with an engineer that’s brave;
We must make the run successful from the cradle to the grave;
Watch the curves, the fills, the tunnels, never falter, never quail;
Keep your hand upon the throttle, and your eye upon the rail.

(refrain) Blessed Savior, Thou wilt guide us,
Till we reach the blissful shore, where the angels wait to join us
In Thy praise forevermore.

You will roll up grades of trail, You will cross the bridge of strife;
See that Christ is your conductor on this lightning train of life;
Always mindful of destruction, do your duty, never fall;
Keep your hand upon the throttle,
And your eye upon the rail. (refrain)

You will often find obstructions, look for storms and wind and rain;
On a fill or curve or trestle, they will almost ditch your train;
Put your trust alone in Jesus; never falter, never fall;
Keep your hand upon the throttle,
And your eye upon the rail. (refrain)

As you roll across the trestle, spanning Jordan’s swelling tide;
You behold the Union Depot into which your train will glide;
There you’ll meet the Sup’rintendent, God the Father, God the Son,
With the hearty, joyous plaudit, “Weary pilgrim, welcome home.”
(refrain)

*Benediction

*Postlude: "Life's Railway to Heaven" (refrain) M.E. Abbey/Charles Tillman
**Blessed Savior, Thou wilt guide us,
Till we reach the blissful shore, where the angels wait to join us
In Thy praise forevermore.**

(* Please stand in body or spirit.)

Lay Leader for this morning is Scott Cranford.

Elder on Call this week is Randy Williams.

We welcome Elder Scott Cranford to the pulpit today. Scott frequently preaches when we have an AWE service, especially when the pastor is out of town. Welcome, Scott!

Copyright information for today's service music:

"Lonely People", text and music Daniel and Catherin Peek, copyright © 1974; "Come See About Me", text and music Harold L. Jenkins; "From a Distance", text and music Julie Gold, copyright © 1985.

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"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound", "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"; 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 MINISTERS

All Members of First Presbyterian Church

THE MINISTRY STAFF

Laura Sparks – Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry

lsparks@fpnewton.com

Catherine C. Murdock – Music Director

Susan A. Strickland – Organist

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kim J. Berry – Office Manager

kberry@fpnewton.com

Jim Ten Kate - Treasurer

Bill Inscoc - 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 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@fpnewton.com |
| 704-325-3916 (Home) | 717-512-2779 (Cell) |

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton-Conover area since 1858
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Alternative Worship Experience

Sunday, March 19, 2023

4th Sunday of Lent

10:00 a.m.



A.W.E.

Alternative Worship Experience

701 N. Main Avenue
(828) 464 – 0648

Newton, NC 28658
www.fpcnewton.org

MISSION STATEMENT:

Following Christ together in witness, love and service.