

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

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Seasonal Color: White

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.)*

PRELUDE: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” arr. Martha Sherrill Kelsey

(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 be in want.

You spread a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil, my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

And we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION:

All praise be unto you, O God, Great Shepherd of the sheep. You gather your people as lambs to your bosom; you enfold them with your all-embracing love. You refresh us like a stream flowing freely with living waters; you nourish us like a host whose table is heavy laden. We gather to hear your refreshing word of promise and direction, to honor your name as our guardian and hope. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: “To God Be the Glory”

GTG #634

WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE

*LITANY OF AFFIRMATION:

Little children, let us love not just in word or speech but in deed and in truth.
All who keep God’s commandments abide in God, and God abides in them.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth, for God knows everything.

All who keep God’s commandments abide in God, and God abides in them.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God.

All who keep God’s commandments abide in God, and God abides in them.

This is what God commands: believe in the name of Christ Jesus and love one another.

And by this we know that God abides in us, by the Spirit which God has given us.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

“Alleluia” (Taizé Community)

GTG # 586

(Cantor sings first, congregation join as repeated)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: I John 3:16-24

pg. 240

ANTHEM: “Now Sing We Joyfully Unto God”

Gordon Young

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES:

Laura Sparks

SECOND LESSON: John 13:31-35

pg. 108

SERMON: “Love Songs!”

David Roquemore

*HYMN: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

GTG #829

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 OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

arr. Michael Ware

*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

Source of healing, Bringer of wholeness, you enter the world and cause the light to shine, the lame to walk, the sins of all to be forgiven. Whatever we bring you is a gift of your graciousness. All that we offer, you have poured out upon us. Use us and mold us to conform to your will for all people. Take our talents and apply them to spread the truth of your love. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN: “Jesus Calls Us”

GTG #720

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult”

TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP:

Mark & Eva Bonnema

*Please stand in body or spirit

Bold print words are read in unison.

Lay Leader this morning is Elizabeth Philhower.

Elder on Call this week is Charles Moody.

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“To God Be the Glory; Text: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875, Music: Wiliam Howard Doane, 1875; “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Doxology, Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709, Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; “My Faith Looks Up To Thee,” Text: Ray Palmer, 1830, Music by Lowell Mason, 1831 alt.; “Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” music by William M Runyan (1870-1957) arranged by Michael Ware ©2019 MusicWare Press, LLC.; “Jesus Calls Us,” text Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852, music by William H. Jude, 1887.

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
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Kim J. Berry – Office Manager
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Jim Ten Kate - Treasurer
Bill Inscoc - Treasurer Emeritus

MISSIONARIES OF THE CHURCH

Lawrence & Inge Sthreshley – Congo
Rev. Dr. John McCall – Taiwan
Eliane Menezes - Guatemala



THE SESSION

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)

Class of 2026

Eva Bonnema (1)
Margie Pulliam (2)
Ray Rhinehart (5)
Jim Ten Kate (3)

(1) Council on Discipleship
(2) Council on Caring
(3) Council on Administration

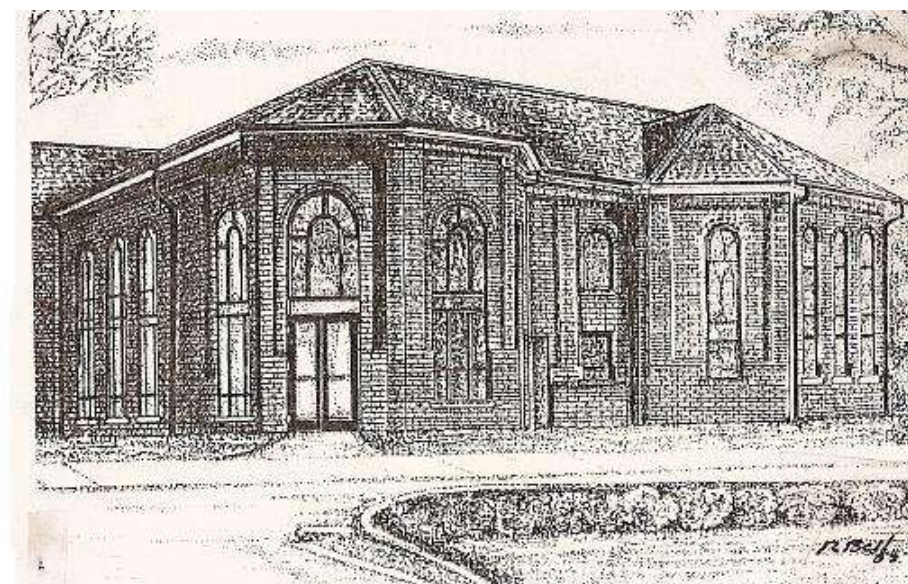
(4) Council on Sharing
(5) Council on Praise

Amy Owensby - Clerk of Session

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Sunday, April 21, 2024
4th Sunday of Easter
10:00 a.m.



PASTOR
Rev. Dr. David Roquemore

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www.fpcnewton.org

MISSION STATEMENT:

Following Christ together in witness, love and service.

Pastor David Roquemore may be reached at:
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717-512-2779 (Cell)