

15th Sunday after Pentecost
ORDER OF WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.

Sunday, Sept 10, 2023

Seasonal Color: Green

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE: “Toccata cromatica per l’elevazione” Girolamo Frescobaldi

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the presence of God, the sea shall flee, the mountains shall skip like rams and the hills like lambs.

We are bold to approach you and call you our God. We come into your presence with singing and into your courts with praise.

Let us worship God!

***PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION**

You are worthy of all praise, O God, more than could ever flow from our mouths. The birds sing of your glory; the day’s sun rises to honor you. The mountains owe their grandeur to your design for creation; the seas have their depth, as you have decreed. We blend our voices with all of your creatures and join with your people in praising your name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!” GTG # 41**

(During the singing of the hymn, worshipers are invited to bring their Daily Change offering forward as an act of worship and place them in the containers in front of the sanctuary.)

WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We are mindful that each time we come into your presence how willing you are to forgive seventy times seven. Yet when people betray us, we bear grudges and think ill will of them. We are quick to anger when we feel we’ve been wronged. We do not hasten to seek reconciliation even when we would rather things were less stressful and tense. Forgive us when we hesitate to emulate your example and help us to seek the peace Christ taught us to practice.

***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 Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 149

pg. 583

SECOND LESSON: Exodus 12:1-14

pg. 58

SERMON: “Who Are We?”

David Roquemore

*HYMN: “The Day of Resurrection!”

GTG #233

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.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “Taste and See”

James E. Moore, Jr.

(refrain) Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips;
My soul shall glory in the Lord, for God has been so good to me. (refrain)
Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God’s name.
I called the Lord, who answered me;
From all my troubles, I was set free. (refrain)
Worship the Lord, all you people. You’ll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
In God we need put all our trust. (refrain)

***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.**

WE ARE SEALED IN GOD’S GRACE

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING...

The Lord be with you! **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

(The prayer continues, ending with "who forever sing to the glory of your name." Congregation joins in singing the Sanctus, GTG # 559)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

(The prayer continues until "Great is the mystery of Faith." Congregation joins in singing: 'Christ Has Died; Christ Has Risen' GTG # 560)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

... 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.

(After the Lord's Prayer, congregation join in singing 'Amen' GTG # 561)

Amen, amen, amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

(Please come forward to receive the communion elements. An Elder will give you a piece of bread. Take a cup from the tray (red cups contain wine and clear cups contain juice).)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: The Song of Simeon Luke 2:29-32

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace, your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***CLOSING HYMN: “I Come with Joy”**

GTG # 515

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: “Sons of Sorrow”

Dale Wood

(*Please stand in body or spirit)

Lay Leader this morning is Tracey Paul.

Elder on Call this week is Charles Moody.

Copyright information for today’s service music:

“The Steadfast Love of the Lord”, text and music Edith McNeill, copyright © 1974, 1975 Celebration; “Taste and See”, text and music James E. Moore, Jr., copyright © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL; “Holy, Holy, Holy”, “Christ Has Died; Christ is Risen” and “Amen”, text Trad. Liturgical; music Per Harling, copyright © 2004 Augsburg Fortress; “I Come With Joy”, text Brian Wren, copyright © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL; music American folk melody, arr. Austin C. Lovelace, copyright © 1977, Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL; “Sons of Sorrow”, from *Organ Book of American Folk Hymns*, music Dale Wood, copyright © 1970, Sacred Music Press.

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“Toccata cromatica per l’elevazione” from Fiori musicali, Girolamo Frescobaldi; “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above”, text Robert Grant, music Joseph Martin Kraus; “The Day of Resurrection!”, text John of Damascus; music Henry Thomas Smart; “Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”, traditional.

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.

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 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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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10:00 a.m.



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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)