

**6th Sunday of Easter
ORDER OF WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.**

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Seasonal Color: White

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: “Prelude on Hyfrydol”

Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 66

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what the Lord has done for me.

Truly God has listened and given heed to the words of my prayer.

You are blessed, O God, because you have not rejected my prayer, or removed your steadfast love from me.

I will come into your house and pay you my vows, those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

Let us worship God!

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

Truly you have listened and given heed to the words of our prayers. You have kept us among the living and have not let our feet slip. You have tested and tried us, laid burdens on our backs, and let people ride over our heads. We have gone through fire and through water; yet you have brought us into a spacious place. We enter into the courtyard of your sanctuary and offer you hearty thanksgiving. Be pleased with our worship that we lay now before you and give heed to our voices as we sing you our praises. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

GTG # 366

(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

*A LITANY OF ASSURANCE:

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is right? Have no fear of them, nor be troubled.

For Christ also died for sins once and for all, that he might bring us to God.

Keep your conscience clear, so that those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

For Christ also died for sins once and for all, that he might bring us to God.

Baptism now saves you, as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For Christ also died for sins once and for all, that he might bring us to God.

Christ has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to God.

For Christ also died for sins once and for all, that he might bring us to God.

*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, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things that pertain to life and holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 17:22-31

pg. 137

ANTHEM: “In the Upper Room”

Russell Nagy

Children, I am with you but a little while. Where I go, you cannot follow.

You will seek, but will not find me; still you know that I am the Way.

Don’t be troubled that I say I go away; it is best for you I go now.

If I go, I make a place for you; and I’ll come to take you someday.

I will send the Holy Spirit to you to lead you in truth, to guide what you do.

He’ll remind you then of all I have said; and I will always be with you.

Take and eat my body broken now for you;

Take and drink the blood I offer. What I do for you, you know not.

If you love me, you will obey.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES:

Laura Sparks

SECOND LESSON: John 14:15-21

pg. 109

SERMON: “How Do We Love Jesus?”

Rev. David Roquemore

*HYMN: “More Love to Thee, O Christ”

GTG #828

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: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Cherwien

*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

We come with assurance, O God, since you do not leave us alone. Your presence continues to guide us as we pursue the paths of discipleship. All that we have is a gift of your grace. As we offer our gifts to you, accept them as signs of commitment to Christ. May all that we do be in praise of your encompassing care. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN: “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

GTG # 688

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE:

“Allegro from Organ Sonata in D Major, Op. 65, No. 5” Felix Mendelssohn

(*Please stand in body or spirit)

Lay Leader for this morning is Melva Cooper.

Elder on Call this week is Brenda Eckard.

Copyright information for today's service music:

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"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling", text Charles Wesley; music Rowland Hugh Prichard; "More Love to Thee, O Christ", text Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, music William Howard Doane; "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow", text Thomas Ken, music Genevan Psalter; "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart", text George Croly; music Frederick Cook Atkinson; "Allegro from Organ Sonata in D Major, Op. 65, Felix Mendelssohn.

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

(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

Pastor David Roquemore may be reached at:

828-464-06485 (Church)

717-512-2779 (Cell)

droquemore@fpcnewton.com

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton-Conover area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

Sunday, May 14, 2023

6th Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m.



701 N. Main Avenue

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Newton, NC 28658

www.fpcnewton.org

MISSION STATEMENT:

Following Christ together in witness, love and service.