

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost  
ORDER OF WORSHIP  
10:00 a.m.**

Sunday, November 5, 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: “Prelude on *Union Seminary*” Charles Callahan

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

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for you are good; your steadfast love endures forever.

**We have cried to you in times of trouble; you delivered us from our distress.**

We thank you, O Lord, for your steadfast love; your wonderful works abound about us.

**You know of our needs before we utter your name; you indeed are to be praised!**

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION**

**You have built your house on a rock, O God, and have sent us the Christ as its cornerstone. We praise your name for the assurance Christ gives us, and rejoice in the hope that his presence provides. Bring now your Spirit into the midst of our gathering and bless our endeavors as we follow Christ’s call. May our voices be blended into one of thanksgiving and our actions united into one of great praise. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: “Give Thanks, O Christian People” GTG # 644

**WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**You bring justice upon us and give us compassion, have mercy upon us as we make our confession. So often what we preach is not what we practice. We ourselves do not bear the burdens we impose on others. We expect commendation for our acts of benevolence; we like others to see us and how well we behave. Titles and honors are worn with pride, sometimes with envy, when others about us seem to be getting ahead. O God, forgive our craving to be exalted; help us to be humble in the knowledge that we live by grace alone. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

“Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me”

GTG # 71

**Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,**

**And God will be my Savior.**

**WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Joshua 3:7-17

pg. 195

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Laura Sparks

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 23:1-12

pg. 25

SERMON: “What Is the Ark of God?”

David Roquemore

\*HYMN: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

GTG #65

**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**

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Stewardship

Personnel Cmte.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “Celtic Laud”

Pamela Martin/Craig Courtney

For fruit of the vine, for harvest of wheat,  
For bread and for wine, the gift of Your feast,  
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,  
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

For dove in the sky, for wind in the trees,  
For coal in the fire, Your Spirit in me,  
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,  
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

For springtime’s green earth, for morning’s first light,  
For every new birth, for grace and for life,  
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,  
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

\*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: “As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought” GTG # 712

**\*BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: “Festival Voluntary”

Flor Peeters

(\*Please stand in body or spirit)

Lay Leader this morning is Ray Rhinehart.

Elder on Call this week is Randy Williams.

Copyright information for today's service music:

"Prelude on *Union Seminary*", music Charles Callahan, copyright © 1993, H. W. Gray Publications; "Give Thanks, O Christian People", music public domain; text Mary Jackson Cathey, copyright © 1986, Fresh Winds of the Spirit by Lavon Bayler (admin. The Pilgrim Press); "Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me", text public domain; music Jack Noble White, copyright © 1977 Charles Mortimer Guilbert (admin. Church Publishing, Inc.); "Celtic Laud", text Pamela Martin; music Craig Courtney, copyright © 2003, Beckenhorst Press, Inc.; "Holy, Holy, Holy", "Christ Has Died; Christ is Risen" and "Amen", text Trad. Liturgical; music Per Harling, copyright © 2004 Augsburg Fortress; "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart", (Bicentennial) arr. Charles Callahan, copyright © 1995, Concordia Publishing House; "As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought", music English folk melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, public domain; text Frank von Christerson, copyright © 1961, ren. 1989, The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL); "Festival Voluntary", music Flor Peeters, copyright © 1958, Oxford University Press.

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"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah", text William Williams and Peter Williams; music John Hughes; "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow", traditional.

Above selections held in public domain

**Gene Brittain** – Today, we welcome Gene Brittain as our guest organist. Gene is a native of Catawba County, attended Lenoir-Rhyne College and earned his MBA degree from Pfeiffer College. In his career as an accountant, Gene worked in textiles starting with the former Clyde Fabrics in Newton, then in the paper and automotive industries. He studied piano with Brenda Eckard, and he studied organ with Larry Lowder while at Lenoir-Rhyne. He is married to Tonya Kesler Brittain who is an ordained Lutheran pastor. Currently, Tonya is the pastor of Organ (Zion) Lutheran Church in Rowan County. We thank Gene for sharing his talents with us today.

**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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:lsparks@fpcnewton.com)

Catherine C. Murdock – Director of Music

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Kim J. Berry – Office Manager

[kberry@fpcnewton.com](mailto: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

### Pastor David Roquemore may be reached at:

828-464-06485 (Church)

[droquemore@fpcnewton.com](mailto:droquemore@fpcnewton.com)

717-512-2779 (Cell)

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

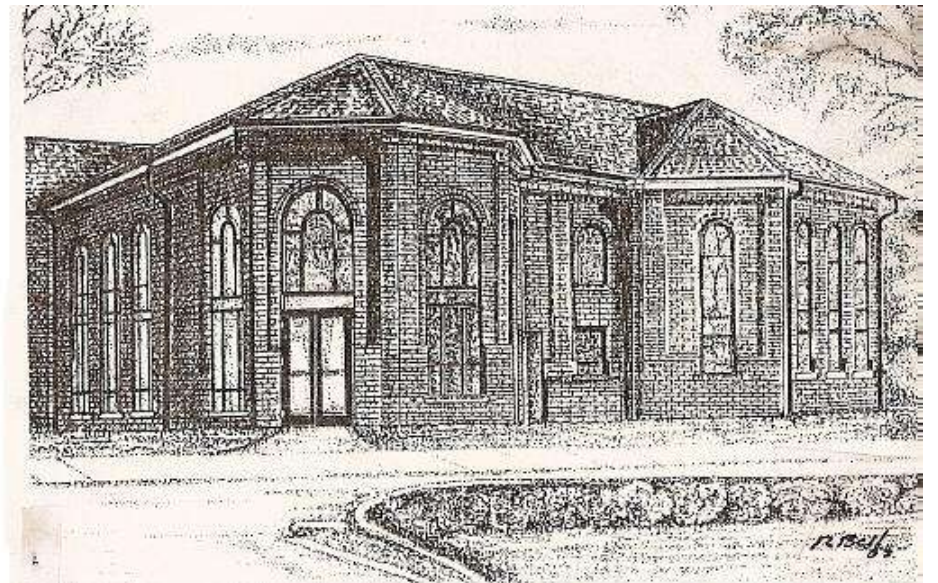
Serving the Newton-Conover area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

Sunday November 5, 2023

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.



701 N. Main Avenue  
(828) 464 – 0648

Newton, NC 28658  
[www.fpcnewton.org](http://www.fpcnewton.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT:

*Following Christ together in witness, love and service.*