

**First Sunday in Lent
ORDER OF WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.**

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Seasonal Color: Purple

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse
(Ray Rhinehart, Tenor; Laura Sparks, Soprano)

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go. I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Let us worship God!

***PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION**

In times of distress you do not forsake us, O God. Amid the intrusions of life you comfort your people. When we find ourselves in whatever wilderness we wander, your Spirit is there to guide us correctly. Your eye is ever upon us as a mother watches over her brood. In Christ’s name we gather as those you have made righteous. Hear our shouts of joy with our hearts made upright! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: “Forty Days and Forty Nights”**

GTG # 167

WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

When confronted by temptations, we are easily overcome. They allure us with promises we find hard to resist. We harbor fantasies of how our lives might have been. Our dreams become pervasive, hiding the truth of your love. Gracious God, have mercy upon us; enable us to discern deception when it appears. Enlighten us to your genuine renewal in Christ. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

“Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us”

GTG # 575

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR 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: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

pg. 2

ANTHEM: “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” Kenneth Kosche

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,

O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through thy Passiontide,

Yea, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering overpast,

An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES:

Laura Sparks

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 4:1-11

pg. 3

SERMON: “Temptation”

Rev. David Roquemore

***HYMN: “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”**

GTG #833

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: “Jesus Paid It All”

John Grape/arr. Dan Forrest

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

“Great God of Every Blessing” (vs-1)

GTG # 694

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,

You are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.

How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:

Sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of compassion, you minister to us in our wilderness. When barren wastes surround us, you hear our prayers of petition. In times of want, you ease our plight with mercy. In times of plenty all that we have comes from your grace. In bringing our gifts to you, we return what is already yours. May these gifts be used to bring all your people into the Promised Land. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

***CLOSING HYMN: “O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

GTG # 725

***BENEDICTION**

***THE SENDING:**

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

Richard Colligan

God, be the love to search and keep me;

God, be the prayer to move my voice;

God, be the strength to now uphold me;

(refrain) O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey,

Going ahead to light my way,

And from beneath, above, and all ways; (refrain)

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,

Christ in the ears that hear my voice,

Christ in the hearts of all who know me; (refrain)

(*Please stand in body or spirit)

Lay Leader for this morning is Tracey Paul.

Elder on Call this week is Brenda Eckard.

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“Forty Days and Forty Nights”, text George Hunt Smyttan, music attr. Martin Herbst; “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”, text George Matheson; music Albert Lister Peace.

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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
Susan A. Strickland – 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

Pastor David Roquemore may be reached at:

828-464-06485 (Church) droquemore@fpcnewton.com
704-325-3916 (Home) 717-512-2779 (Cell)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Sunday, February 26, 2023
1st Sunday in Lent
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.