



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 13, 2020 **11 o'clock**

VISION

Nourished by God's Word and Sacraments,

All: Connecting lives to Christ.

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Duke Street"

INTROIT

"They Who Have Ears"

(Hymn #453, verse 2)

They who have ears to hear the message, they who have ears, now let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom. Let them hear God's word.

Refrain: God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Loving God, you who are enthroned in the heavens,

look upon your children with eyes of mercy,

as we look on you with humility and love,

and fill our souls with your peace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Holy God, as we gather in worship, so too do we gratefully acknowledge the gifts you have given to each of us for service in your world. Direct our lives to use these gifts as we reach out to our neighborhood and nation, witnessing to your love and your healing mercy. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN #372

"O for a World"

(verses 1,2,5)

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where times and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

**Please stand as you are able.*

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

Our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord will not always accuse, nor will God be angered forever. God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. Trusting this promise, we boldly confess our sin to God and before one another.

Lord of mercy and justice, you created out of love and gave us talents and gifts to be used in your world. You gave them to us because you trust us to use them well — and you have promised that you will be with us in all our work. But we disappoint you when we denigrate the value of the talents or become so fearful of failure that we don't believe that we are capable of helping in this world. Lord, forgive us. Help us to trust in the gifts you have given to us and to trust in your guidance in using them. Forgive us when we are fearful, stubborn, apathetic, indifferent to the needs around us. Give us hearts for serving you all our days.

Silent Prayer

Have mercy on us, O God. Amen.

KYRIE

(Hymn #576)

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

Water is poured into the font.

Rejoice and celebrate,

because God has placed God's trust and love deep within your hearts.

In all we do, we do it through and with God. In Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Rev. Wes Pitts

*GLORIA PATRI

(Hymn #581)

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 (p. 1139)

Matthew 25:14-30 (p. 1206)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“The Church of Christ”

(Hymn #766, verses 1,3,4)

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied.
True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.

If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor's need,
then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Invitation to silent prayer, a meditation with music, then intercessions are offered;

... We join our voices in the prayer Christ taught us to pray:

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.

*HYMN #716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.

Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.

Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ’s ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

*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.

GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

“Take My Life”

*DOXOLOGY

(Hymn #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 OF OFFERINGS

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

...Therefore, we join our voices in singing:

(Hymn #552)

***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.***

...for great is the mystery of faith:

(Hymn #560)

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

...

PREPARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*...The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!***

COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

We share in the Lord's table at 2 stations, receiving the bread and dipping it into the cup.

Please raise your hand if you wish to receive communion at your seat.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*RESPONSE AFTER COMMUNION

Let us sing of our faith:

(Hymn #405)

***Praise God for this holy ground, place and people, sight and sound.
Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! God's goodness is eternal.***

*HYMN #526

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

(verses 1,3)

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus call us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING RESPONSE

"Amen"

(Hymn #571)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 – Edward Mason	8 – Lucy Byers	17 – Claudette Mullings
3 – Patrick Donovan	8 – Jenny Farver	17 – Pat Smith
3 – Jim Harris, Jr.	11 – Mary Ellen Elliott	18 – Ron Elliott
4 – Dustin Crutchfield	12 – Avery Crutchfield	23 – Joe Mountjoy
6 – Charlie Adams	12 – Joseph Amos Harris	24 – Sue McMichael
6 – Ruby Mae Crabtree	15 – Sarah Alston Trent	27 – Becky Cooley
7 – Lily Fagan	17 – Laura Conroy	29 – Skip Balsley

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

Communion Servers

TBA

Ushers

TBA

Greeters

TBA

Door Keepers

TBA

LOCAL MISSION OFFERINGS

Pennies for Hunger:	AUGUST	Year-To-Date
	\$64.46	\$902.80

The Pennies for Hunger offering, collected on the first Sunday of each month, supports feeding ministries throughout central North Carolina, with 50% of our collection staying in Rockingham County and supporting the Reidsville Outreach Center. The other 50% is distributed by Salem Presbytery through grants to non-profit organizations that work to alleviate hunger in their communities.

Habitat for Humanity:	AUGUST	Year-To-Date
	\$125.00	\$487.76

The Habitat offering, collected on the third Sunday of each month, supports the Greater Reidsville chapter of Habitat for Humanity in its mission to build and improve homes in the Reidsville area so that all may have access to safe and affordable housing.

SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Wes Pitts

Class of 2020

Mark Cresenzo
Mission

Class of 2021

Tilda Balsley
Grounds

Class of 2022

Ed Conroy
Clerk

Joyce Crutchfield
Newcomers/Communication

Tom Callicutt
Montreat

Scott Greene
Personnel

Rick McKinney
Property

Phil Neal
Fellowship

Jane Harrill
Caregivers

Becky Norman
Worship

Jim Murray
Christian Education

Thomas Thompson
Finance

Upcoming Session Meeting: Thursday, September 10

CAREGIVERS TEAM

Jane Harrill – Chair

Class of 2020: Anne Covington, Mary Fagan, Sallie Trent

Class of 2021: Susie Cole, Jenny Farver, Denice Whitley

Class of 2022: Susan McLeod, Pat Gates & Robert Moreno, Lynn Wilkins

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please be in prayer for the following:

Church members: Charlie Adams, Lucy Byers, Sandra Craig, Scott Greene, Anne Dell Hardingham, Betty Jones, Faye Pierce, Debbie Robbins, Claire Smothers, Brad Young

Family and friends of the congregation: Carl Wayne Adams, Steve Banks, Waddell Bullock, family of Laura Burton, Evelyn Cogan, Chad Davis, Talea Dillard, Don Ella Drew, Cindy Farrand, Treva Garrison, Carole Hendrix Grady, Charlotte Kearns, Madeline McDowell, Jillian McInnis, Joe Mountjoy, Bobbie Nauman, Geoff Peoples, Jimmy Rayburn, Si Rothrock, Michael Serra, Junior Setliff, Dana Smith, Hailey Vega, Joan Young

Military service: Seth Brooks, Don Pierce

If you have submitted names for our prayer list, and know of their recovery, please contact us with the good news!

Today's Announcements

Elder on Call: Mark Cresenzo is available for congregational needs this week.

Habitat Offering will be received September 20.

The Worship Service is now available for viewing in the Prayer Chapel. Call the church office to arrange a time to stop by. (office hours: 9am-1pm, Monday-Friday) Wes is in his office until 4pm, Tuesday-Friday and will be happy to let you come in after the church office has closed.

We are a Matthew 25 church!

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit pcusa.org/matthew25.

In order to allow for public worship, even outdoors, we're asking the congregation and friends to follow these safety procedures:

- Wear a mask or face covering at all times. If you do not have one, we will have some to give to who might be in need. Please remember that wearing a face mask helps prevent the spread of viruses to others. Even if you are not feeling badly, you may still be carrying the virus without knowing it and wearing a mask keeps everyone healthier.
- Bring your own chair if you are able. If you don't have one, we will have plenty on site that can be sanitized for your use.
- Abide by social distancing guidelines at all times. Chairs must be placed 6 feet from one another (families may sit together, but anyone outside of your household is asked to be 6 feet away). We'll have ushers help remind us of the distance.
- Restrooms are available on site, but we discourage using them except for emergencies because we're not able to sanitize them between each use.
- We will not be able to celebrate the Lord's Supper at this time. We discussed the issue at length, and we could not come up with a way to share the sacrament safely while upholding it's meaning in the life of our faith, so we've opted to remove it for the time being. The liturgy will remain in the bulletin as a reminder for us of the sacrament.
- We will not be passing the offering plate and will instead have an offering box available. We'll continue to have a space for the offering and an offertory, but you are encouraged to drop tithes/offerings in the box before or after the service, or to continue to use the mail.
- The congregation is asked not to sing - the act of singing spreads virus and other germs much farther than speaking, so the choir will be doing all the singing. Plus it's mighty difficult to sing while wearing a face mask!

Some of these measures might feel too rigid or unnecessary, but please remember that they are to protect the most vulnerable in our congregation and in our community.

Wes Pitts, Pastor 678-409-5060
pastor@fpreidsville.org

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **Office Phone & Email:** 336-349-3474
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