



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
June 13, 2021 **11 o'clock**

VISION

Nourished by God's Word and Sacraments,

All: Connecting lives to Christ

PRELUDE

“Come, Christians Join to Sing”

INTROIT

“Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken”

(Hymn #455)

Listen to the word that God has spoken; listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation; listen even if you don't understand.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 85)

Ed Conroy

*For those who will listen, let them hear God's voice,
for God is speaking and God's word is peace.*

God's salvation is at hand for those who honor God.

When we act with justice and God's glory lives in our land, faithful love and truth meet.

When we live into God's call, righteousness and peace embrace, joining as one.

God gives goodness and love in abundance, may we give our praise and worship in return.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

In every place and every time, in every relationship and every interaction, you are God. You are God to the poor and to the wealthy, to the weak and to the powerful; you are God to the believer and to the doubter, to the religious and to the “none”; you are God to the courageous and to the fearful, to the fighter and to the peacemaker; you are God to the leader and to the follower, to the parent and to the child. You, O Divine Creator, are God to all, and your grace and love extends to all. And while we may seek to keep you to ourselves, while we may try to hoard your blessings, you have come to all, you are available to all, and all who want you will find that you are there. We praise you that our small self-interests are not enough to keep you from being the great and all-embracing God that you are. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*HYMN

#366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

(verses 1, 2, 3)

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

**Please stand as you are able.*

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in the perfect love.

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

We choose to believe a lot of things: some out of convenience, some out of conviction; some out of ignorance, some out of faith; some out of despair, some out of hope. But, no matter where our beliefs stem, if they are not rooted in the truth of Christ, they are misinformed and will ultimately lead to brokenness. This brokenness, however pervasive it may seem, is not the end. Our faults and failings are met by God's love. So, we admit the places where we have been wrong, knowing that by unburdening our souls we are made new. Let us, together, offer our confession:

When we choose to believe that your Kingdom is no bigger than our bigotry; when we reduce your presence to the ambience in our favourite meeting place; when we see your people as no one other than our people; when we believe that we have the authority to distribute your grace as we see fit; when we use your word to justify the way we withhold your blessing from others; when we enlist you as an enforcer of our particular ideology; when in any way, O God, we make you in our image, when we create our own Kingdoms and call them yours, we have failed you, and we have kept others away from you. Forgive us, change us, and humble us, we pray. Keep us always aware of how your grace has rescued us, and keep us always aware of those who seek your grace in us.

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.

Hear these words of Christ, our savior:

Rev. Wes Pitts

"Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you."

We have asked for new life, and it is ours. We have sought forgiveness, and we have found it.

*We have knocked at the door of grace, and that door stands wide open for all of us to enter – all because of God's deep and abiding love. **Thanks be to God. Amen.***

*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

POETRY

“The Minor Prophets”

by Michael Lind

*None of the minor prophets
knew that he was minor, of course. Habakkuk, I imagine,
thought that his visions earned him
standing as Ezekiel's peer, if not indeed Elijah's.
Then there was Obadiah,
who could be forgiven if he thought he might be a Moses.
How they would be remembered
Providence concealed from them all, though they could see the future.*

*Maybe it doesn't matter.
If you're on a mission from God, sent to rebuke a city
or to redeem a nation,
where by canon-makers you're ranked may be inconsequential.
Nor is the voice within you
any less authentic for not having a distant echo.
Seers of the world, be heartened.
Even minor prophets can have genuine revelations.*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 11:1-13 (p. 1263)

Hosea 1:1, 4:1-11 (p. 1091)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“God of Great and God of Small”

(Hymn #19)

God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,

Refrain: alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour,

God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right,

God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before, God who reigns forevermore,

SERMON

“The Faith of Hosea”

Rev. Wes Pitts

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 #175

“Seek Ye First”

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!

*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

“I Believe in God the Father”

*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

When instructed, come forward to receive both bread and juice in an individual serving. Hold it until you get back to your pew. When all have been served you will be invited to then eat the bread and drink the cup as one body. Place the cups in the pew holder. If you would prefer the elements be brought to you, we'll be happy to accommodate you.

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 #543

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

(verses 1, 4, 5)

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: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

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: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING RESPONSE

“In God Alone”

(Hymn #814)

In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6 – Rose McMichael
8 – Peggy McInnis
8 – Lynn Brisson
11 – Cynthia Cresenzo

11 – Sarah Young
13 – Taft Harrell
14 – Joyce Crutchfield
15 – Claire Thompson

15 – Caroline Trautman
18 – Jim Harrell
20 – Bob Mullings
27 – Mary Fagan

SERVING IN JUNE

Communion Servers

Billy Coleman
Meredith Harris
Sam Lindsey

Ushers

Michael Brisson
Billy Coleman
Meredith Harris
Sam Lindsey

Subs: Tom Callicutt, Scott Greene & Brad Young

Greeters

Jane Harrill
Phil & Martha Neal

Door Keepers

Jane Harrill
Phil & Martha Neal

LOCAL MISSION OFFERINGS

Pennies for Hunger:

JUNE
\$50.00

Year-To-Date
\$351.52

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:

JUNE
\$25.00

Year-To-Date
\$348.00

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 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Tilda Balsley <i>Grounds</i>	Ed Conroy <i>Clerk</i>	Billy Coleman <i>Mission</i>
Tom Callicutt <i>Montreat</i>	Scott Greene <i>Personnel</i>	Emma Crabtree <i>Newcomers/Communication</i>
Phil Neal <i>Fellowship</i>	Jane Harrill <i>Caregivers</i>	Rick McKinney <i>Property</i>
Becky Norman <i>Worship</i>	Jim Murray <i>Christian Education</i>	
Thomas Thompson <i>Finance</i>		

Upcoming Session Meeting: Thursday, July 8, 2021

CAREGIVERS TEAM

Jane Harrill – Chair

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

Class of 2022: Susan McLeod, Margo Lindsey, Lynn Wilkins

Class of 2023: Anne Covington, Mary Fagan, Meredith Harris

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please be in prayer for the following:

Church members: Lucy Byers, Anne Dell Hardingham, Wes Harris, Betty Jones, Faye Pierce, Judy Roberts, Claire Smothers

Family and friends of the congregation: Steve Banks, Waddell Bullock, Evelyn Cogan, Chad Davis, Talea Dillard, Don Ella Drew, Gaye Evans, Treva Garrison, Carole Hendrix Grady, Suzanne Johnson, Isaac Lyall, Madeline McDowell, Jillian McInnis, Joe Mountjoy, Bobbie Nauman, Sandy & Joe Nicastro, Geoff Peoples, Jimmy Rayburn, Debbie Robbins, Si Rothrock, Michael Serra, Junior Setliff, Dana Smith, Aimee Tilley, Hailey Vega, Bradley Young, Sr.,

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

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Richard & Rick McKinney at the death of their brother/uncle, Robert David "Bobby" McKinney, who died Wednesday, June 1.

Congratulations to Rick McKinney and Olivia Todt on their engagement.

Congratulations to Kelly Wilson (daughter of Mike and Jeri Wilson) and Justin Moore who wed on Saturday, June 12.

Elder on Call: Jane Harrill is available for congregational needs this week.

Spiritual Formation will meet in the fellowship hall at 9:45am. We will be studying the gospel of John. Duke Theology professor Dr. Mickey Efird teaches this class using a DVD format. Next session: John 1:1-2:12.

All are invited to dress casually for the summer months.

Ice Cream Social: Today, June 13, 4:00pm. Bring your favorite homemade (or not) ice cream to share. Bring a chair, we will be outside weather permitting.

Habitat Offering will be received, June 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**](https://pcusa.org/matthew25).

**Devotional for
Week of June 13, 2021**

Matthew 14:22-36

²² Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. ²⁵ Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed. ²⁷ Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ And Jesus said, "Come." Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind settled down. ³³ Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!" ³⁴ When they had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret. ³⁵ When the people who lived in that place recognized him, they sent word throughout that whole region, and they brought to him everyone who was sick. ³⁶ Then they begged him that they might just touch the edge of his clothes. Everyone who touched him was cured.

Walking on Water

Jesus clearly had something up his sleeves, so to speak, when he told the disciples to cross a very large lake ahead of him so he could be alone for a while. They agreed, so they clearly believed he could get across without any problems. Would he hire a water taxi to catch up? Would he get on board another fishing vessel? Whatever they assumed, it wasn't that Jesus would walk across the lake, as evidenced by their awe and fear when they saw him walking up to their boat through the fog while still far from land. Once everyone's nerves were calmed, Peter decided he wanted to join Jesus out on the water, but he wasn't expecting how scary it'd be. Fishermen like Peter had a healthy respect for the water - it was their life, source of income, and they knew how dangerous it could be if disrespected or not treated carefully. That history of experience overwhelmed him as strong winds blew him off balance, and he was understandably terrified at the prospects of drowning. But Jesus grabbed hold of him and even calmed the winds. Peter was called out for not having enough faith, but we might not really understand what kind of faith Jesus was talking about. The faith wasn't in who Jesus was but in what he could do. The disciples, of course, had witnessed Jesus healing people before, but controlling wind and water was a whole new level of power. It's impossible to get into the minds of the disciples to know what they had thought of Jesus. We know that they called him "Rabbi" and confessed faith in him, gave up their whole lives to follow him, but apparently they were still holding back on what they believed was possible for him to do in God's name. It's probably not due to a lack of faith or

trust, but a lack of imagination. They hadn't considered what might be possible for the Messiah. This lack of imagination wasn't just a problem for the disciples, but for the whole earth. And it continues to be a problem.

What is Christ willing to do to bring about the Kingdom of God? That's the bigger question of this text, and one all Christians should consider not just with this popular story, but all the time. Jesus showed what he was willing to do: he traveled to places considered to be dangerous, he healed whomever was sick, he challenged authority, he walked on water, he fed multitudes, he died and rose from death. Clearly there was nothing Jesus was unwilling to do. So, the next question is ours. What are we willing to do to follow Jesus? While we might not be capable of breaking the laws of physics, we have tremendous power. How will we use it to show our own trust?

Loving God - in the face of the impossible, you offer possibility. In the face of scarcity, you offer abundance. In the face of fear, you offer peace. In the face of hatred, you offer love. Help us to trust in all that you offer, so that it becomes our present reality rather than a far off wish. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

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
Monday – Friday office@fpreidsville.org

www.fpreidsville.org

