



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**October 17, 2021**

**11 o'clock**

**VISION**

*Nourished by God's Word and Sacraments,*

**All: Connecting lives to Christ**

**HABITAT OFFERING**

**PRELUDE**

“Oh Worship the King”

**INTROIT**

“How Lovely, Lord”

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on Psalm 104)

Jim Murray

*We come into God's presence and shout with all creation: our God is very great!*

**Clothed with honor and wrapped in glorious light, we proclaim that our God is very great!**

*Serving tirelessly and caring endlessly, we trust that our God is very great!*

**Our God is great and through love calls us to live with humility and compassion.**

*We enter into God's presence to listen and hear God speak, so we can be moved by God's greatness.*

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**God of majesty and might, blow through this place like a mighty wind. Inspire us with your presence. Cover us with your love, that we might be your people, serving others with care and compassion. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #611**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

**CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE**

*We lack the knowledge to truly understand all that God can do, and all that God has done, for us. Despite our ignorance, we try to proclaim ourselves as God's equals and demand that God answers to us and our every whim. Because God loves us so deeply, God responds to our rantings with nothing but the promise of peace. Let us, therefore, seek God's wisdom and kindness as we unburden ourselves from the weight of our sin.*

**Lord Jesus - we confess that we expect that you will do what we want, whatever it is that we ask of you. We want places of honor and all the glory. We want to be great. We want to be first. But you, O Christ, are servant of all. Forgive our brazenness. Forgive our self-importance. Forgive us. Teach us to be humble. Teach us to be more like you.**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*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.*

*In and through Jesus, the promises of God have been fulfilled.*

Rev. Wes Pitts

*Our past cannot hold us back - in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!*

\*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

Job 38:1-7, 34-41 (p. 659)

Mark 10:35-45 (p. 1231)

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

SERMON

“What God can do”

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 #203

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

\*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

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

\*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 #450

“Be Thou My Vision”

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING RESPONSE

“Bless the Lord”

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Pastor ..... Rev. Wes Pitts

**E-mail:** pastor@fpreidsville.org      **Phone:** 678-409-5060

Pastor Emeritus .....Rev. Dr. Doug McLeroy

Music Dir./Organist ..... Patricia Harden      Secretary .....Dawne Young

Treasurers..... Michael Brisson & Jim Murray      Congregational Nurse .... Stokes Ann Hunt

Child Development Director .....Tamela Dillard

**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**



## Welcome

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, we're so glad you're here! We believe we are made stronger and better by all who gather with us in worship. Our vision for ministry is simple - that we are nurtured by God's Word and sacraments to connect lives to Christ. We strive to live into that vision through our worship, study, fellowship, and mission activities. If you have any questions about our church, please reach out to one of our elders (their names and phone numbers are printed in the bulletin) or our pastor. If you are in need of any kind of assistance, you may speak to the elder on call or the pastor. If you are looking for a church to call home, consider the fellowship and ministry we share together at First Presbyterian! Any of our elders or the pastor can give you more information. We'd love to find out more about you - please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. We promise not to pester you, but if you'd like further contact, please note that on the card. Once again, welcome!

### Today's Announcements – October 17, 2021

**Elder on Call:** Tom Callicutt is available for congregational needs this week.

**Spiritual Formation:** In order to get Jesus in trouble, a Pharisee lawyer asked Jesus a question. Is Jesus' answer to that question relevant to our mission as disciples in current times? We are studying Jesus' answer using the book "Reckless Love" by author Tom Berlin. (Books are available for purchase in the church office for \$10.00.) Please join us for an interesting discussion on this vital topic.

**Habitat Offering** will be received today, October 17.

**Ecumenical conversation on bridging racial divide:** Join First Baptist, Main Street Methodist, St. Thomas Episcopal and First Presbyterian for a guided conversation on race and bridging racial divide. Pastors from each church will lead conversation geared toward the history of racism and biblical understanding of racism and paths forward that Christians can take. Beginning Sunday, Oct 17 from 4-5:30pm at First Presbyterian. Reservations are encouraged but not required.

**All in worship are required to wear a mask.** We are sorry for the inconvenience, but since there have been many breakthrough COVID cases with the Delta variant, and we still have young children unable to be vaccinated in the congregation, the Session is asking that we all wear a mask to help protect those most vulnerable in our midst. We will have extra masks on hand for any who might need one.

***This Week at First Presbyterian***

Sunday, October 17	Spiritual Formation (Fellowship Hall) .....9:45am
	Worship (Sanctuary)..... 11:00am
	Ecumenical Conversation (Fellowship Hall) ..... 4:00pm
	Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room) ..... 8:00pm
Monday, October 18	Soup Kitchen Bible Study ..... 6:00pm
	Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room) ..... 8:00pm
Wednesday, October 20	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)..... 7:00pm
Thursday, October 21	Soup Kitchen Bible Study ..... 6:00pm
	Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room) ..... 8:00pm
Saturday, October 23	Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room) ..... 8:00pm
Sunday, October 24	Spiritual Formation (Fellowship Hall) .....9:45am
	Worship (Sanctuary)..... 11:00am
	Ecumenical Conversation (First Baptist) ..... 4:00pm
	Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room) ..... 8:00pm

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 – Susan McLeod  
3 – Jeri Wilson  
4 – Robert Moreno  
7 – Dawne Young  
8 – Robert Rhodes

11– Nancy Crutchfield  
11 – Katherine O’Neal  
11 – Mary Lucile Young  
15 – Drew Barefoot  
17 – Mell Covington  
17 – John Harris

23 – Martha Neal  
23 – Thomas Thompson  
24 – Candy Rayburn  
24 – Joy Thomas  
28 – Liz Whittington

**SERVING IN OCTOBER**

**Communion Servers**

Meredith Harris  
Rose McMichael  
Shirley McMichael

**Ushers**

Meredith Harris  
Rose McMichael  
Shirley McMichael  
James Webster

**Greeters**

Jane Harrill  
Phil & Martha Neal

**LOCAL MISSION OFFERINGS**

Pennies for Hunger:	OCTOBER	Year-To-Date
	\$109.29	\$1104.78

*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:	OCTOBER	Year-To-Date
	\$25.00	\$847.27

*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

<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>Class of 2023</b>
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, November 11, 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, Pat Smith, Claire Smothers

**Family and friends of the congregation:** Steve Banks, Waddell Bullock, Jody Crabtree, Jeff Crisp, Chad Davis, Talea Dillard, Don Ella Drew, Gaye Evans, Treva Garrison, Carole Hendrix Grady, Lori Johnson, Suzanne Johnson, Isaac Lyall, Scott & Lori Martin, Jillian McInnis, Joe Mountjoy, Sandy & Joe Nicastro, Geoff Peoples, Joe Pitts, Jimmy Rayburn, Debbie Robbins, Si Rothrock, Michael Serra, Bill Thompson, Harold Vaden, 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!***



## Week of October 17, 2021

### Matthew 25

<sup>1</sup> “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. <sup>2</sup> Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but didn’t bring oil for them. <sup>4</sup> But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil. <sup>5</sup> When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. <sup>8</sup> But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise bridesmaids replied, ‘No, because if we share with you, there won’t be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids came and said, ‘Lord, lord, open the door for us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Therefore, keep alert, because you don’t know the day or the hour.

<sup>14</sup> The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey. <sup>16</sup> After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money. <sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’ <sup>21</sup> His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’ <sup>22</sup> The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’ <sup>23</sup> His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’ <sup>24</sup> Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’ <sup>26</sup> His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed?’ <sup>27</sup> In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. <sup>29</sup> Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. <sup>30</sup> Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.’ People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

<sup>31</sup> Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. <sup>35</sup> I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup> Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’ <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> I was hungry and you didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn’t give me anything to drink. <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you didn’t welcome me. I was naked and you didn’t give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’ <sup>44</sup> Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn’t do anything to help you?’ <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t done it for me.’ <sup>46</sup> And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life.”

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## What Waiting Means

This chapter of Matthew is the whole reason for our year-long dive into Matthew and the reason we've claimed the title of a "Matthew 25" congregation, so it's particularly important for us. Due to the importance of the passage, this devotion will look a little different.

Matthew 24 came with a dire warning - stay alert until Jesus returns! Matthew 25 gives specifics on *how* we should stay alert and what is required of us as we wait. The problem, however, is that the *how* isn't very clear, especially for people who live more than 2,000 years after the fact. The first two parables are not particularly helpful from the outset. Our wedding customs are vastly different, for instance, so we get lost in those details of the first parable before we can understand its meaning. And then the second parable's focus on money and growing wealth makes us too distracted to hear anything other than a story about money, which isn't the point of the parable. There's an additional problem unique to this particular devotion - short form devotions aren't the best format to dive into such deep parables, especially when multiple are stacked together. Each would be better off as an hour long bible study, but that's okay. It's worth pointing this out now so that expectations can be managed, but there's still an important lesson that is fitting for the format.

Waiting makes most of us irritable. When I have trouble with online orders and have to call or use chat features to get help, my blood pressure goes through the roof. It's that kind of situation that tries every bit of patience I can muster. I'm constantly reminded that being rude helps no one, which I fervently believe. But, when I'm in the midst of waiting, angry that I have to wait and frustrated that it's taking so long and the person I'm speaking with doesn't understand my problem, sometimes I forget that being rude isn't helpful. What's sad is that I can get so bent out of shape so easily, and sadder still is that I'm not alone. It's a common problem for all people, and it can expose the very worst of our sinful nature. When it comes to our faith, and our waiting for the fulfillment of the coming of the Kingdom, the problem is a little different. We're not necessarily frustrated and angry at having to wait so much as we have forgotten what we're waiting for. We're waiting for Jesus to reign. And the proper way to wait for Jesus to reign is to act like he already is (hint: because he is). The answer of how we act as though Jesus is already reigning is simple - treat others as Jesus treated them. He even issued a very basic way to get us to understand, "I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me ... I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me." This is a model that is replicable. Where there is need, fill that need as if you were doing it for Jesus. No other questions need to be asked. Obviously there are limitations as to how much a single individual is capable of doing, but when we orient our lives so that we are receptive to the idea that our job is to provide aid, dramatic changes occur. And that is what it means to wait, because in our waiting and in our loving as Jesus loved, we build the kingdom.

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*Instead of getting antsy waiting for your reign, O Christ, may we trust that you already reign in power not only in Heaven, but in our hearts and lives. So help us to live into the power and grace you've demonstrated. Help us to see need and not scoff, but see need and reach out with love. It is in our love for others in the same way that you loved us that the transformation you hope for us occurs. Amen.*