



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Gastonia, North Carolina

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
May 13, 2018
Confirmation Sunday
11:00 A.M. Worship

We Gather in God's Presence

CARILLON PEAL

Please enter to worship in a spirit of reverence.

WORDS OF WELCOME
AND INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Dr. John L. Frye, Jr.

ORGAN PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION
Londonderry Air

TODD MARCHAND

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

Pastor John H. Stanley

Shout with joy before the LORD, all the earth! Worship the LORD with gladness.

Come before God, singing with joy.

We profess that the LORD is God! God made us, and we belong to God.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, go into God's courts with praise.

Give thanks to the Lord and praise God's holy name!

**For the LORD is good! God's unfailing love continues forever,
and God is faithful to each generation.**

†HYMN OF PRAISE #761
Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

We Approach God

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Collectively)

Loving Christ, you tell your disciples that you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life, yet how often we lose our way, confuse the truth, and choose little deaths rather than live in your abundance. We often say dishonest things and we often act in thoughtless ways. We are sinners in desperate need of your mercy. Still, in your grace, you give us the cross as the signpost on your Way. Your Truth confronts the powers of this world, exposing false promises. Your Life grows as we follow you and so discover an abundance we could never imagine on our own, bringing life to communities everywhere. As we travel on our Easter journey, may we recall once again that you will never leave us orphaned; may we follow you and find our home...(silent confession)...Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†GLORIA PATRI #581

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

We Listen to God's Word

CHORAL ANTHEM

Set Me As A Seal

DAVID CHILDS

*Set me as a seal upon your heart,
As a seal upon your arm.
For love is as strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love!*

Following the Anthem, Children's Church will depart for grades Pre-K thru 3rd Grade

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

John 17:6-19

pew Bible, New Testament pg. 111

This is the Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Joy Comes Full Circle"

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

We Respond to God's Word

THE PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMANDS

Emma Grace Conner

Skye Cynthia Reed

Carly Elaine Craig

Isabel Pace Wallwork

Anne Larkin Efirid

PROFESSION OF FAITH

1. Do you believe in Jesus Christ and trust him as your Lord and Savior?
2. Trusting the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil in the world?
3. Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?
4. Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, and the breaking of bread and prayers?

CONGREGATIONAL VOW

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may God strengthen you in faith and love, that you may serve the Lord with joy!

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, (*A New Creed from the United Church of Canada, 1968*)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

*We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.*

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

*to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.*

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BLESSING

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING (*seated*)

Take My Life (vs. 1 & 6)

HENDON

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. John L. Frye, Jr.

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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

Five-Cents-A-Meal Hunger Offering

OFFERTORY

The Gift Of Love

TODD MARCHAND

†DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

†PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. John L. Frye, Jr.

We Bear God's Word into the World

†HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP #839

Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†CHORAL AMEN

The Congregation is asked to remain standing

†ORGAN POSTLUDE

†If you are able, please stand.

Leading worship today are:

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore, Associate Minister;

Rev. Dr. John L. Frye, Jr., Senior Minister;

Pastor John H. Stanley, Minister of Visitation;

Bethany Jennings, Director of Music Ministries;

David Jennings, Organist

Sanctuary Choir

Les Dix, Trombone

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NC

704.864.2651 • www.fpcgastonia.org • streaming live

All FPC worship services are streamed live on our website.

www.fpcgastonia.org/watchlive

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

STAY FOR LEMONADE IN THE CIRCLE

The Hospitality Committee invites everyone for lemonade following the the 11:00 service. This is in honor and celebration of our Confirmands.

NICKEL-A-MEAL OFFERING

Today (and the 2nd Sunday of each month) we collect the Nickel-a-Meal offering. These funds are used for hunger action grants in our presbytery. Thank you for your generous gifts!

HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH A CARD SUPPORTING WORKING WOMEN IN GUATEMALA

New cards are here! For a suggested donation of \$10 you are sending funds to help women get business training, start a business, and support their families. Get yours from the Presbyterian Women (Gloria Hickson and others) or the Reception Desk.

PRESBYTERIAN WEEKDAY SCHOOL END-OF-THE YEAR CARNIVAL

First Presbyterian Church Families with Children Ages 2 through 11 are enthusiastically invited! May 19th from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Admission to all events is FREE. Carnival events this year will include: hot dog stand, two bounce houses, snow-cone machine, popcorn machine, balloon animals, glitter tattoos, sidewalk chalk, and sand art. This year we will celebrate on the ball field in the rear of the church (weather permitting). Tables will be set up under a tent and the Fellowship Hall will be available for cool downs and use of restrooms.

CLOVER CHORALIERS CONCERTS

Saturday, May 19, 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. at FPC; Tickets are available online and usually sell out before the show. Find them at <https://cloverchoraliers.ludus.com>. Tickets are \$10.00 each.

MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENT

One of the big issues in the opioid epidemic is diversion, or the pilfering of prescribed pain killers from home medicine cabinets. We ask you to gather your out-of-date and no-longer-needed medications – opioids and other medications, both pills and fluids – and bring them to church on May 20, where a police officer will collect and safely discard them following Drug Enforcement Agency rules.

A drop off station will be set up in the atrium outside of the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 until 10:15, then another station open in the Gallery from 10:30--11:00. An officer from the Gastonia Police Department will be there to receive meds. This will reduce the risk of opioid misuse and, by not flushing medications, will help protect our waterways. Thank you.

FAITH & FICTION

Join this discussion and care group on Sunday, June 3, at 5:00 p.m. at Covenant Village. We will be discussing *Emory's Gift* by W. Bruce Cameron. Hostesses will be Teresa Morris and Jean Hileman.

SEEKERS CLASS BREAKFAST

Current and potential members of the Seekers Class are invited to a breakfast in the Parlor on Sunday, June 3 at 10:00 a.m.

FPC's BLOOD DRIVE: June 4, 2:30-6:30 p.m. Come give the gift of life if you are eligible.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

VACATION BIBLE SPECTACULAR

Our theme will be announced on May 13, but please mark your calendars for June 10-13. Dinner is provided for campers and volunteers.

Volunteers are needed and are encouraged to attend an orientation on Sunday, June 3rd following the 11:00 a.m. worship. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Jill Kimbirl or email jkimbirl@fpcgastonia.org. See Jill Kimbirl or Lisa Dent with questions or to offer your time.

HELP HOST FAMILY PROMISE JUNE 3-10 HERE AT FPC

Volunteers are needed to serve as evening, weekend, and overnight hosts, to provide meals and to help setup and clean up. Find our signup list at www.fpcgastonia.org.

ROADRUNNERS

- Join the next adventure on June 13, leaving at 9:00 a.m. to visit the Slightly Different Daylily Nursery near Shelby, followed by lunch at Red Bridges Barbecue Lodge. Sign up at the Reception Desk for your spot on the bus.
- KINGS MOUNTAIN TRIP: Join the RoadRunners when they travel to Kings Mountain on Friday evening, July 13th to see the play Liberty Mountain at the Joy Performance Center. The play was written by Bob Inman and tells the story of the fight for independence and the impact of the Battle of Kings Mountain during the Revolutionary War. The ticket cost is \$20.00, payable with your reservation. We will stop for dinner at the Cherokee Grill in Kings Mountain—payable on your own—(one block from the performance center) prior to the play. Sign up at the Reception Desk by June 20th to make your reservation. Two buses will leave the parking lot at 5:00 p.m.

GASTON REGIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR CAMP 2018

FPC will be hosting this year's camp from July 16-19, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The price for registration between now and June 18 is \$75.00 and goes up to \$100 per camper after June 18.

PARISH NURSE MINISTRY EVENTS

- FaithHealth—Gaston: Volunteers are needed to make a reassuring phone call, prepare and/or deliver a meal, run an errand to the grocery store or pharmacy, transport someone to a doctor's appointment, and/or make someone's home safer by helping with handyman service. If interested, call Robin Burgess at 704-834-2756.
- Health Education Awareness Lunch: Senior TLC: A Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Wednesday, June 13, 2018 in the FPC Fellowship Hall. Program is free and open to the community. Lunch is available for \$6.00. RSVP for the meal by Monday, June 11.
- End of Life Wishes: Gaston Hospice offers 2 Advance Directive clinics every month. Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will documents are explained, completed, and notarized at no charge. No appointment needed: 1st Thursdays 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. and 3rd Thursdays 4:00—5:30 p.m.

UPCOMING WEDNESDAY PRAYER LUNCH MENUS: COME ENJOY!!!

May 16: Meatloaf and mashed potatoes peas, roll, strawberry cobbler with vanilla ice cream, tea and water.

May 23: Chicken salad croissants, pasta salad, chips, blueberry jello salad, tea and water.