

6th Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2003

Gathering around God's Word

PRELUDE: "How Can I Say Thanks?"..... André Crouch
(Peggy Davidson and Christy Floyd, Piano/Organ duet)

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP Fred Coates

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 98:1-4)

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;

he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

*HYMN: "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" No. 87

*PRAYER

In this time of worship, we welcome you, O God.

Turn our minds unto you, so that we may understand the true meaning of life.

Turn our hearts unto you so that we may abide in your love

and your love may flow through us.

Turn our wills unto your Word so that you may guide us into all truth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclaiming God's Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM: (11:00 a.m.) "Faith" from *Chime Suite*..... Lynne Hollander
(Chapel Ringers)

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 John 5:1-6 (pew Bible, page 224)

(8:30 a.m.) Liz Rader; (11:00 a.m.) Jeff Stonestreet

*HYMN: "O How He Loves You and Me"..... No. 270

GOSPEL LESSON: John 15:9-17 (pew Bible, page 104)

SERMON: "Society of Friends" Ed Lewis

Responding to God's Word

*HYMN: "They'll Know We Are Christians" No. 595

*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.

LITANY FOR MEMORIAL DAY

On this Memorial Day weekend we raise our prayers of thanksgiving for those who have sacrificed so much for us.

Many have given their very lives in defending our freedoms and our country, some making the supreme sacrifice.

For them we thank you, O God.

Many have sacrificed their lives in the defense of the faith, refusing to compromise their convictions in the face of oppression and bigotry.

For them we thank you, O God.

Many have sacrificed their time and energies in helping us to succeed in school or at work or in our personal lives, often forgoing their own needs.

For them we thank you, O God.

Many have sacrificed financially in order that we may have a place to worship, a place to learn, a place to live, a place to play.

For them we thank you, O God.

For all the saints of our church who have entered the church triumphant: Jeff Bowles, Marge Gold, Bud Donaldson, Ben Janies, Mary Bethel McNeely, Rebecca Rhodes, B. V. Smalley, Jack White and Nellie Wrenn.

For them we thank you, O God. 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 for ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: (8:30 a.m.) Piano and Organ Duet Peggy Davidson and Christy Floyd
(11:00 a.m.) "The Whole Armor of God" K. Lee Scott
(Chancel Choir)

Give me, O Christ, the strength that is in thee, that I may stand in ev'ry evil hour; Faints my poor heart except to thee I flee, resting my weakness in thy perfect pow'r. Give me to see the foes that I must fight, pow'rs of the darkness throned where thou shouldst reign; Read the directings of thy wrath aright, lest, striking flesh and blood, I strike in vain. Give me to wear the armor that can guard, over my breast thy blood-bought righteousness; Faith for my shield, when fiery darts rain hard, girded with truth, and shod with zeal, with zeal to bless. Give me to wield the weapon that is sure, taking through pray'r thy sword into my hand, Word of thy wisdom, peaceable and pure, so, Christ my Conqu'ror, I shall conqu'ror stand. Yes, having all things done, O Christ my Conqu'ror, having all things done, I shall stand. I shall stand!

*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (8:30 a.m.) Kim Streb; (11:00 a.m.) Joe London

Bearing God's Word into the World

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN: "America, the Beautiful" No. 727

POSTLUDE: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Martin Luther

Cassette tapes of the service are available at the sound console located at the rear of the sanctuary.

Calendar and Announcements

- Sunday: 7:30 p.m. - Session meeting in Room 300
Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop 166
- Small Group "Breaking Free" with Liz Price
Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at What-A-Burger
Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - Through the Bible Study at the home of Peggy Rogers
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - Promise Keepers in the Library

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church on this Lord's Day. If you need a church home, we invite you to unite with our congregation. Please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad.

The 215th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.) is meeting this week in Denver, CO. Pray for God's blessing and guidance on this governing body of our denomination. Today's bulletin insert says something about the General Assembly and its schedule, and lists the names and some of the specific prayer requests from our Salem Presbytery commissioners.

Summer Series: Beginning next Lord's Day and continuing each Sunday throughout the summer, our pastors will preach a series of sermons on Old Testament characters, entitled *Summer Stock Sermon Series*. Playing next Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. will be "The Lion King." Lemonade and friendship will be offered on the lawn following both worship services. Church School will be held from 9:45-10:40 a.m. Dress casually if you like. Invite your friends and neighbors to attend with you.

"Experiencing God" Bible Study: A twelve week Bible study, "Experiencing God," will begin on Tuesday, June 3, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the church library. Please contact Diane Harrington at 704-664-6510 if you are interested in attending this study

Saints Alive Trip: Saints Alive is planning a trip to hear the Charlotte Symphony Summer Pops and Duke Energy Community Choir outdoor concert at the Energy Explorium on Saturday, June 7. The group plans to leave at 5:30 p.m. Participants should bring lawn chairs and a picnic supper; food will also be available to purchase at the concert. Please contact Ellen Auten by Thursday, June 5, if you plan to attend.

Camp Grier: Adult volunteers are needed at Camp Grier in Old Fort, NC, for the following weeks:

- Week 1 (June 15-20): 2 females, 1 male
- Week 2 (June 22-27): 1 female
- Week 4 (July 6-11): 1 camp nurse or first aider
- Week 5 (July 13-18): 1 camp nurse or first aider
- Week 6 (July 20-25): 1 camp nurse or first aider
- Week 7 (July 27-August 1): 1 camp nurse or first aider

Please contact Camp Director Bart Shaw at cgrier@campgrier.org or 828-668-7793 if you are able to volunteer at Camp Grier this summer.

Graduates: At least two names should be added to our list of graduates printed in last Sunday's bulletin. Please notify the church office of other additions or corrections.

- North Carolina State University:** Lora Lee
- University of Georgia:** Chad Walker (graduate school)



First Presbyterian Church

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