

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

July 29, 2007

11:00 A.M.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP.....The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor

- Welcome and Friendship Pads
Announcements
Invocation

PRELUDE: "Draw Us to Thee".....Walther
Dr. Steven Mowery, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN: "O, How I Love Jesus".....Hymnal, No. 109

*CONFESSION AND PARDON.....The Rev. Dr. Fred Coates, Associate Pastor

- Call to Confession
Unison Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Have mercy upon us. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises, declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant, O merciful God, for Christ's sake that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; Amen.

- Silent Prayers of Confession
Assurance of Pardon

Leader: ... Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

*RESPONSE: "Awesome God".....Hymnal, No. 658

Our God is an awesome God, he reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power and love—Our God is an awesome God! (Repeat)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 6:1-13Pew Bible, p. 604
John Patrick Justice, Reader

*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.

*HYMN: "Like a River Glorious".....Hymnal, No. 435

PASTORAL PRAYER 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 TITHES AND OFFERINGS

- Invitation to Give
Offertory: "Near to the Heart of God".....arr. Manuel
Chancel Choir

*Doxology: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow".....Hymnal, No. 34
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

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

Mark 4:1-20 (Insert)

"FOCUS ON JESUS: Insiders & Outsiders—Are You In or Out"
Dr. Brown

*HYMN: "The Church's One Foundation" (Verses 1-4).....Hymnal, No. 544

*INVITATION AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE: "The Church's One Foundation" (Verse 5).....Hymnal, No. 544

POSTLUDE: "Toccata"Young

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* Those who are able will please stand.

If you are our guest today, welcome to First Presbyterian! We're so glad you're worshipping with us. For more information, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and speak with one of the pastors following the service. God bless you! Please return to worship with us again.

You can become a member of First Presbyterian TODAY by your profession of faith, transfer of church membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Elders from the Session meet after every service to receive new members. Please speak with a pastor during the time of refreshments following today's service.

Recordings of the 11:00 a.m. service are available at the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of the people of First Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Dr. Clay and Cathy Brown in appreciation of a marvelous first year of ministry with you and in expectation of many years of ministry together to come.

Announcements

FOCUS ON JESUS Sermon Series on the Gospel of Mark: Our current sermon series puts the spotlight right where it belongs—on Jesus Christ. **FOCUS ON JESUS** will lead us through the Gospel of Mark from beginning to end. Mini-series within the overall series will provide helpful clarity and variety as we work through this Gospel. We have started a new mini-series within **FOCUS ON JESUS**. The title of this new mini-series is “**Insiders & Outsiders**,” and it will take us through most of chapters 3 and 4 of Mark. The remaining sermons for “**Insiders & Outsiders**” are below:

| <i>DATE</i> | <i>SCRIPTURE</i> | <i>TITLE</i> |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 29 | Mark 4:1-20 | FOCUS ON JESUS: Insiders & Outsiders—Are You In or Out? |
| Aug. 5 | Mark 4:21-25 | FOCUS ON JESUS: Insiders & Outsiders—The Inside Scoop |
| Aug. 12 | Mark 4:26-34 | FOCUS ON JESUS: Insiders & Outsiders—From the Inside Looking Out |

We will also provide an optional resource to help you in your personal study of the Gospel of Mark: *Mark for Everyone*. Its author is Tom (N. T.) Wright, one of the most well-known and capable Biblical scholars of this generation. His writing in *Mark for Everyone*, however, is for the average churchgoer. The passages outlined in *Mark for Everyone* correspond with those in our sermon series, so you can read and study as we go. **We have distributed all our copies of *Mark for Everyone*, but we can order more. If you’re interested, please notify the church office at secretary@moorevillefirstpres.org or 704-664-5275.** The books are free, and we encourage donations to help with the costs; \$12 is suggested.

Church School Teachers: The Church School Council is working on securing church school teachers for the 2007-2008 church school year, which is scheduled to begin Sunday, August 26. Please contact Leann DeCastro (704-660-5248), Gretchen Little (704-663-8292) or Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) if you are interested in teaching in any of the following classes: 2 & 3 year old class, 4 year old class, and 1st – 6th grade classes.

Children in Action: All rising first through sixth graders are invited to attend this week’s CIA activity, scheduled for Tuesday, July 31. The group plans to go to Queens Landing where they will play miniature golf and ride bumper boats. Children should meet at the church at 12:30 p.m.; pick up is at 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$11; bring extra money for snacks. Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) to make a reservation.

Combined Church School: All middle school, senior high and adult church school classes are encouraged to attend a combined class during the month of July from 9:45-10:40 a.m. in the fellowship hall. This morning’s class will be the final in our “A Month for Missions” series, and will focus on the recent mission trip to Mwanzi in Zambia, Africa, led by Fred Coates.

Saints Alive Beach Trip: Please contact Ellen Auten by this Wednesday, August 1, if you are interested in the Saints Alive trip to Island Vista in Myrtle Beach, SC, scheduled for October 24-27.

Step Two Training July 29: Step Two serves as a way to plug in new members of First Presbyterian into the church community with a “one-hour, one-time” conversation held on Sunday mornings. We need Step Two volunteers, and a training session is scheduled today for 6 p.m. in the Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown’s office. If you are interested, talk with Dr. Brown this morning—he will be happy to share more information with you.

Camp Grier: Cameron Sledge will be attending Camp Grier’s Rising Sun camp this week.



**July 29, 2007
11:00 a.m. Worship**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, North Carolina 28115

(704) 664-5275 ♦ www.moorevillefirstpres.org

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silent before Him.

Habbakkuk 2:20

Calendar

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Combined Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
12:15 p.m. - 5th & 6th grade Sunday School outing to Hitchcock's home
6:00 p.m. - "Step Two" training in Dr. Brown's office

Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop 166

Tuesday: 12:30 p.m. - CIA to Queens Landing
5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Showmars

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home

Sunday 8/5: 8:30 a.m. - Worship with Communion
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion
Logos/MSM Registration
5:30 p.m. - PYF Rodeo Night

Recent Prayer Requests: Caroline McLaughlin; Esther Kann; Vicky Goude (Judy Jordan's sister-in-law); Mason Bryde; Bernice Melchor; Claude Voils; Tom Eames (Jan Stilwell's father); Anna Rhyne; Faye Wright; Irene Combs (Emily Kirkland's mother); Byron Crowley; Dwight Windsor (Keith's father); Nancy Smith; Shelia Peacock; Liz Price; Randy Oliphant; Terry Stevens; Martha Andrews; John McCure; Charles Dixon; Sr. A Tim Irwin, USAF; Cpl. James Gordon, USMC; Capt. Scott Goodrich, U.S. Army, Iraq (nephew of Sue Kopecek) and QM3 SW Laban Thompson and shipmates on the USS Guardian.

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SERMON NOTES ♦ JULY 29, 2007 ♦ 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Insiders & Outsiders—Are You In or Out?

Mark 4:1-20 (ESV)

SERMON TEXT

¹Again he [Jesus] began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ²And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³"Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." ⁹And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

¹⁰And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, ¹²so that "they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven."

¹³And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

SERMON OUTLINE

I. I JUST DON'T GET IT! HEARING VS. COMPREHENDING (4:1-10)...

II. I'VE GOT A SECRET: WHAT PARABLES ACTUALLY DO (4:11-13)...

III. IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE SOIL: WHAT GOD'S ECONOMY IS REALLY LIKE (4:14-20)...

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