

# SUNDAY CELEBRATION

MARCH 31, 2019

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

CHRIST'S CHURCH WITH ITS DOORS OPEN WIDE

11:00 A.M.

## Weekly

9:30 a.m. Church School

11:00 a.m. Worship  
Communion  
first Sunday  
of each month

This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

*Dedicated to the Glory of God on September 13, 1885  
Highlands, North Carolina*

## Gather in God's Name

*Please silence cell phones and quiet your voices, giving our attention to the presence of God in our midst*

**Childcare is available in the nursery**

**Large print hymnals available—see usher**

**\*Indicates that those who are able may stand**

### Ringing of the Church Bell

**Prelude** "How Firm a Foundation" American Folk Melody  
Linda Lancaster, *Flutist* arr. Linda Lancaster

**Welcome** Emily Wilmarth

### \*Opening Litany

Leader: Happy are those whose transgressions are forgiven,  
who are blessed by the grace of God.

**People: Unfailing love surrounds all those who trust in God.**

Leader: So rejoice and be glad, all you who love God!

**People: Sing and shout for joy, all you whose hearts are open!**

*Based on Psalm 32*

**\*Processional Hymn #366** HYFRYDOL  
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

*Beloved God, with the eagerness of a child, you wait for our coming. With the urgency of a mother, you long for our return. With the anxious heart of a father, your arms ache to hold us. The disappointment, the judgment, the turning away, that's us, not you. Forgive us and heal us of everything in us that recoils from our common humanity. You have given us such worth; help us to trust your valuation, and to know ourselves, and all your children, precious and loved. (Moment of silent individual confession)*  
**Amen.**

#### Response Hymn 698

*Take, O take me as I am,  
summon out what I shall be,  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me. (3x)*

#### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.  
**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

#### \*Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**

## Proclaim God's Word

### Children's Moment

Curtis Fussell

**Anthem** "How Can I Keep from Singing" arr. Julianna Horton  
Chancel Choir

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn, that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord, my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night He giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that refuge clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

I lift mine eyes, the cloud grows thin. I see the blue above it.  
And day by day this pathway smoothes, since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am His! How can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am His! How can I keep from singing?

**Scripture Reading** Luke 15:11-32

**Sermon** *Lessons from the Wilderness* Emily Wilmarth  
"Back To Life"

### \*Affirmation of Faith

*Jesus announced the coming of God's kingdom and its hidden presence in the midst of the world's kingdoms. He taught his disciples to seek God's kingdom first. We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen.*

*From A Declaration of Faith (1977)*

### \*Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

*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. Amen.*

*Hymn 581*

## Give Thanks To God

### Celebration of Ministry and Membership

(Please sign and pass the friendship registry pad  
and then return it so you can know your neighbors in God's household today.)

*Moment for Mission: Lorie Fees from Children's Hope Alliance*

## Prayers of God's 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, forever. Amen.*

## Offering Our Gifts for the Work of God's Kingdom

**Offertory** Arioso" from *Cantata No. 156* J.S. Bach  
Kacper Kuzimski, *Saxophonist*

**\*Doxology** OLD HUNDREDDTH  
*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.*  
*Hymn 606*

## \*Prayer of Dedication

# Go In God's Name To Serve

**\*Hymn #774** "There Is Now a New Creation" STUTTGART

## \*Charge and Benediction

**\*Postlude** Fugue and Harmonization on "St. Anne" J.S. Bach

**Participating in Today's Service:**  
Michael Lancaster, Director of Worship/Music  
Angie Jenkins, Organist/Music Coordinator

**Our Greeters today are:**  
Andrea & Carlton Cole and Kelly & Scott McDuff

*Flowers for the sanctuary are presented by Dale & Shannon Sticka  
to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Janey Sticka,  
a wonderful wife and mother.*

**Please keep in your prayers these members and friends of the congregation:**  
Frances Boggess (Sally Copeland's niece), Foster Boone (Marty Boone's brother),  
Steve Castellaw, Wayne Coleman, Blanche Fenner (Karen Sullivan's mother),  
Marc Good (Frances Hicks' brother), Cecil Hines (Sally Copeland's sister),  
Makenzie Howard (Pam & Bill Peacock's granddaughter),  
Linda Lancaster, Ethan Lassiter (grandson of Marianne & E.G. Lassiter),  
Ashley Turner Leverett (daughter of Peggy and Scott Turner),  
Bill Mauldin & family upon the death of Elizabeth Mauldin  
(Bill Mauldin's daughter), Arnall Page (son of Dr. & Mrs. John Page),  
David Seaton (son of Nell and Charles Seaton),  
Beth Sellers (Anne Sellers' daughter-in-law),  
Veda & Jimmy Sherard, Kay Smith and Robert Whaley (Judy Joyner's cousin).

**Please keep in your prayers these members in the community and beyond:**  
Harriet Bauknight, Mike Bobo, Caroline Cook, Jodie Cook, Dianne Copeland,  
Lyle Cox, Agnes Crowe, Steve Foster, Jackson Hall, K.C. Hembree,  
Billie Jean Hendrix, Jeff James, Donna Kneeland, Cherry Martin,  
Beth Moore (Wally Patzke's wife), Lil Murphy, Melanie Nix,  
Eliza Parish, Seth Satterwhite, Jim Shearon,  
Gene Talley, Lil Waller and Woodrow Wilson.

**WE WELCOME GUESTS** who are worshipping with us today.  
If you are seeking a church home and would like to follow Jesus Christ  
through the fellowship of this congregation, we invite you to full or affiliate  
membership. For more information, please speak with one of the ministers  
after worship, or call the church office.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, March 31	11:00	Morning Worship Service
Monday, April 1	8:00	Men's Prayer Breakfast —Highlander Room
Tuesday, April 2	4:00	Book Club— <i>The Stamp Collector</i> by Dave King —The Ugly Dog Public House
	6:00	Community Table Dinner —Community Building
Wednesday, April 3	10:30	Women's Bible Study —Church Library —See announcement
	3:00	Staff Meeting
	4:00	Sacred Sounds Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:15	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 4	5:30	ESL/GED Dinner & Class —Westminster Room & Coleman Hall —see announcement
Friday, April 5	6:45	High Mountain Square Dancing —Coleman Hall —see announcement

## SUNDAY, APRIL 7

9:30 Adult Education Class—Managing Anxiety Through Faith and Lifestyle  
—Library  
11:00 Morning Worship Service  
Sacrament of Baptism – *Mary Baldwin Shaw*  
Guest Musicians:  
Jillionna Bailey-Plemmons, *Harpist*  
Candace Norton, *Flutist*

**5:00 PM Service of Wholeness and Healing**—see announcement

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder for the month of April is Delaine Nelson.

## Special thanks to today's musicians:

**Kacper Kuzimski** is a senior at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, and lives in Sky Valley, GA. He has attended RGNS since 2014, and is a star member of the music program. Kacper is first chair saxophone in the RGNS orchestra, sings tenor in the choir, and sings baritone in Rabun Gap's inaugural Barbershop Quartet. He will attend the University of

North Georgia in the fall, majoring in tech theater. The song Kacper is playing today will be played in an audition in the near future.

**Linda Lancaster** will be performing with the Brevard Philharmonic Orchestra for her 7<sup>th</sup> season this coming year as well as playing at the Biltmore Estate during the Candlelight Christmas and Spring Blooms. She also performs with the Asheville Symphony Chorus and the Asheville Choral Society. She holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. She has performed with the Carmel Bach Festival Orchestra (Carmel, CA) the Pacific Symphony (Costa Mesa, CA), and the Garden Grove Symphony (Garden Grove, CA). She is the wife of our Director of Worship and Music, Dr. Michael Lancaster.

**Women's Bible Study**—On Wednesday, April 3rd we will meet in the library at 10:30 am. Each person is asked to choose one or more Psalms from Psalms 90-106 to discuss. Please bring a sandwich and something to share for lunch. All ladies of the Church and friends are invited to join us.

**Dinner for ESL/GED classes**—FPCH will be providing dinner for the students of the Literacy Council's ESL and GED classes on the first Thursday of each month. If you are interested in signing up on your own or with a team of volunteers to provide food and hospitality to our guests (one time or many times!), please contact Emily at the church office.

**Square Dancing**—High Mountain Squares will dance in Coleman Hall on Friday, April 5, from 6:45-8:45 pm. Everyone is invited to this free, fun evening.

**Service of Wholeness and Healing** —On Sunday, April 7, we will have a Service of Wholeness and Healing at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service is designed to provide worshipers with a space to pray and reflect on the needs in their lives, whether they are seeking healing or wholeness for themselves, a loved one, or the earth. There will be music, hands-on exercises for reflection, and time for contemplation and prayer. All are welcome, dress is casual. We hope you will include this service in your Lenten discipline.

**Women's Horizon Bible Study**—The final Horizons Bible Study for this year will cover Lessons 8 and 9—*God with Us in the Holy Spirit* and *God with Us*. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on April 11 in the Fisher home at 351 Cheney Lane to study scripture and lesson text. All ladies of the Church and friends are invited to join us.

**The Food Pantry** is collecting egg cartons. Please recycle your egg cartons by bringing them to the church and placing them in the labeled box located in the Ravenel Room.

**The 2019 Flower Calendar** —To provide flowers in honor of a loved one, please fill out a flower leaflet and the flower calendar located upstairs in the main hallway. Contributions to the flower fund are always appreciated.

Volunteer training classes for **Guardian Ad Litem** will be held weekly April 4th-May 9th in Sylva, NC. Guardian ad Litem (GALS) are court-appointed volunteers who serve abused and neglected children in the NC court system. A Guardian Ad Litem serves as a child's voice in court. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and advocating for children, please visit [volunteerforgal.org](http://volunteerforgal.org) for additional information. You may also contact the Haywood office at (828) 454-6395. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming volunteer classes!

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