

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

“Simple Gifts”
Sacred Sounds Bell Choir

Shaker Melody
arr. Susan E. Geschke

Welcome

Curtis Fussell

*Opening Litany

Leader: God is our shelter and our strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.

**People: So, we will not be afraid,
even if the earth is shaken and mountains fall.**

Leader: The Lord reigns over the earth and all the people.

**People: God's reign never fails;
at early dawn the Almighty comes to our aid.**

Leader: Nations and kingdoms come and go,
but the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

**People: The Lord is with us; our refuge and strength.
See what the Lord has done.**

Based on Psalm 46

*Processional Hymn #794

“O Savior, in This Quiet Place”

ST. STEPHEN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you give us strength and hope for living. Yet, we admit there have been times when we merely sit on the sideline. In those times, we offer what we think are good excuses for neglecting to make life better for ourselves and others. Lord, set us firmly in the power of your gracious but demanding love in Jesus Christ. Give us strength to stand up and live a life worthy of your name. (Moment of silent individual confession) Amen.

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

Emily Wilmarth

Anthem

“Christ, Be Our Light”
Chancel Choir
Carol Criminger, *Mezzo Soprano*
Linda Lancaster, *Flutist*
Brad Ulrich, *Trumpeter*

Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants of one another, making your kingdom come. *Refrain*

Text by Bernadette Farrell

Scripture Reading

John 5:1-9

Sermon

“Stand Up, Take Your Mat, and Walk”

Curtis Fussell

*Affirmation of Faith

New life in Jesus Christ takes shape in a community where people know that God loves and accepts them. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand except God's grace. This new life in Christ does not release us from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, or fear. We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in life with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

The Confession of 1967

*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: UKirk—Emily Wilmarth

SUNDAY CELEBRATION

MAY 26, 2019

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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*

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 "This Is My Father's World" Traditional English Melody
arr. Susan E. Geschke

***Doxology** OLD HUNDRETH
*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 #792** BALM IN GILEAD
"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

*Charge and Benediction

***Postlude** "Te Deum" Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Participating in Today's Service:

Michael Lancaster, Director of Worship/Music
Angie Jenkins, Organist/Music Coordinator

Our Greeters today are:

Kelly & Scott McDuff

*The flowers in the sanctuary are presented to the Glory of God
by Jill Wolfe and in honor of all veterans this Memorial Day.*

Please keep in your prayers these members and friends of the congregation:

Frances Boggess (Sally Copeland's niece), Carolyn Browne (Jim Browne's sister),
Steve Castellaw, Blanche Fenner (Karen Sullivan's mother),
Marc Good (Frances Hicks' brother), Cecil Hines (Sally Copeland's sister),
Christy Kelly, Linda Lancaster, Carolyn Lucas (Chad Lucas' mother),
Van Lucas (Chad Lucas' uncle),
Ashley Turner Leverett (daughter of Peggy and Scott Turner),
Caroline McCown (Don & Betty Fisher's daughter),
Alex Mullen (Don Mullen's brother), Arnall Page (son of Dr. & Mrs. John Page),
Ernestine "Teen" Reed (Betty Fisher's aunt),
David Seaton (son of Nell and Charles Seaton),
Beth Sellers (Anne Sellers' daughter-in-law), Veda & Jimmy Sherard,
Kay Smith, Kevin Tietze, Scott Turner, Betsy Turner,
and Robert Whaley (Judy Joyner's cousin).

Please keep in your prayers these members in the community and beyond:

Mike Bobo, Chad Caldwell, Caroline Cook, Jodie Cook, Dianne Copeland,
Lyle Cox, Agnes Crowe, Steve Foster, Jackson Hall, K.C. Hembree,
Billie Jean Hendrix, Jeff James, Donna Kneeland,
Beth Moore (Wally Patzke's wife), Lil Murphy,
Melanie Nix, Eliza Parish, Seth Satterwhite, Jim Shearon,
Gene Talley 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, May 26 11:00 Morning Worship Service
Monday, May 27 **OFFICE CLOSED—MEMORIAL DAY**
8:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast
—Highlander Room
Tuesday, May 28 4:00 Book Club—*Chaddeleys and Flemings: II. The Stone in the Field*
by Alice Munro
—The Ugly Dog Public House
—See announcement
6:00 Community Table Dinner
—Community Building
Wednesday, May 29 3:00 Staff Meeting
4:00 Sacred Sounds Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 30 7:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal
—Choir Room

Sunday, June 2, 2019

8:30 Worship Communion Service
9:30 Adult Education Class —Library—see announcement
11:00 Morning Worship Service
Heritage Sunday
Guest Musician:
Cameron Nixon, *Bagpiper*
Congregational Luncheon

Our 8:30am Worship service will begin Sunday, June 2nd!

Communion is served every Sunday during this service.
Please come and bring a friend!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder for the month of May is Scott McDuff.

Elder for the month of June is Suzy Tamplin.

Special thanks to today's guest musicians.

Linda Lancaster will be performing with the Brevard Philharmonic Orchestra for her 8th 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.

Brad Ulrich has been a professor of trumpet at Western Carolina University since 1989. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in Trumpet Performance from Florida State University and a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Trumpet Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Dr. Ulrich is the artistic director/first trumpet of the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, which gave its New York debut at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in 2007.

Gratitude is extended to **The Matthews Music Fund** for underwriting today's guest musicians.

Men's Prayer Group—The Men's Prayer Group meets every Monday at 8:30 a.m. in the Highlander Room. Meetings begin with devotion and prayer, and are followed by breakfast at a local restaurant. All men of the church are invited to join.

The Beyond the Walls Book Club meets every Tuesday, at 4 pm, at The Ugly Dog Public House. Beyond the Walls is currently reading *The Moons of Jupiter* by Alice Munro. Books cost \$8.00 and are available in the church office. You are invited to join this energetic group as we move our Christian faith Beyond the Walls!

The Carolina Women's Chorale summer singers will begin our third season of rehearsals soon. The chorale is open to sopranos and altos, no audition required. The Chorale rehearses every Thursday, June through August, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the church choir room. Dr. Michael Lancaster is the Director. For more information, call the church office at 828 526-3175 or Donna Philips at 828 526-5842.

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.

Mullen Lectures—June 9 & 10, 2019

The 2019 Mullen Lectures will feature Dr. Mary Brown Bullock, President Emerita Agnes Scott College (1995-2006). Dr. Bullock served as Inaugural Executive Vice Chancellor of Duke Kunshan University in Kunshan, China; Distinguished Visiting Professor of Chinese Studies at Emory University, presided as Director of the Asia Program at The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, and was a professorial lecturer at The Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Dr. Bullock earned her Master's and Ph.D. in Chinese History at Stanford University. On Sunday morning, June 9th, at the 11am worship service, Dr. Bullock's sermon will be *Discovering the Missionary Legacy*. Then, on Monday, June 10th at 10:30 a.m., Dr. Bullock will give a lecture entitled, *Implications for U.S.—China Relations*, in the sanctuary followed with a reception in Coleman Hall.

Men's Devotional Group will meet every Wednesday beginning June 5th in the church parlor at 12:00 p.m. and will follow with lunch in Coleman Hall. All men are invited to attend.

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