

First Presbyterian Church  
July 5, 2020

# Mission

Rooted in Scripture, United in Christ,  
Reaching Out in Faith



# POSSIBLE!



# WELCOME

July 5, 2020

## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

### CHIMING OF THE BELL

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

Many: **God calls us to be builders as well.**

One: God calls us to build our lives:

Many: **to restore broken places and continue to grow.**

One: God calls us to build our faith:

Many: **to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.**

One: God calls us to build our community:

Many: **to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.**

One: God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

Many: **to preach the good news of God's love and liberation for all people.**

One: Let us worship God!

### OPENING PRAYER

HYMN 336

*We Gather Together*

KREMSER

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.*

*Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!*

*We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy and restoration, when we come to worship you, we realize how far we have strayed and how much we have forgotten of your law and your love. We have not loved you with our whole hearts or loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, heal us, and restore us to our relationship with you; through Jesus Christ, in whom we trust. Amen.**

Let us continue our confession in silence.

Amen.

Worship begins best with a prayerful spirit. Use the prelude time to center yourself and open your heart and mind to the worship of God.

Our God longs for honesty and holiness within the promise-based relationship God has established with us in Christ. In a culture that avoids talk of sin and culpability, regular prayers of confession foster honesty and openness in our relationship with God.

*Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.  
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the Good News: Our Lord God knows us completely and loves us still. Know you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Many: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Gloria Patri

Glory Be To The Father

HYMN 581

*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.*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

## TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

First Lesson

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*By Faith*  
Dr. Patricia Hacker

Stuart Townend,  
Keith and Kristyn Getty

*By faith we see the hand of God in the light of creation's grand design, In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight. By faith the prophets saw a day when the longed- for Messiah would appear With the power to break the chains of sin and death, and rise triumphant from the grave. We will stand as children of the promise, we will fix our eyes on Christ, our soul's reward; 'Til the race is finished and the work is done we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

*By faith the church was called to go in the power of the Spirit to the lost, To deliver captives, and to preach good news in every corner of the earth. By faith this mountain shall be moved, and the power of the gospel shall prevail; For we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon his name. We will stand as children of the promise, we will fix our eyes on Christ, our souls' reward; 'Til the race is finished and the work is done we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed thy hand hath provided, great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! By faith we see the hand of God, by faith this mountain shall be moved. We'll walk by faith, and not by sight. We'll walk by faith!*

Many people know this chapter as a reading from Scripture used at weddings. Yet the chapter is not written to a couple. It is written to members of a church. These church members have found many ways to imagine themselves as superior to others in the same community: some speak in tongues; some have prophetic powers; some have knowledge that baffles their brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul asserts that even such gifts as these are nothing if those who possess them do not also have love.

Jesus meets a Samaritan woman beside a well and tells her about living water. The expression living water can have different meanings. In most contexts, living water simply meant flowing water, like the water in a spring or stream. Ordinary living water would quench bodily thirst and thereby enable people to live in the ordinary physical sense. Jesus, however, uses living water as a metaphor for the Spirit that meets people's thirst for life in relationship with God.

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*"Mission Possible: Reaching Out in Faith"*

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

### RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 729

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

I WANT TO BE A  
CHRISTIAN

*Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more loving  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving  
in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving  
in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more holy  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more holy  
in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more holy  
in my heart.  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
in my heart, in my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
in my heart.  
In my heart, in my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
in my heart.*

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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 THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THE WORLD**

HYMN 761

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

*Called as partners in Christ's service,  
called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment  
fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring  
to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,  
Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
let us follow, never faltering,  
reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer,  
all God's people, young and old,  
blending human skills together  
gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,  
in a small or global sense,  
help us bear each other's burdens,  
breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
words of challenge, said with care,  
bring new power and strength for action,  
make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow  
ways to order human life  
that surround each person's sorrow  
with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
our compassion to increase,  
messengers of faith, thus giving  
hope and confidence and peace.*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (A choral benediction may be viewed on today's worship broadcast)

POSTLUDE

**Worship To Go**

Worship of the Living God is not confined to one place or time. We encourage you to take this bulletin home and use it to guide you in private moments of worship for the next week.

**Discuss:** Can you think of a time when someone has said the exact right thing you needed to hear? What was that like?

**Read Scripture:**

Monday: Matthew 23:1-12  
Tuesday: Matthew 23:13-26  
Wednesday: Matthew 23:27-39  
Thursday: Matthew 24:1-14  
Friday: Matthew 24:15-31  
Saturday: Matthew 24:32-51

**Pray:** Pray for our courage as Christians to speak love and acceptance to all.

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP:**

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Brett Gudeman, Associate Pastor

Dr. Patricia Hacker, Director of Music

Dr. Lois K. Lee, Pianist/Organist

Kathy Gillmore, Director of Christian Education

Video and Sound:  
Mike Hyatt,  
Jack Phillips,  
Tom Stroud,  
Brian Bulger

Ushers  
BobFrank Smith,  
Lori Smith

**Worship resources adapted from:**

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Series and Enterthebible.org



## PRAYER LIST

Newest prayer requests are in bold print

To add a prayer request, please visit our website

To remove a prayer request, please contact our church office

In case of a pastoral emergency, you may contact Dr. Bulger at 256-655-1818.

### **Church Members:**

Chuck Hooker and family  
Barbara (Bonny) Morris  
Lou Horn  
Cay Lambert  
Mary Lou Danner

### **Friends and Family:**

#### **Jerry Dugan--friend of Sandra and Mickey Childers**

Billy H. Wallace--brother of Beverly Wills  
John and Maryetta Bitzer--friends of Peggy and Dave Galloway  
Pat Golley--mother of Julie Fowler  
Kathy Winfree--sister of Bill Bolton  
Ted Childs - friend of Houston Matthews  
Brandon Greiner-grandson of Cay Lambert  
Pat Richeson--friend of Glen Adams  
Stella Fair - Sister of David Galloway  
Beverlee Leo - Mother of Lori Smith  
Diana Rose - Mother of Serena Neely  
Scott Sedlitz - Stepson of Annewhite Fuller  
Leigh Vincent - Friend of Linda and Woodward Howard  
Paige Olmo - Daughter of Paula Weider  
Sean Larkin - Friend of Linda Howard and Bryce Connor  
Dylan Greiner- Son of Cay Lambert  
Pegge Murphy- Friend of FPC PW  
Dale Brown - brother of Doug Brown  
Nell Pike - mother of Charlie Pike  
Eula Battle - friend of the congregation  
Margaret Bruce Walker - Friend of Janis Williams  
Leigh Steele - goddaughter of David Hatch  
Sean and Joy Conway - friends of Houston Matthews  
Rachel Beard - friend of Tam Bevel  
Mitzi Summers - wife of Glen Adams  
Christine Steenwyk - daughter-in-law of Al Steenwyk  
Jerry Pecora - friend of Marian Bevel  
Tyler Bevel - friend of Marian Bevel

### **Members and Relatives in Specialty Care:**

Marge Sharp (Birmingham).  
Dolly Shuey (WBC @ Magnolia Trace)  
Jean Walker (Regency)

### **The Church:**

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger, and her family  
The Rev. Brett Gudeman and family  
First Presbyterian Church, the Session, the Board of Deacons, the North Alabama Presbytery, and for all the church staff  
NAP seminary student Joe Lundy (First, Huntsville).

**Military & International:** All those serving in the armed forces; particularly ENS Connor Howard, U.S. Navy Flight School

**Our Nation:** President Trump and our representatives.

### **First Presbyterian Missions & Ministries:**

Appalachia Service Project (ASP)  
Good Samaritans  
International Missionary Fellowship (HaitiHospital.org)  
The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center  
The Presbyterian Home for Children  
Second Mile Preschool  
The CUP program  
Camp Maranatha  
Mission Aviation Fellowship

### **Other Prayers:**

Let us pray for all those struggling with health and economic hardship during this pandemic. Let us also pray for communities as they express the deep hurt they feel, as well as for safety and peace for all.

# First Presbyterian Church

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