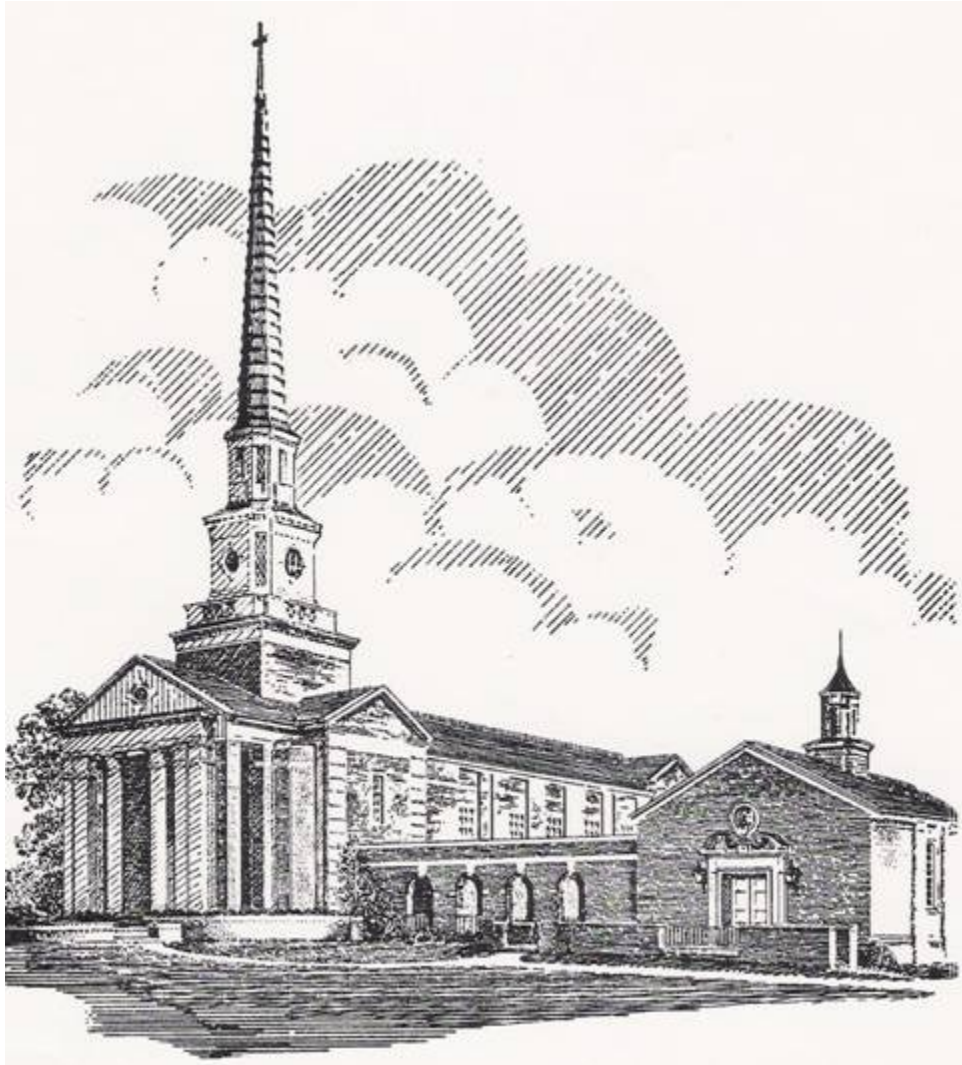


# THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
508 WEST DAVIS STREET  
BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27215  
[www.fpcburlington.org](http://www.fpcburlington.org)  
336-228-1703

# GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Please join in reading  
aloud those parts of  
the service printed  
in bold.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us now prepare our hearts to worship God.

## MUSIC FOR PREPARATION

Exultemus

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

*Sing aloud to God our strength;  
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.  
Raise a song, sound the tambourine,  
the sweet lyre with the harp.  
Blow the trumpet at the new moon,  
at the full moon, on our festal day.  
-Psalm 81:1-3*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You discern my thoughts from far away.

**You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

**Search me, O God, and know my heart.**

**See if there is any wicked way in me**

**and lead me in the way everlasting.**

Let us worship God!

*When this symbol (\*)  
precedes an element  
of the service, please  
rise in body or spirit.*

## \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN – NO. 2

Come, Thou Almighty King

ITALIAN HYMN

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

### \*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Insolently we turn against you, God of truth.

When we follow those desires that control us;

when we live for ourselves, shutting off the gifts of those around us;

when we think we do not need to share love, hope, peace with others,

we show how we have joined that league of hooligans

who ignore your way of life.

Yet, you have chosen to adopt us as your children,

forgiving us and making us inheritors with Jesus of your grace and joy.

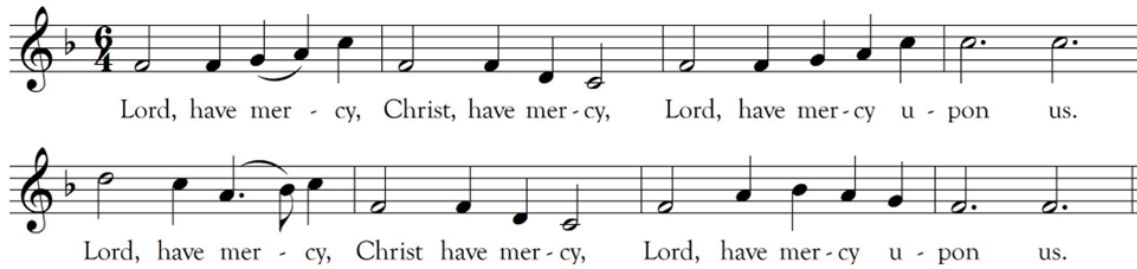
So lead us by the Spirit, that we might follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,  
into creation which groans for love and healing.

### \*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

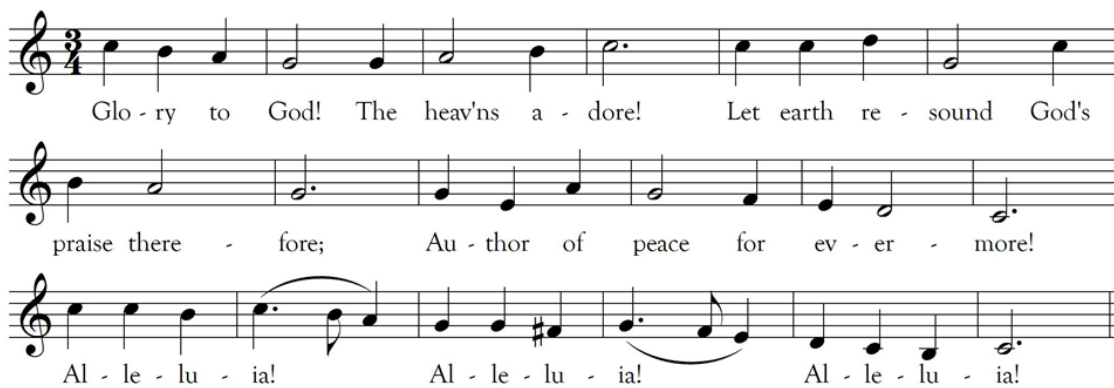


**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Glory to God!

GELOBT SEI GOTT



Text: Michael Morgan

**\*PASSING THE PEACE, LOVE, AND JOY OF CHRIST TO OTHERS**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

*The astoundingly good news of our reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ frees our tongues to sing mighty praise to God.*

*We exchange reconciling words and gestures among the people of God.*

**LISTENING FOR THE WORD**

**STORY TELLING**

**GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

Allie Moffitt

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST LESSON: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24**

Large Print Pew Bible, pages 710-711

Pew Bible, pages 577-578

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

*We listen for what God is saying to God's people through scripture, song, and sermon.*

## ANTHEM

Let This Mind Be in You

Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010)

*Chancel Choir*

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus:  
Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:  
But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant.  
and was made in the likeness of men:  
And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself,  
and became obedient unto death, e'en the death of the cross.  
Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him and given him a name  
which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

*-Philippians 2:5-11*

**SECOND LESSON:** Romans 8:12-25

*Large Print Pew Bible, pages 191-192*

*Pew Bible, page 158*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**SERMON:** Mistakes Made...Lessons Learned

Rev. John W. Johnson

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE – NO. 839**

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

ASSURANCE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

With the whole church, let us say what we believe.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

*Our response to  
hearing God's  
Word includes  
singing and saying  
what we believe.*

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 OF TITHES AND GIFTS

### MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

Triune God, in Love Resplendent

Christopher Tambling (1964-2015)

*Chancel Choir*

Triune God, in love resplendent, wholly one yet fully three,  
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit one divine community;  
 move our hearts to wordless wonder, as the mysteries unfold:  
 shadows of a greater story, never fully to be told!

Holy Spirit, rest upon us that the many may be one;  
 hold us in the pure communion of the Father with the Son.  
 From the myriad lives and talents brought together in this place,  
 make our worship and our living one kaleidoscope of grace.

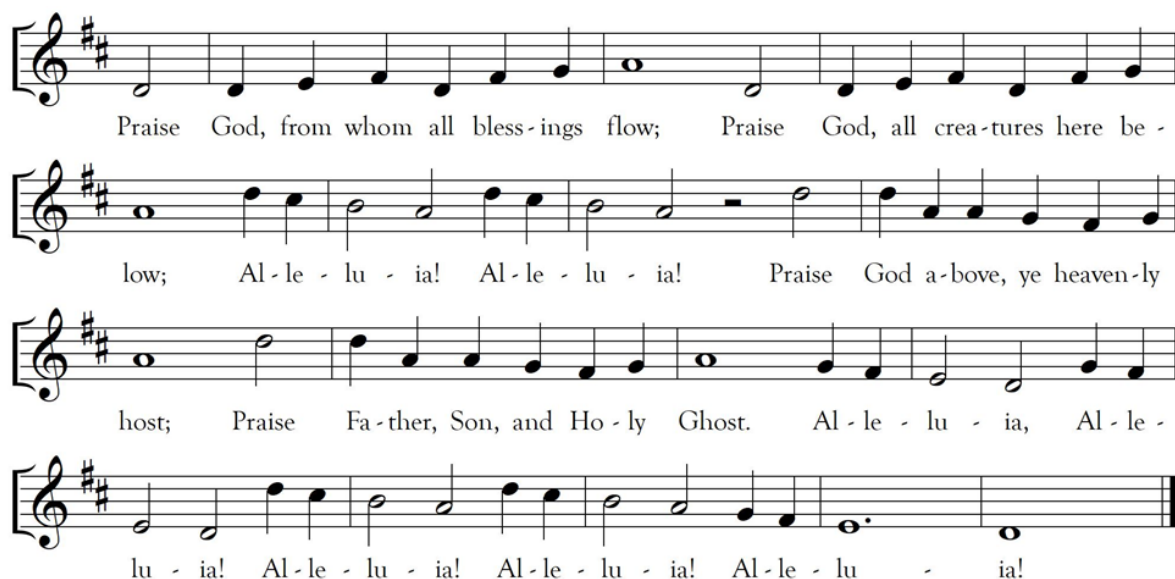
Keep the life of church and city in the fellowship divine,  
 joining many hands and voices, turning water into wine,  
 till a just and free creation, splendid in diversity,  
 sings as one your endless praises, ever blessed Trinity!

*-Michael Forster*

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are as follows:

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be -  
 low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a -bove, ye heaven-ly  
 host; Praise Fa -ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -  
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

# BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*God blesses and  
sends us in  
mission to the  
world.*

## \*RECESSIONAL HYMN – NO. 321

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

## VOLUNTARY

Voluntary in D Major

David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

*Stewart Rawson, D. Min., Transitional Pastor*

*John Witherspoon Johnson, M. Div, Parish Associate for Communications*

*J. Patrick Murphy, M. Mus., Organist-Choirmaster*

*Charlotte Nance-Allbright, M.A, C.C.E., Director of Christian Formation and Education*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all who worship with us. We hope in this service you will encounter the living Christ and experience the warmth of our caring family of faith. Childcare of infant through Pre-K is provided for parents/guardians who prefer that resource. If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter, please feel free to pick up a copy today in the narthex and then contact the church office to be added to the weekly email list. If you are visiting with us and in search of a church home, we invite you to become a part of our church family here at First Presbyterian Church. Please let us know of your interest by way of the friendship register or by speaking to a minister.

**MUSIC NOTES:** Music texts and impressions, along with streaming music, are provided with permission from One License, License #A-715495. All rights reserved.

**LIVE VIDEO STREAMING SERVICE:** *Boxcast* will stream to our website and Facebook page each Sunday morning. Click here to view: [on our website](#) and on [the FPC Facebook page](#).

**LARGE PRINT HYMNS:** Copies of today's hymns are available in the Narthex.

**WORSHIP SERVICE CDS AVAILABLE EACH WEEK:** Each Sunday, the Scripture readings, anthem, and sermon will be recorded on CD. A limited number of copies will be available immediately after the worship service in the narthex. Additional copies may be requested by calling the church office. This same recording will be posted on the website.

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Harrison Coble by Annelle and Bill Coble.

**PASTORAL CARE INFORMATION:** If you have a personal emergency, hospitalization, or pastoral care need, please call the church office. If it is after office hours or on the weekend, you may call the minister on call: John W. Johnson (336-214-5859)

**ANDREWS READING BUDDIES:** It's time to sign up to be a Reading Buddy at Andrew's Elementary School. Would you like to listen to a child read or work with a child learning their sight words for an hour once a week? If so, contact Jin-Jin Blackburn, [jblackb@hotmail.com](mailto:jblackb@hotmail.com).

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP begins a New Season!!** Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 21 at 11:00 a.m. as Friendship Group gathers for a **Friendship Group Sock Hop 2023!!** Many of your favorite tunes from the '50's and '60's will be featured! So brush off your dancing shoes and your voices and join us in Shive Hall!! A delicious lunch will follow. Be sure to RSVP today ([pmurphy@fpcburlington.org](mailto:pmurphy@fpcburlington.org)). Let's start the New Season right!

**"SAVE THE DATE"** for lunch with the FPC program staff at The Village at Brookwood and Twin Lakes! Please get the date on the calendar and you will have invitations coming soon.  
Wednesday, October 4, 12:00 noon—The Village at Brookwood  
Thursday, October 5, 12:00 noon—Twin Lakes

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE:** There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive at First Presbyterian Church on **Tuesday, September 26, 2023 from 2-6:30 p.m. in Shive Hall**. Please plan to schedule an appointment by going to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use the sponsor code "FPC Burlington" or contact Lucy Kernodle at [lkernodle@bellsouth.net](mailto:lkernodle@bellsouth.net). There is a need for blood more than usual because of all the natural disasters that have occurred recently. Please help maintain the blood supply and plan to give now!!

**FIRST AID/CPR COURSE:** Instructor Leslie Council is available to offer a course in CPR and First Aid here at First Presbyterian on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The cost for the four hour training will be \$30.00. We need a minimum of ten folks to make the training happen, so please contact the church office to sign up.

**CHURCH LIBRARY** is getting ready for YOU! Feel free to pop in the new Church Library today to see how things are coming along, to fill out the application for a library card (yes, we are moving to barcode checkout), and to return any books you might have at home and need to return. Please check around your homes as we are missing several books – including some books that will be used in the Battle of the Books and Book Club this year. Ribbon cutting and reception will come at a later date. Please do not check out books just yet. We will let you know when that glorious day arrives. Want to help in the library on Sundays? Please contact Charlotte Nance-Allbright ([callbright@fpcburlington.org](mailto:callbright@fpcburlington.org) or 336-228-1703 x 223)

**ROMANS BIBLE STUDY RECORDINGS** - Each week the Wednesday Bible Study will be recorded and uploaded to Google Drive. A link to access the recordings will be in the weekly eblast, or contact [callbright@fpcburlington.org](mailto:callbright@fpcburlington.org) for the link.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, September 17

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for Adults — Rooms 203, 228, John Knox Room  
9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. FISHin (Faith in Small Hearts) — Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Parent Focus Team Meeting — Room 203  
11:15 a.m. Poetry class — Room 201  
4:00 p.m. Kid's Club Meets - Habitat Mission Focus — Room 223  
5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group — Room 403  
5:00 p.m. High School Youth Group — Room 406  
6:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Meeting — Room 203  
7:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting — Witherspoon Room

### Tuesday, September 19

6:45 a.m. Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study — Witherspoon Room  
7:30 a.m. Dough Devotions — The Park Restaurant  
8:00 a.m. Walk and Talk  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting — Room 203  
7:00 p.m. BSA Troop 17 Meets — Garrison Joyner Activities Building

### Wednesday, September 20

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study — Witherspoon Room  
5:00 p.m. Foundation Marketing Plan Meeting via Zoom  
6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Room 225

### Thursday, September 21

6:45 a.m. Thursday Women's Morning Bible Study — Witherspoon Room  
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathers — Room 201  
11:00 a.m. Friendship Group — Shive Hall



**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN:** Make your 2024 pledge quickly and easily by following this code using your mobile device.

**CHURCH SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Over the past few months, there has been a growing concern among the staff and Session about the security of the church on Sunday mornings. There have been several incidents more recently, including a theft at another downtown church, that have brought this issue more to the forefront.

On recommendation from the staff, the Session has authorized the locking of all doors (except for the sanctuary doors) on Sunday morning. As you make your way into the church building, please go to one of the doors with a buzzer and you will be let in.

In addition, during the worship hour, there will be an elder who will be walking throughout the building to make sure that there is no one in the building that shouldn't be there.

We realize that this may be an inconvenience to some, and we apologize for that. But the safety of all our members, especially our children, takes precedence.

### A Moment's Meditation

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord;  
so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:8 *New Oxford Annotated Bible*