

August 4th, 2019

9:30 a.m.

8th Sunday after Pentecost
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME

We're delighted that you're here! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubts, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *For the Beauty of the Earth* arr. Chris Rice

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS (from *God of Grace and God of Glory*)

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.

***Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP 301 *Let Us Build a House* TWO OAKS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Creating God, you knit our bodies:
Black bodies, Brown bodies, White bodies,
bodies created in love and meant to be loved.
Trans bodies, Queer bodies, Cisgender bodies, Straight bodies,
our bodies were created in love and meant to be loved.

And yet, we have upheld these lies:

Black bodies are deficient
Brown bodies are illegal
White bodies are superior
Trans bodies are fundamentally flawed
Queer bodies are over-sexualized
Only Cisgender bodies are natural
Only Straight bodies are normal.

We have borne these lies, passed them on to our children,
sputtered them from our mouths, spat them at our neighbors.
We have turned them in upon ourselves and out against one another.
Like poison, they consume us, so that the truth that we are all your beloved
children is lost.

**Forgive us, O God, for believing these lies, for internalizing them,
and for upholding systems which reinforce them. Forgive us for
forgetting this truth: that our bodies were created in love and that we
are your beloved children.**

Silent Confession.

*KYRIE 48

Rain Down
*Rain down; rain down;
rain down your love on your people.
Rain down; rain down;
rain down your love, God of life.*

RAIN DOWN

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA 589 *Alleluia* HONDURAS ALLELUIA
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Now the Lord is risen indeed.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
(Please greet one another with: "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you.")

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FOCUS ON CHILDREN Blessing of the Backpacks Patti Winter

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION 692

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living give you glory.
Spirit, open my heart.

FIRST READING Psalm 107:1-9

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Psalm 23* arr. John Michael Talbot
David Bryson, soloist

SECOND READING Acts 2:42-3:10

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Person the Issue* Rev. Scott Clark

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 797 *We Cannot Measure How You Heal* YE BANKS AND BRAES

COMMISSIONING NATE BURT AS A YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Part of your offering today is the gift of your presence. Please acknowledge your presence by signing the
welcome book at the end of your row. To be directed to our online giving site, scan here:*



THE OFFERTORY *Great is Thy Faithfulness* arr. William Runyan

*THE DOXOLOGY 609

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!*
*Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.*
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise....
Holy, holy, holy Lord, we praise you for your love...

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*To receive, please come forward to the station nearest you, take a piece of bread, dip it in the
juice, and eat. The center station contains gluten-free, dairy free bread.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

* HYMN 749 *Come! Live in the Light* WE ARE CALLED

*BENEDICTION

*GOING FORTH 307, v. 4 *God of Grace and God of Glory*
Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
servng thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

*POSTLUDE *Let All Things Now Living* arr. Lloyd Larson

*Please stand as you are able.

**Adapted from More Light Presbyterians (<https://mlp.org/document/prayer-of-confession-1/>)

WE WELCOME VISITORS Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at www.fpcbham.org.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, our Session meets on the *first Sunday of the month* in the Chapel following the 11:00 worship service to welcome new members. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope you will make First your home.

FOR CHILDREN: Children's bags and bulletins are available in the Narthex (ushers can locate them for you). Please empty and return the bags after worship. We love having kids in worship, but the following alternatives are also available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 go to the balcony, where they experience a little of what worship is like while doing learning activities related to the scripture with coloring, puzzles, books, children's bulletins and more. When the sacraments of the Lord's Supper or Baptism are celebrated, children return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

LET THE BELLS PLAY! Our 37-bell Rushton Memorial Carillon was the first such instrument in Birmingham and the third in the United States, when installed in 1924.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please use the Prayer Request and Information Change cards, found in the pew rack, to relay information to the church office. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office and place it in the offering plate.

SERMONS are available from our website at www.fpcbham.org.

Our PREACHER today is the Rev. Scott Clark, Co-Moderator of More Light Presbyterians, and Chaplain and Dean of Students at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

The LITURGIST for today is Grace Ahnert.

MISSION CENTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LIGHT, INC. is a mission center of FPC, giving shelter and support services for homeless women and children. If you would like to help, speak to our pastors or call Ruth Crosby, Executive Director (323-4277). First Light's website: www.firstlightshelter.org

RUTH AND NAOMI SENIOR OUTREACH (RNSO) has as its mission to become spiritual companions to isolated older adults and to call, equip, and support others to do so as well. Contact chaplain@rutbandnaomi.org.

THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is www.eprcdc.com

FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA, a faith-based community-organizing effort FPC shares with faith communities throughout the city, works to improve quality of life for all our citizens. Faith in Action is a PICO network affiliate and can be reached at daniel@fiaal.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION provides support to First Presbyterian Church for the maintenance and upkeep of this historic sacred space built in 1889. 10% of the Foundation's annuity payment aids mission selected by session. Contact Mark Aldridge for more information.

THE REV. TERRY HAMILTON-POORE, Pastor and Head of Staff
THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Associate Pastor
THE REV. JIM STANFORD, Parish Associate
MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education
DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Director of Music/Organist
JEFF HAIRRELL, Music Coordinator
MS. ROBIN VINES, Carillonist
MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director
MR. OWEN BLOMELEY, Facility Manager
MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Office Administrator
MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper
MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton
THE REV. DR. ROBERT S. CRUTCHFIELD, Pastor Emeritus

Have you remembered the church in your will?