

August 11th, 2019

11:00 a.m.

**9th 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 *Prelude and Fugue No.2* Craig A. Penfield

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS Ashley and Charles Greene

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 1:11a, 13c, 16-18

“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?” says the Lord.

“I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;

cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.”

“Come now, let us argue it out,” says the Lord:

“though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow;

though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

Let us worship God

*HYMN 13 *The Mighty God with Power Speaks* (Psalm 50) KINGSFOLD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *

Merciful God, your justice protects those who are weak, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power.

Your righteousness redeems those who are poor, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions.

Your peace upholds those who are oppressed, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution.

Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray.
Silent Confession.

*KYRIE 48 *Rain Down* RAIN DOWN

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

***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 Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION 291, refrain, *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

***Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.***

FIRST READING Luke 12:32-40

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *We Praise Thee, O God* arr.Edward Kremer

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us:

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Desiring a Better Country* Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 373 *O Day of Peace* JERUSALEM

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH adapted from

The Confession of Belhar *Note: The Confession of Belhar was a statement of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa (the “coloured church” during the time of Apartheid), speaking against the white church’s complicity in racial separation and White Supremacy. It is now an official faith statement of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

We believe in one God who gathers, protects and nourishes the Church from the beginning of the world to the end.

The Church is holy; the Church is universal; it is the fellowship of God’s children, called together from the whole of humanity to proclaim God’s wonderful deeds.

We believe that the reconciling work of Christ gives birth to a uniting Church, because Church unity is a gift from God and a goal for which we need to strive.

The unity of the church must become visible so that the people around us can see how separation and hatred are overcome in Christ.

We believe that genuine faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership in this Christian church.

We praise God that race, class, gender, or culture does not determine who belongs to this Church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT AN ELDER

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 *Pastorale* Charles Wesley

***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.***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

* HYMN 835 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* CLOSER WALK

***BENEDICTION**

*GOING FORTH 656 *We've Come This Far by Faith* THIS FAR BY FAITH

***We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord,
trusting in the holy Word; God's never failed us yet.***

***Oooooh, can't turn around,
we've come this far by faith. We've come this far by faith.***

*POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Almighty King* arr. F. Giardini

*Please stand as you are able.

**from *The Book of Common Worship* ©2018

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.

The LITURGIST for today is Janell 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@ruthandnaomi.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.eprdc.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@faal.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?