

September 8, 2019

11:00 a.m.

13th 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

Chaconne in G minor

Louis Couper

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says, "I am the Way for you,"
So we come to follow Christ.

Jesus says, "I am the Truth for you,"
So we come to dwell in the light.

Jesus says, "I am the Life for you,"
So we come, leaving behind all else to which we cling.
Let us worship God.

*HYMN 401

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, you have always kept your covenant with us, but we are people of empty words. We ask for a transformed world, but are unwilling to make the changes we need to bring that world about. We make promises that we break, and commitments that we do not keep. Forgive us, we pray.
Renew our feeble faith, that we may follow Jesus with firm steps, letting go of all that gets in the way of the new life that he has promised. *Silent Confession.*

*KYRIE 698

Take, O Take Me As I Am

*Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Cat Goodrich

*GLORIA 598

Amen, We Praise Your Name

AMEN SIAKUDUMISA

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Amen, amen. Amen, amen. Amen, we praise your name, O God.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

And also with you.

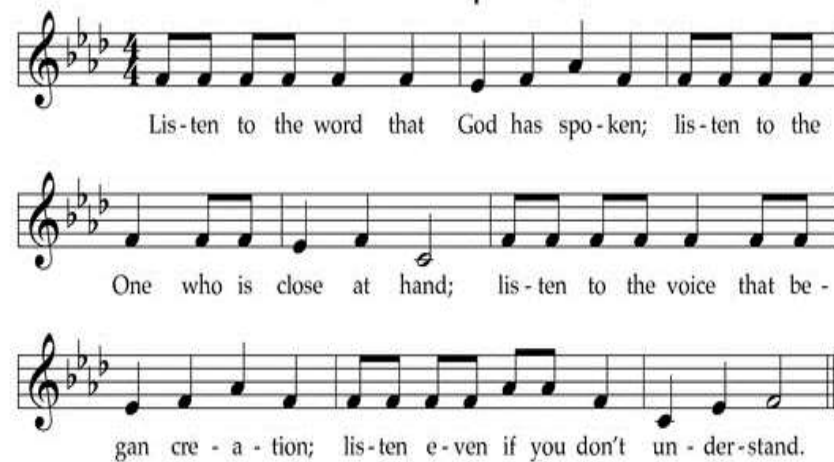
(Please greet one another with: "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you.")

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Patti Winter

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken*



FIRST READING

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALTER, Hymn 29

O God, You Search Me (Psalm 139)

SECOND READING

Philemon 1-16

ANTHEM

Somebody's Prayin

John.G. Elliott

Jeff Hairrell, soloist

THIRD READING

Luke 14:25-33

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

What We Give, What We Gain

Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 729

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Meaning of Membership from *The Book of Order*

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege.

It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission.

A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises

to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church.

Such involvement includes:

Pulpit side: proclaiming the good news in word and deed,

Lectern side: taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,

Pulpit side: lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,

Lectern side: studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,

Pulpit side: supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,

Lectern side: demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,

Pulpit side: responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,

Lectern side: living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,

Pulpit side: working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,

Lectern side: caring for God's creation,

Pulpit side: participating in the governing responsibilities of the church,

All: and reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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.

FOCUS ON MISSION

Faith Formation

Joan Witherspoon-Norris

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

Herr Jesu Christ

Dich Zu Uns Wend

*THE DOXOLOGY 608

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Tri-une God, whom we adore.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 726

Will You Come and Follow Me?

KELVINGROVE

*BENEDICTION

***GOING FORTH 543** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*
God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O, Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

***POSTLUDE** *Voluntary in D* D. Scarlatti

*Please stand as you are able.

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 Marylyn Eubank.

**Adapted from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, © 2001, The Iona Community

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
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?