

October 20, 2019

11:00 a.m.

**19th 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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*INTROIT 399 *God Welcomes All* (first time, choir; second time, all)
*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says: Pray, and never lose heart,
For God will grant justice to the faithful.
Let us worship God.

*HYMN 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* IN BABILONE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you are faithful, but our faith is weak. We pray with no expectation of an answer, we confess with no expectation of forgiveness, we look for help everywhere but in you. Have mercy on us, O God, and renew our faith. Make us persistent in prayer, trusting that you hear us, and, in hearing, can show us the way to transformation for ourselves and for our world. *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

SUNG INVITATION

*Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.*

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Genesis 32:22-31

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121 (in unison)

**I lift my eyes to the hills:
from where does my help come?
My help comes from our God,
who made heaven and earth.
God will not let your foot slip;
the One who keeps you will not slumber;
the One who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.
God is your keeper, your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
God will keep you from all evil, will keep your life.
God will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.**

ANTHEM

THIRD READING

Luke 18:1-8

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

Pestring Prayer Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 817 *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* DUNLAP'S CREEK

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (responsive) from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In a broken and fearful world,
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

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.

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

*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 66 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* PENTECOST

*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

Following the service, please join us in the chapel for coffee and conversation!

*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 Scott Pierce.

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?