



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
16 EAST FIFTH STREET
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

Website: www.fpc-rr.org

Church Office: (252) 537-4018 firstpresbyterianchurchrr@gmail.com

Rev. Sandoval: (252) 676-9857 fperrminister@gmail.com

[To text Rev. Sandoval use (336) 420-0388]

Church Office Hours: Wednesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

APRIL 26, 2020

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE

(Please use the prelude as a time to quietly prepare for worship)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The Lord through Jeremiah says, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

All: Amen! Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

One: Almighty God, in our baptism you adopted us for your own. Quicken, we pray, your Spirit within us, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may endure the trials put on our path and worship you always in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

HYMN 401

Here in This Place

(page 8 of bulletin)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have called us to serve your Word with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. Too often our energy fades, and we waste our intelligence. We do not have the time for imagination or the patience for love. Your hope is abundant and your truth steadfast, yet we cannot trust the depth of your grace. Forgive us, God of mercy, and move us to know the goodness of your reign.

TIME FOR SILENCE

(We ask for forgiveness for our individual faults)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

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

All: **And also with you.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:1-14

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said: Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord. For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the

places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

Cameron Pate

SPECIAL MUSIC

If with all your Hearts

Felix Mendelssohn

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In all crises and trials of our life we call upon God alone, and by the mediation of our only mediator and intercessor, Jesus Christ. For we have been explicitly commanded: “Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.” Moreover, we have a most generous promise from the Lord who said: “If you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you,” and: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

- excerpt from Second Helvetic Confession (BOC 5.024)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Robert Keyes

LORD’S PRAYER

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN 824

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

(page 9 of bulletin)

CHARGE

BLESSING

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **Alleluia! Amen.**

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Youth Sunday! Thanks to Rev. Joe, Cameron Pate and Robert Keyes for collaborating on the service together.

First Presbyterian Church worship services will be streamed live on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday at 11:00 am until further notice to comply with the social distancing due to the Corona Virus.

Join us on Facebook at fpc roanoke rapids or YouTube using “First Presbyterian Church - Roanoke Rapids, NC Worship Service” in the YouTube search bar. A recorded version can also be found later on the church website—www.fpc-rr.org.

All other church activities at the church have been canceled until further notice.

Weight Watchers have canceled meetings in the Loy Building through May. They will be conducting Virtual Workshops.

Offerings can made by mailing your checks to the church at 16 East 5th Street, RR, NC 27870 or placing them in the letter slot in the Administration Building.

Although the church is not open physically, the work of the church continues, so please remember your tithes and offerings.

The session of FPC wants to invite you to take part in a communal prayer time on Wednesday, April 29 at 12:00 - 12:10 pm.

At that time the session suggests that we all pray for:

1. the Health and well-being of each other
2. Our families
3. Leadership of our government – local, state, national
4. Essential workers – medical personnel, police, firefighters
5. Those who are unemployed with no means of support
6. Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one

The session believes that prayer is a powerful force in our world and the experience of praying at the same time for the same things is an affirming experience reminding us that the chaotic forces of a pandemic must contend with the forces of God which work to redeem and sustain us in this world, thus preparing us for the next.



What has been collected and spent as of March 31, 2020

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Income	\$42153.21	\$35530.46	-\$6622.75
Expenses	\$41990.70	\$42814.27	-\$823.57
Over/Under		-\$7283.81	

Explanation: This is a listing of what has been budgeted for the year in the way of income and expenses for the church. Looking at the rightmost column, you can see that we are \$6622.75 below projected income for the first three months of the year. April already shows to be a better month and we hope that will continue as you get caught up with your pledges. Expenses are pretty close to on target with us spending about \$823 more than what was budgeted for the first three months of the year. The bottom row shows that we have spent more than we have taken in for the first three months of the year. This does not mean the church's checking account is overdrawn. In the checking account is money that was given last year to pay what people pledged for this year. This provides a buffer in the first part of the year for when we have low income. As the year progresses that buffer money will be less and less and we will rely more on people being more timely with their pledged offerings. Hopefully, at the same time the church's frugality will keep expenses below what we take in for offerings. We are already seeing some savings in utilities as we keep thermostats lower in the buildings. If you have any questions about the churches finances you can call Joe at (336) 420-0388 or 676-9857. If you have any questions about what you have given call Tammy at 586-1818.

Prayers for the Healing of Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks
Bill Howell
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sally Ray Warren
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil
Ken and Holly Phipps & family
Kevin and Michael
David and LaNae Grimes
Sandra Stephenson
Mary Francis Fisher
Harrison West

Ellen Burnett
Diane Bone
Eula Cutler
Yvonne Joyner
Susan Horrell
Delbra Davis
Betsy Medlin
Al & Benjamin Hayes
Benjamin Hayes
Larry Spears
B.T. Brown
Bill Davis
Billy Green
Joyce Thomas
Jason Mitcham
Yvonne Joyner
Tim Hardy
Susan Lloyd
Frank Lonesky
Jeff Peedin
Amy Browder Heybrock
Roger Fuester
Linda Ray
Beth Beirbauer
Doug Hayes & family
Diana Dillard

Concerns Outside of our Community

- *SYRIA and YEMEN
- *SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- *EGYPT and LIBYA, political unrest
- *ISRAEL, PALESTINE, GAZA peaceful coexistence
- *IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, security
- *USA, war in Syria, Iraq & Afghanistan
- *NIGERIA, abducted Chibok school girls
- *Ukrainian people victimized by foreign aggression
- *People of Sudan
- *Victims of gun violence in our country
- *People in Nashville, TN
- *People who have the coronavirus, been exposed or caring for others with the virus

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish'd a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest 824

Near to the Heart of God

1 There is a place of qui - et rest, near to the heart of God,
 2 There is a place of com - fort sweet, near to the heart of God,
 3 There is a place of full re - lease, near to the heart of God,

a place where sin can - not mo - lest, near to the heart of God.
 a place where we our Sav - ior meet, near to the heart of God.
 a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

Refrain

O Je - sus, blest Re - deem - er, sent from the heart of God,

hold us, who wait be - fore thee, near to the heart of God.

A Presbyterian campus pastor and choir director in Missouri wrote this simple but moving hymn in response to the death of two young nieces from diphtheria. By distilling such personal grief into the shared assurances of faith, these words have brought comfort to many.