



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

"BOLD" indicates congregational response.



Follow Me

We follow the Light of Christ, even through the shadows.

Prelude	"As the Deer" (by Martine Nystrom) with "Fairest Lord Jesus" from "Schlesische Bolkslieder") arr Mark Hayes	Ashley Clasen
Invitation to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Opening Prayer		
Hymn	"Kindred, We Have Met to Worship"	Ellen Peterson
Deuteronomy 18: 15-20		Rev. Horton

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Prayer of Confession

O God, source of life and grace, we are aware that we are, at times, prisoners of fear and habit. Through the healing touch of Christ, set us free to live and to love, that we may be the people you have created us to be. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and Passing the Peace

Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon	"What Have You to Do with Us?"	Rev. Horton
Hymn	"Be Thou My Vision"	Ellen Peterson
Benediction		Rev. Horton
Postlude	"Jesus Is All the World to Me" by Will L. Thompson/arr. Mark Hayes	Ashley Clasen

Join us for Holy Communion next Sunday, February 7th, 2021!

Join our **Fellowship & Prayer Concerns** after worship from 12-12:30PM and catch up with your church friends! **Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)**

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FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

104 EAST CENTER STREET, LEXINGTON, NC 27292

PHONE: 336-248-2617 WEBSITE: www.frucc.org FACEBOOK: <https://facebook.com/firstreformeducc>

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton (elizabeth@frucc.org, cell/text #336-972-8895)

Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. June Grubb (jgrubb3@triad.rr.com #336-248-5668)

Choir Director: Ellen Peterson (ellenpeterson@gmail.com) **Pianist:** Ashley Clasen

Admin. Asst.: Carolyn Robbins (carolyn@frucc.org) **Financial Secretary:** Paula Lopp (paula@frucc.org)

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

1st ...Bonita Hooper
...Cameron Sink

ANNIVERSARIES

1st
Ted & Nina Smith

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

*Tony Peele (recovering from hand surgery at home), Alisa Johnson (recovering from knee surgery at home), Merle and Jerry Hodges, Susan Odom (at home), Ellen Bouchard, Kelly Greathouse, Lisa Price, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crotts, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

OUR FRIENDS:

Patricia Roberts (Stacey Potts' mother), Bob Sheehan (Eddie Yates' brother-in-law), Clarke Ward (father of Jay & Cathy Whitley's son-in-law), Miriam Logan (Sarah Potts' grandmother), Wendi Greene (Bill Robbins' sister), Ashley Thomason Hutcheson (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law), Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother), Angie Bouchard (Lee and Ellen Bouchard's youngest daughter)

***Indicates newly added. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. To add a name to the prayer list please call the church office (336-248-2617).**

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, January 31: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

8:00AM Clothes Closet Sorting and Set-up

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: FOLLOW ME

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Mark 1:21-28

"What Have You to Do with Us?" (Eddie Yates, Facilitator)

10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).

12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns

Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

TUESDAY, February 2:

12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via ZOOM: Voices of the 2CFar People of Color

Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 Passcode: 222495)

7:00PM Adult Book Study Group

"Who Will Be A Witness? Integrating Activism for God's Justice" by Drew G. I. Hart

Join the meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 846 9163 5471 Passcode: 524570)

WEDNESDAY, February 3:

5:00PM Music Committee Meeting

5:30PM High School Youth Meeting via Zoom

SATURDAY, February 6:

10:00AM-2:00PM

Girl Scouts Drive-Through Cookie Booth **IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT**

SUNDAY, February 7: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany & Holy Communion

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: FOLLOW ME

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Mark 1:29-39

"She Began to Serve" (Rev. June Grubb, Facilitator)

10:45AM Worship online via YouTube [HERE](#) or Facebook [HERE](#).

12:00PM Fellowship & Prayer Concerns

Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) (Meeting ID: 207 685 007 Passcode: 3n7IX8 Dial in: +1 301 715 8592)

1:00PM Consistory Meeting via Zoom

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 13

11:30-2:00

Open Hands Lunch Program Begins

Sunday, February 21

First Sunday in Lent

FIRST REFORMED UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

Dear Friends,

Have you received your vaccine yet? We hear stories of both frustration and elation around access to the Covid Vaccine. While many have been able to receive it, many still are struggling to get through phone lines, battling the computer, or must simply wait until their "category" is called.

If you need assistance in making an appointment for the CoVid vaccine, please let us know so we can match you with someone who can help.

Now that vaccines are in distribution, we begin to ask the question, "What does this mean for the life of the Church?" In my article for our February Newsletter, I shared some questions and predicted trends about the Post-Pandemic era. The Consistory discussed these at our (virtual) Leadership Retreat last Sunday. I hope you will take a look and let me know what you think.

This Sunday, in our series, **Follow Me**, our scriptures invite us to think about authority. Whose voices do we give authority? Which voices do we authorize to influence our lives? Where does authority come from in a church? Who has it and why?

We hear from Moses in [Deuteronomy 18: 15-20](#) as he tells the Israelites God will give them someone to guide them as they enter the Promised Land, and what will happen if they do not follow this guidance. In [Mark 1:21-29](#), the first place Jesus goes with his newly chosen disciples is the synagogue, and shows to all gathered that the healing power of God is stronger than any other authority on earth.

May we never forget who it is that we Follow, the One who leads us into the places where love, justice, and peace are needed the most.

Seeking to Follow the Light with you,
Elizabeth

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & WORSHIP SERIES: Follow Me

Our Worship Series and Adult Sunday School continues coordinate, using the same scripture for the series, **Follow Me**. This series helps us renew our commitment on the path of discipleship in this new year. We will challenge ourselves to grow deeper in faith and open up to new possibilities in this new year. Let us embrace the call to follow. You may join the meeting [HERE](#).

(Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119)

LECTIONARY READINGS AND THEMES

January 31st: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

[Mark 1:21-28](#)

"What Have You to Do with Us?" (Eddie Yates, Facilitator)

February 7th: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

[Mark 1:29-39](#)

"She Began to Serve" (Rev. June Grubb, Facilitator)

February 14th: Transformation Sunday

[Mark 9:2-29](#)

"But Only Jesus" (Rev. Mike Hooper, Facilitator)

2CFAR - CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH AND RACE MEETINGS

You are invited at **noon each Tuesday through February** as we listen to the **Voices of the 2CFar People of Color**. During the Zoom call, folks who are part of our Crucial Conversations on Faith and Race will share their experiences and stories around race. The mission of these listening sessions is to learn about the past and the present so that we may work toward a future of reconciliation in Lexington and Davidson County.

Time: Tuesdays @ noon

Link to Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87341918684?pwd=N1pCSno2Tlp4bDdOREtoVGIsLzdGUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 4191 8684 Passcode: 222495

ADULT BOOK STUDY

The Adult Book Study group is reading "Who Will Be A Witness? Integrating Activism for God's Justice" by Drew G. I. Hart. The goal of the book is to help identify how Christendom, white supremacy and religious nationalism has affected the witness of the church. The study began last week, but all are still welcome to join on Tuesdays at 7:00PM. Join via Zoom [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 846 9163 5471 Passcode: 524570)

LENT 2021: OUR WILDERNESS STORIES

The season of Lent begins with Jesus in the Wilderness, where he faced tremendous struggle. We all have found ourselves in the wilderness at various points in our lives. Have you gone through a season when you felt parched or broken, hopeless or lost? A time of wilderness or weary wandering? What gave you a sense of hope or renewal? Who helped lift you up? How did you move out of the struggle?

Would you be willing to share your own experience of the wilderness in our online worship service during Lent? If so, please let me know at elizabeth@frucc.org Sharing our stories is a powerful ministry and lets others know they are not alone when walking through tough times.

OPEN HANDS SATURDAY LUNCH PROGRAM

Our church is happy to announce a free Saturday lunch will be available to the public starting February 13th! Open Hands and First Reformed have joined to start this new lunch program because of a need in the community. All days of the week are covered for a meal with the exception of Saturday. We will serve a pick-up lunch at 12:30 on Saturdays out of the Fellowship Hall kitchen at First Reformed UCC.

There will be five or six cooks, each with a team of 4 to help plate, package, and hand off to our friends waiting outside. The program will follow strict social distancing requirements, as well as hand washing, masks, and glove usage. The food will be brought into the kitchen at the Fellowship Hall. The cook and one other team member will plate the food. A person at the entrance will be given the plate of food to package with utensils and dessert. Then that person will hand off to another team member at the exit of the building to hand out to the person waiting for the meal outside. We are copying many of the same guidelines used at Grace Episcopal Food Ministries, which has been very successful.

If you want to help serve, please contact John Maze at 704-524-6462. John needs a team and would enjoy having some First Reformed team members! With six cooks, the Saturday meal won't put all of the pressure on one team. We will alternate to ensure we get our Saturday home time as well. The plan now is to serve on John's team every 5th or 6th Saturday, depending on the number of cooks that have committed to this new food ministry.

Please contact John if you have any questions, concerns, or want to get involved!

VERNON GASTON (V.G.) PRICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Vernon Price was a man with accomplishments in many fields of endeavor, yet the things most dear to him were very simple – his family, his faith, his students and his town. For this reason, his family has requested that a scholarship be established in his name and that the recipients of the award encompass the ideals held most dear by V.G.

Criteria:

The scholarship is open to any member of First Reformed United Church of Christ, or student from the Lexington City or Davidson County School Systems. **The application and attachments are due MARCH 31ST.** The recipient will be chosen by May 1st of his/her senior year in high school. Presentation will be made at the student's Senior Award's Day. The recipient must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA throughout his/her junior and senior years in high school, demonstrate good citizenship, and be an active member of a church.

The selection committee will consist of three members of the Price/Bowie family, the minister, and a member of the Board of Trustees from First Reformed United Church of Christ.

To obtain an application, you may stop by the church office to pick up a hard copy, email the church office for a copy to be emailed to you, look for a copy in the February 2021 copy of the church newsletter, or click [HERE](#) for a copy.

INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN WORSHIP SERVICES

We invite you to take part in our worship service by reading Scripture or saying a prayer. We will provide the Scripture text and easy instructions for recording yourself with your device at home. If you would like to read in worship service, please click on this Sign-Up Genius link to sign up for a Sunday: [Worship Reader](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

If you happen to miss a week of our worship services and other events that are shared on our Facebook and YouTube pages, they will remain on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)'s history, so you may go back to watch any time.