



First Reformed United Church of Christ

Where People Discover...
The Love of God...
The Power to Love Others...
The Ability to Love Ourselves.

The Worship of God

March 14, 2021

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY and FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

God Meets Us: In Our Doubt

*This Lent, even as we may be
broken and bitter,
shattered and separated,
parched and pulled apart,
God meets us, seeking to restore, repair, renew.*

Prelude

"Lord, Be Glorified"
By Bob Kilpatrick/arr. Mark Hayes

Ashley Clasen

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Call to a Holy Lent

"You Lead Us Through"

Ellen Peterson

Call to Worship

Kiara Lewis & Alyson McSparin

Before we were born; Before we took our first breath,
Before the week started; Before the year started,
Before we said, "I love you," Before we said, "I'm sorry,"
Before we figured out who we really are; Before we figured out who we want to be,
Before it all—
God loved us.
Unconditionally and freely,
Fully and honestly—
God loved us.
Again, and again, this is where our story begins.
Let us worship God!

Solo

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

Jianna Miller

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Horton

**God of Eternal Love,
We forget the very beginning of the story..
That we were made from love, to be love, to give love.
We forget that first there was you, and you are love.
We forget that out of that love, you created us.
We forget that from the very first day, you loved first.
We forget because a love like that doesn't make sense to us.
O Lord, forgive our doubt,
Forgive our resistance to love ourselves.
Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could be made good.
Forgive our tendency to doubt others,
To pass this doubt on from generation to generation.
Write a new beginning for us, O God, that helps us believe in your unrelenting, unconditional love.
Forgive us for the many ways we do not love.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

**We believe God is love—
 Unconditional, constant love.
 We believe this love exists for all,
 Choosing each and every one of us,
 Day after day,
 Again, and again, and again.
 We believe that God's love is like a river.
 Rivers cannot help but flow toward the sea;
 God's love cannot help but move toward us.
 We are swimming in it.
 We believe that God loved first.
 We believe that God breathed life into dust.
 We believe that God said, "This is good,"
 And because we believe that God loved first,
 We strive to build lives that reflect God's love.
 May we begin again here. Amen.**

Hymn

"What Wondrous Love Is This, O my Soul"

Ellen Peterson

Girl Scout Update

Emma McSparin & Jianna Miller

Scripture Readings

Numbers 21: 4-9

Rev. Horton

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous* serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So, Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So, Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sermon

"God Meets Us: In Our Doubt"

Rev. Horton

Solo

"Down by the River to Pray"

Alyson McSparin

Benediction

Postlude

"Alleluia with the Majesty and Glory of Your Name"
 by Jerry Sinclair & Tom Fettke/arr. Mark Hayes

Ashley Clasen

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)**

THANK YOU, GIRL SCOUTS!

A special Thank You to Girl Scout Troop #2160, led by Kivi Miller. First Reformed is happy to sponsor this troop as they grow, learn, and contribute in the community. We celebrate the Girl Scouts in worship this Sunday, as they lead in word and song.

Kiara Lewis, Alyson McSparin, Emma McSparin, Jianna Miller, Chloe Redfern

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

16th...Alane Holste...Ron Sink

17th...Dan Horton

20th...Ted Smith

ANNIVERSARIES

17th...Keith & Alisa Johnson

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Katherine Skipper, Heidi Hutcheson (recovering from surgery at home), Susan Odom (at home), Lisa Price, Deanna Michael

OUR MEMBERS AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

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

Brookdale: Vogen Everhart

OUR FRIENDS:

Nicole Holste (Alane Holste's sister-in-law), Wendi Greene (Bill Robbins' sister), Ashley Thomason Hutcheson (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law), Barbara Miller (Eddie Yates' mother)

**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, March 14: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT and GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: REND YOUR HEARTS: CLAIMING THE PROMISE

"Look Up and Live" (Eddie Yates, facilitator)

Numbers 21:4-9

Join the meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119)

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, March 16:

12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via ZOOM

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

6:30PM Board of Evangelism Zoom Meeting

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, March 17:

5:30PM High School Youth Meeting via Zoom

FRIDAY, March 19

6:00PM Children's Movie Night (Fellowship Hall)

SATURDAY, March 20:

12:30PM Open Hands Ministry Carry-Out Lunch Served

SUNDAY, March 21: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

9:45AM Adult Sunday School: REND YOUR HEARTS: CLAIMING THE PROMISE

"Written on the Heart" (Mike Hooper, facilitator)

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Join the meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119)

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)

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP**SUNDAY, March 28: Palm Passion Sunday**

Service will be LIVESTREAMED on Facebook and YouTube

MONDAY-SATURDAY (MARCH 29-APRIL 3):

7:30PM

Online worship services via Facebook and YouTube

THURSDAY, APRIL 1: Maundy Thursday

4:00- 7:00PM

Walk-Through Prayer Stations for All Ages

Come to the Sanctuary to experience the last week of Jesus' life in a multi-sensory way. Total time is under 30 minutes. [Covid Precautions followed.](#)

FRIDAY, APRIL 2: Good Friday

NOON-3:00PM

Sanctuary open for prayer and meditation

SUNDAY, APRIL 4: Easter Sunday

10:30AM

Return to In-Person Worship in Sanctuary

Service will also be LIVESTREAMED

COVID PRECAUTIONS FOLLOWED:

Masks Required

Social Distancing

Temperature Check

Abbreviated Service (under 40 minutes)

No Congregational Singing

To assist us in planning, please complete this 3-question survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/easter-frucc>

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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 (ellenrpeterson@gmail.com) Pianist: Ashley Clasen

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

FIRST REFORMED UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON

One year ago, on this very day, my Inbox was filled with a flurry of conversations about whether or not to cancel worship, Community Lenten Services, colleague meetings, and the like.

One year ago, I could never have imagined that I, or any of us, would be living amidst a pandemic...That term was only found in history books, right?

One year ago, I guarantee I would have NEVER considered preaching into a video screen by myself in the sanctuary.

One year ago, we entered into a wilderness unlike any of us could ever have imagined. Mourning and grieving with hundreds of thousands of families whose loved ones died and whose lives are forever altered.

Let us hear the words that Eddie Yates (2020 Consistory President) and I wrote to the congregation in an email dated March 13, 2020:

Our worship may ebb and flow in these times of uncertainty. But we remember our faith is in the God who whispers to us, "Fear Not, For I am with you always."

Check on your neighbor and think about how we can minister to the least of these in these times.

Let us stay educated, pray for wisdom, and remain faithful.

Indeed, let these one-year-old words guide us into the wilderness of today and the unimagined ones to come.

I am forever grateful and so very proud to be pastor of this congregation.

Faithfully seeking to serve,
Elizabeth

March 14

In our Doubt, **John 3:14-21**

March 21

In our Confusion, **John 12:20-33**

March 28

In the Palms and Passion

A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING UNDER HEAVEN

We give great thanks to Ashley Clasen for sharing her gifts of music during our transition of looking for an organist. She not only "filled in", but filled us up with inspiration and beauty, a real sense of God's presence through music in worship. Ashley's last Sunday to play in worship will be March 21. We wish her blessings and joy in her future.

On that same Sunday, we will welcome Chris Kiser to the organ as he joins us on staff as Organist. I am so very excited to begin ministry with him. He has shared an introduction with us below. Chris, we welcome you to First Reformed!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ORGANIST!



Hello Everyone! My name is Christopher Kiser, and I am elated to be joining you at FRUCC as pianist/organist. I am 26 years old, from Lexington and began taking piano lessons when I was 8 years old. My interest in music began several years before I started official lessons as my grandmother was also a church organist/pianist. She was a church organist for 77 years and that love of music and ministry was transferred to me through her. Through my elementary and high school years, I competed in many competitions on the state and national levels. Shortly after beginning lessons, I started playing the piano for church at age 11 and my love for music and church has grown ever since. I studied piano performance at UNCG and UNCSA and have played for many well-known choirs and singers across the country. I have also accompanied and directed over 30 community theater musical productions. Once again, I am thrilled to be coming to FRUCC to worship with you all and am looking forward to meeting each of you.

REMEMBER TO SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Saving Time begins again! Remember to turn your clocks **AHEAD ONE HOUR** before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13. **Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday morning, March 14, 2021.**

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: MARCH 14, 2021

This year's theme for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is **"Let Love Flow."** The gifts given to OGHS are used with others across the United Church of Christ to bring a greater impact to the work being done locally and globally to assist those most in need and vulnerable among us.

The COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding have ravaged communities in the United States and world-wide, leaving families and communities in desperate need of assistance. Some of these disasters have occurred in our hometown or in nearby communities or to friends and neighbors in places miles away.

When you share your gifts, you "Let Love Flow" and your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of God's love continues to change lives here and around the world, as together we build a just world for all.

Contributions to OGHS may be made directly to the church office or through online giving [HERE](#) or the OGHS website at <http://www.ucc.org/oghs>.

CHILDREN'S MOVIE NIGHT

WHAT:

Dinner and a Movie

WHO:

Children pre-K through 5th Grade

WHEN:

Friday, March 19, 2021 from 6:00-8:00PM

WHERE:

Church Fellowship Hall.

RSVP:

Please call the church office to RSVP by March 17th. All COVID precautions will be in place. Please wear a mask.

OPEN HANDS SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

Open Hands Ministry and First Reformed UCC Serve a carry-out lunch at 12:30 on Saturdays out of our Fellowship Hall kitchen. Volunteer or come for a carry-out meal for this Saturday Lunch. Contact John Maze if you would like to help. (704-524-6462)

BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

THE LIFE CENTER OF DAVIDSON COUNTY
PORT-A-PIT BBQ CHICKEN PLATE FUND RAISER IS BACK!

MARCH 18, 2021

11:00 AM-2:00 PM

TICKETS: \$10.00 EACH

(plate includes ½ BBQ Chicken, BBQ Slaw, Baked Beans, Roll & Dessert)

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO CALL AND PLACE AN ORDER FOR YOUR TICKETS TODAY!!

You may contact Betty Link (336 225-7035) or Larry Link (336 225-7029) or email: jl3@ptmc.net for your tickets. You can pick up tickets from us, or we will deliver to you. This year, The Life Center will be offering an improved curb side pick-up. DELIVERY is also available for orders of 10 or more tickets. Please help support this non-profit adult day care facility in our area.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“REND YOUR HEARTS: CLAIMING THE PROMISE”

So, why practice the season of Lent? Lent is about embracing the Resurrected One with a whole and longing heart. Lent doesn't have to be a somber time; but to be effective, it needs to be intense. It needs to be taken seriously and rigorously, so that we can bring our full selves to the table. So, despite feeling as though we have been in a year-long season of Lent, we need this season; we need the observance to open us to all that God has in store for us. Rend your hearts, so together we can claim the promise. You may join the meeting [HERE](#). (Meeting ID: 890 2652 8333 Passcode: 634119)

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 14th

“Look Up and Live” (Eddie Yates, facilitator)

Numbers 21:4-9

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 21st

“Written on the Heart” (Mike Hooper, facilitator)

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 28th

“The One Who Comes” (June Grubb, facilitator)

Mark 11:1-11...Mark 14:1-15:47...Isaiah 50:4-9

IMMEDIATE PRAYER PARTNERS

Praying for another person is a powerful ministry that connects us more deeply to others and amplifies the needs before God. Sometimes prayers are needed/wanted due to emergencies or other unexpected circumstances beyond the concerns in our weekly bulletins. Formerly called the Prayer Chain, our newly named prayer ministry is **Immediate Prayer Partners**, coordinated by Patti Lovell. The **Immediate Prayer Partner** Ministry begins by calling Rev. Horton, the church office, or Patti Lovell with your prayer request. It will then be shared with volunteers who have **made a commitment to offer intercessory prayer immediately when they receive the message**. Depending on the volunteer's preference, communication will be via texts, emails, or phone calls. If you would like to volunteer to be an **Immediate Prayer Partner**, please contact Patti Lovell at 336-309-9302.

VERNON GASTON (V.G.) PRICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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, or click [HERE](#) for a copy.

INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN WORSHIP SERVICES

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.