



## 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 21, 2021



### FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

#### God Meets Us: In Our Confusion

*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	<i>"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"</i> arr. Marianne Kim	Chris Kiser
Welcome to Worship		Rev. Elizabeth Horton
Call to a Holy Lent	<i>"You Lead Us Through"</i> Ashley Clasen, Pianist	Ellen Peterson
Opening Prayer		
Hymn	<i>"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant"</i>	Kelly Greathouse
A Time in the Wilderness		Camille Morgan
Hymn	<i>"Take My Life and Let it Be"</i>	Ellen Peterson
Scripture Reading	Jeremiah 31: 31-34	Rev. Horton

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,\* says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12: 20 – 34

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people\* to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah\* remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light.

Hymn	"The Old Rugged Cross"	Clifton Murphy & Tammy Beck
Sermon	"God Meets Us: In Our Confusion"	Rev. Horton
Benediction		
Postlude	"Jesus Loves Me" arr. Jason Payne	Chris Kiser

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](http://www.frucc.org) FACEBOOK: <https://facebook.com/firstreformeducc>

**Ministers:** The Congregation

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

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

**Choir Director:** Ellen Peterson ([ellenpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:ellenpeterson@gmail.com)) **Organist:** Chris Kiser ([cdkiser94@gmail.com](mailto:cdkiser94@gmail.com))

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

## WELCOME CHRIS KISER

We welcome Chris Kiser this morning as he joins our staff as pianist/organist. We are excited to begin our ministry with him.

## MARCH CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

23rd...Mike Perry...Kiaya Plummer...Josh Sink...Billy West

27th...Jonathan Kepley

## OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

### OUR MEMBERS:

Marzell Crotts, 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, 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 21: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

#### TODAY WILL BE THE LAST PRE-RECORDED SERVICE

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)

### TUESDAY, March 23:

12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via ZOOM

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)

### THURSDAY, March 25:

NOON APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE IN THE OFFICE

### SATURDAY, March 27:

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

**SUNDAY, March 28: PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**

**TODAY'S SERVICE WILL BE LIVESTREAMED ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE**

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

"The One Who Comes" (June Grubb, facilitator)

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

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**

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**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP: MARCH 28-APRIL 4**

**SUNDAY, March 28: Palm Passion Sunday**

**10:45AM**

Service will be LIVESTREAMED on Facebook and YouTube

**MONDAY-SATURDAY (MARCH 29-APRIL 3):**

**7:30PM**

Holy Week services online 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.**



**Stations of Holy Week:**  
A Walk-Thru, Multi-Sensory Worship Experience  
for All Ages.

Thursday, April 1, 4 - 7pm  
Friday, April 2pm, Noon - 3pm

The Sanctuary  
First Reformed UCC  
104 E. Center St. Lexington NC

Travel the path  
Jesus walked the last  
night of his life.  
Holy Communion served.  
Covid Precautions followed. Questions? [church@frucc.org](mailto:church@frucc.org)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 2: Good Friday**

**NOON-3:00PM**

**Sanctuary open for prayer and meditation**

We welcome folks of all ages for a time of reflection and prayer to walk the Stations of Holy Week in the Sanctuary. These stations will track through scripture the final events of Jesus' life with image, sound, reflection, and multi-sensory engagement. Estimated time of walk, 25 minutes.

Enter the front of the sanctuary from the Center Street steps. Once inside, you will be given instructions for each station. Ushers will monitor attendance and flow to ensure proper distancing. We need 4-5 volunteers to help welcome and usher. Let Eddie Yates ([bbaman46@gmail.com](mailto:bbaman46@gmail.com)) know if you know if you are willing serve a shift.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 4: Easter Sunday**

**10:30AM**

**Return to In-Person Worship in Sanctuary**

**Service will also be LIVESTREAMED**

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

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

**COVID PRECAUTIONS FOLLOWED:**

Masks Required

Social Distancing

Temperature Check

Abbreviated Service (under 40 minutes)

No Congregational Singing

## **LOOKING TOWARD SUNDAY: A MESSAGE FROM REV. HORTON**

Dear Friends,

This week will be the last Sunday worship service that is pre-recorded. I want to say Thank You to Ellen Peterson for her video-editing skills and for the many hours she spent each week attending to the details, so that we could safely include others in worship. We are trying to be diligent and faithful in making plans for our return to in-person worship on Easter morning, as well as our ability to Livestream so folks can worship online as well.

Given the recent news of the deaths of 8 people by a gunman in Atlanta and the Pope's discouraging unacceptance of covenantal love among our LGBTQ family, we are again reminded of the tremendous pain and deep wounds in the world.

As we prepare to shift into a new platform of worship,

May we be energized to proclaim God is love, to provide a place where humans of differing ethnicities, genders, orientations, and origins are seen as sacred, created in God's image.

May we pray for healing, work for justice, and commit to extending grace today and forevermore.

Faithfully seeking to serve,  
Elizabeth

March 21: In our Confusion, **John 12:20-33**

March 28: In the Palms and Passion

## **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.



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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. **We will continue to collect gifts through the end of March. 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>.**

## 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)

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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)**

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 21<sup>st</sup> - Jeremiah 31:31-34  
"Written on the Heart" (Mike Hooper, facilitator)

Palm/Passion Sunday – March 28<sup>th</sup> - Mark 11:1-11...Mark 14:1-15:47...Isaiah 50:4-9  
"The One Who Comes" (June Grubb, facilitator)

## 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 31<sup>ST</sup>**. The recipient will be chosen by May 1<sup>st</sup> 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.