

THE WORSHIP OF GOD



17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
LITURGICAL COLOR – GREEN

9:00 AM CAREY STATION ROAD
11:00 AM WEST BROAD STREET



Welcome to Greensboro First United Methodist Church and to this service of worship of God!
We are asked, for the love of neighbor, to please wear our masks at all times during this service of worship.
The asterisk () indicates the congregation is asked to stand, if able. **Bold** type indicates congregational response.*
All numbers less than 1000 are from The United Methodist Hymnal.
All scripture readings are from the Common English Bible unless otherwise notated.

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

*As we gather, please greet those around you with a wave, a bow, or in some other creative way
while maintaining a social distance of at least six feet.*
When the Chiming of the Hour begins, please observe a time of silent prayer and reflection.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

GREETING & WELCOME

I greet you in the name of Jesus, the Christ.
May the grace, mercy, and peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF GIVING VIDEO

* WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

* HYMN #117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

1. **O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!**
2. **Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.**
3. **Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.**
4. **A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.**
5. **Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.**
6. **O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.**

* OPENING PRAYER

PSALTER

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

- ¹ Listen, my people, to my teaching;
tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth.
- ² I will open my mouth with a proverb.
I'll declare riddles from days long gone—
- ³ ones that we've heard and learned about,
ones that our ancestors told us.
- ⁴ We won't hide them from their descendants;
**we'll tell the next generation all about the praise due the Lord and his strength—
the wondrous works God has done.**
- ¹² But God performed wonders in their ancestors' presence—
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- ¹³ God split the sea and led them through,
making the waters stand up like a wall.
- ¹⁴ God led them with the cloud by day;
by the lightning all through the night.
- ¹⁵ God split rocks open in the wilderness,
gave them plenty to drink—as if from the deep itself!
- ¹⁶ God made streams flow from the rock,
made water run like rivers.

ACT OF PRAISE

The First Song of Isaiah

FIRST SONG

**Surely, it is God who saves us; we will trust in God and not be afraid.
For the Lord is our stronghold and our sure defense, and God will be our Savior.**

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 17:1-7

SERMON

Is the Lord really with us or not?

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #883

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to
proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

As forgiven and reconciled people let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God. Please maintain social distancing as you bring your offering forward and place it in the basket before returning to your seat.

OFFERTORY

For the Beauty of the Earth

ARR. RUTTER

* DOXOLOGY #94

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

* HYMN #140

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

**1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

REFRAIN: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

**Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)**

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)**

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

After the Dismissal with Blessing, please be seated for the Postlude. An usher will dismiss you.

POSTLUDE

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THOSE LEADING US IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presider & Preacher The Reverend Dr. Matt Stewart
Lector & Pastoral Prayer The Reverend Rick Maeser
Lector Dr. Martha Braswell
Director of Music Ministries & Organist Dr. Martha Braswell
Music Associate & Pianist Jackson Mitchell
Musical Ensemble (9:00) Savannah Cathey, Soprano
..... Lauren Covington, Alto
..... Rayvon Love, Baritone
..... William Schramm, Tenor
Celebration of Giving Video Presenters Terri & Fred Hedrick
Audio Visual Team (9:00) Jack Kearney, Sound
..... Dan Kirby, Visuals
..... Dennis Barlow, Cameras & Livestream
Audio Visual Team (11:00) Ann Ware
Ushers (9:00) Peddy & Cheryl Parker and Shannon Osborne
Usher (11:00) Ken Cawthon
Greeters (9:00) John & Jeanie Wilson
Greeter (11:00) Julia Stewart

The flowers in the chancel area are given by Jim and Sue Moss to the Glory of God and in honor of the musicians who have provided the wonderful music during our in-person and livestream worship services.



Please scan this QR code on your phone to make an online offering to Greensboro First United Methodist Church. Thank you!