



# First Presbyterian Church

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA

9th Sunday after Pentecost  
July 21, 2024

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## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

#### Call to Worship

Christ is the image of the invisible God:  
**In him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.**  
We worship the Lord.

**Hymn of Worship\*** #326  
*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

#### Prayer of Adoration

Let us pray:

Eternal God, Author of our life and End of our pilgrimage: Guide us by your Word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations, that we may not wander from your way, nor stumble in darkness, but may finish our course in spiritual fullness and may come to our eternal rest in you; through the grace and merit of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

#### Call to Repentance and Prayer of Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have

faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence:

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned, in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.**

*(silent confession)*

#### Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**  
The Peace of the Lord be with You! **And also with you.**

(As we pass the peace, the children will gather with Loida at the baptismal font for the Children's message and then go to children's church.)

#### Sung Response to Begin Children's Blessing

Yes, Jesus Loves Me, Yes Jesus Loves Me  
Yes, Jesus Loves Me, the Bible tells me So.

#### Children's Blessing

Loida P. Slate, PhD

#### Psalm 86: 1-13, selected\*

*Read Standing*

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.

**Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

**Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
listen to my cry of supplication.**

In the day of my trouble I call on you,  
for you will answer me.  
There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,  
nor are there any works like yours.

**All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow down before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.**

For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God.

**Teach me your way, O Lord,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your  
name.**

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole  
heart,  
and I will glorify your name forever.

**For great is your steadfast love toward me;  
you have delivered my soul from the depths of  
Sheol.**

**(Sung) Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall  
be,  
world without end. Amen.**

**New Testament Reading**      Colossians 1: 15-28  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**      Rev. Dr. Fritz Ritsch  
*Mystery*

**Song of Response\***      **#145**  
*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

**Apostles' Creed\***  
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of  
heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into  
hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the  
right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to  
judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic  
Church; the  
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**  
Our Father, which 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 debts, As we forgive our  
debtors. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver  
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Offering and Offertory**  
The offering plate will be passed at this time, or you may  
text Granite to 73256 to give online.

**Doxology\***  
(#592 in the hymnal)  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**  
**Closing Hymn\***      **#332**  
*Live Into Hope*

## **Benediction\***

### **Chiming of the Trinity and Postlude**

\*Please stand where indicated if you are able

**Birthdays:** Rob Roach (7/21), Delane Heath (7/26)

**Anniversaries:** None this week

**Prayer List:** Mary Planer (eye injury this week), Dr Emily Burke Cheshire (upcoming surgery), Nina Bowers (military deployment), Cason McMillian, Kevin Dodd, Sheila Gifford, Larry Watson, Ann Yokeley, Jordan Tucker, Jean Arrington, Kathryn Benfer, Wendy Byrd, Mariah Tate, Katherine Heath, Tim Long, Aria Stevenson

The flowers in the sanctuary are given in loving memory of Shasta Bode Brown, during the month of her birthday by her former Beacons.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** We are so glad you have joined us in worship today. Please take a moment to fill out one of the visitor cards found at the entrances, and drop them in the offering plates before you leave. If you are interested in membership at First Presbyterian Church, please let one of our worship leaders know or reach out to our church office.

Here are a few notes: The audio from the service can be heard in the foyer through the double doors outside the sanctuary. Nursing mothers are welcome to listen to the service in the parlor. Bathrooms can be found through the foyer on the first doors to your left. Please be aware that in our efforts to include those unable to worship in person, we live stream worship via Facebook. We also occasionally take photos during our services and events. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of our staff.

**Scout Hut Renovation Update:** Following the initial renovation work that took place last year, we are pleased to announce that we were able to renovate the kitchen, thanks to the donated labor from a local home improvement business. Busy As A Bee Home

Improvement, LLC donated their labor as a charity to the church. They painted existing cabinets, installed some new ones, installed a new countertop and sink and completed new flooring. We are so grateful to owners Steven Fanale and Jennifer Codella for their amazing work and generosity to our church!

**Financial Report:** In June, our overall income came to \$13,905, and our expenses totaled \$14,961. We have received \$88,026 in pledged giving to date, which is 65% of our total pledged giving for the year. We have received \$49,000 in pledges for the "Close the Gap Campaign" that the session has launched in order to fulfill the budget/pledge gap for 2024. We are only \$11,000 away from the goal of \$60,000! As we enter the summer months and attendance may go down as more people travel, please remember to keep your giving current. One way to easily do this is to set up automatic giving through Realm. Please reach out to the church office if you need any help setting this up.

**Beacons Ministry:** Beacons will meet from 5-7 in the scout hut tonight for our usual time of bible study and fellowship.

**Lunchtime Bible Study, Tuesdays at Noon:** Bring a lunch if you'd like as we discuss what both scholarship and our hearts tell us as we study God's word.

**Counseling Volunteer Opportunity:** The Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery partnered with the Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board is offering a series of recovery coach counseling sessions this summer. The training will take place at Surry Community College over several dates in June, July and August. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jamie Edwards at 336-401-8218.

**Support Our Area Charities:** Baskets are located in the foyer for donations of non-perishable food items. Helping Hands also accepts paper products and toiletries. Special requests for the month of July are:

**Yokefellow:** Canned fruit and cereal

**Shepherd's House:** Deodorant- male and female

**Helping Hands:** Non perishable food items, paper  
products and toiletries



The Ministers: The Congregation

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Fritz Ritsch

Office Administrator and Music Director: Anna Bush

Pianist: Jane Tesh

Director of Youth and Children's Discipleship:

Loida P. Slate, PhD

Director of First Steps: Mary Alice Leonard

#### Members of the Session

Clerk of the Session: Bob Keck

#### Elders

Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:
Steve Yokeley	Kelley Jackson	Carla Majure
Lydia Taylor	Laura East	Blanton Youell
David Rives	Jane Tesh	Derek Higgs
Gene Rees		Bob Moody
Anna Peterson		

#### Deacons

Kim Branch    Bettsee McPhail