



First Presbyterian CHURCH of VIRGINIA BEACH

— THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR —

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach. All are welcome, and we are so pleased to have with us this morning as we gather to praise God.

GUESTS

We extend a special welcome to you! Whether this is your first visit with us or your 100th visit, it is a gift to have you among us. In the absence of our usual sign in pads in the pews, please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Dee Dee Carson before or after the service, or by phone or email. We are excited you are here and look forward to welcoming you into the life of the church through our ministries. You can find more information on our church website: www.firstpresvb.org.

WORSHIP GUIDE

Items in bold indicate congregational participation. * invites you to stand in body or in spirit. Please silence all mobile devices prior to the start of the service. The Passing of the Peace will be done by waving, rather than handshaking or hugging. We will enjoy listening to our hymns but will not sing along just yet. Offering plates will not be passed during the service, but you may place your gifts in plates located in the Narthex or use the QR code on the back of the bulletin to make an electronic offering.

September 13, 2020

THE GATHERING

GREETING

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

VOLUNTARY

Meditation on Terra Beata

Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The younger son squandered his inheritance and came home to beg.

People: Instead of ridicule, he received his father's mercy and love.

Leader: The older son was jealous and angry, and refused to celebrate alongside his father.

People: Instead of anger, he too received his father's mercy and love.

Leader: We arrive to God often with our own mistakes and frustrations.

People: And we too are met by God's unfailing mercy and love.

Leader: Let us worship this God, who calls us children of God and never fails to offer compassion. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN 261

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

O QUANTA QUALIA

God of compassion, in mercy befriend us;
Giver of grace for our needs all availing,
Wisdom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Patience untiring and courage unfailing.

Wandering and lost, Thou hast sought us and found us,
Stilled our rude hearts with Thy Word of consoling;
Wrap now Thy peace, like a mantle, around us,
Guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.

How shall we stray, with Thy hand to direct us,
Thou who the stars in their courses art guiding?
What shall we fear, with Thy power to protect us,
We who walk forth in Thy greatness confiding?

*** CALL TO CONFESSION**

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of unending grace, we are mindful of the ways our emotions get the best of us. We are quick to think of our own needs and miss opportunities to think of others before ourselves. The tendency to compare our circumstances to that of our neighbors can lead to anger and resentment. We long for your patience and mercy, as we regroup and try again. We long to experience our emotions but not be driven and controlled by them. Grant us your wisdom as we navigate our days and our emotions. Amen.

*** KYRIE (Instrumental)**

*** DECLARATION OF PARDON**

*** INSTRUMENTAL RESPONSE**

THE WORD

WORD FOR CHILDREN: SPIRIT BOX

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thank be to God.**

ANTHEM

Penitent

Beardsley Van De Water

Bonnie Lamber-Baxter, soprano

SERMON

The Rev. Dee Dee Carson

THE RESPONSE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

CELEBRATION OF OFFERING

BACK TO SCHOOL LITANY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

This morning, as we pray together, we remember all those who have begun a new school year in these past few weeks, and all of the challenges and adjustments that has entailed. Together, as we think about children and teens and parents and teachers, let us pray.

For all those going back to school this season,

Lord, we pray.

For students of all ages and levels, that they may make new discoveries and experience the joy of learning, by whatever means available to them,

Lord, we pray.

For teachers and faculty, that they may be given wisdom, patience, compassion and enthusiasm as they use new tools for, and face new challenges to education,

Lord, we pray.

For school administrators, that they may be guided by your Spirit in their decision-making and be given strength and hope for the days ahead,

Lord, we pray.

For parents, guardians and family members, that they may trust in your care over those they love who are going back to school,

Lord, we pray.

For our children's resilience, for the miraculous ability they have to move forward in faith and find joy even in the midst of chaos,

We give you thanks, O God.

That, through all the changes and chances of the season ahead, we may be comforted by the grace of your Spirit and the knowledge of your love for us,

We ask you, O Lord.

Eternal God, bless all schools, child-care centers, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the building up of friendships; and grant that those who teach and those who learn during the year ahead may find you ever to be the source of all truth and confidence. We pray all of these things and many more in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray, saying...

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE SENDING

HYMN 298

There's a Wildness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

*** BENEDICTION**

*** VOLUNTARY**

March

Marc-Antoine Carpentier

SUNDAY**13**

Online worship, www.firstpresvb.org
or Phone 1-757-216-9839

8:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary and Courtyard

11:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary and Courtyard

Register weekly to attend at www.firstpresvb.org
or call the church office 757-428-6332

MONDAY**14**

2:00 PM Library Committee Meeting in Library

6:00 PM Property & Maintenance Committee Meeting in 303 YC

TUESDAY**15**

9:00 AM Staff Retreat

6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM Ladies by the Sea at 303 YC

WEDNESDAY**16**

10:00 AM Christian Education Meeting, Phil Reed for Zoom
Information

THURSDAY**17**

3:00 PM Romans Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY**20**

Online worship, www.firstpresvb.org
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8:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary and Courtyard

11:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary and Courtyard

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4:30 PM Children's Pizza Party!! Rev. Dee Dee Carson for Zoom
information

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the grace and truth of Christ, we nurture one another's faith to do God's work in the world.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church approved the above statement in and affirmed the following ten values to guide the leaders of our church as they prayerfully plan for our congregation's future.

Values that Reach UP

Worship
Preaching
Music
Prayer
Bible Teaching

Values that Reach OUT

Ministries that serve the community
Congregational Care
Financial Stewardship
Early Childhood Christian Education
Family

PASTORS AND STAFF

The Reverend Dee Dee Carson, *Pastor*
Jacqui Horton, *Director of Christian Education*
The Reverend Lyndsey McCall, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Randy DuVall, *Commissioned Pastor and Director of Missions*
David S. Kunkel, *Music Director*
Kimberly Markham Nickerson, *Assistant Music Director*
Belinda Valet, *Director of Children's Music and Handbells*
Dr. Antoinette Anglin, *Organist*

SESSION

Leslie Cutchins, Kyle Davila, Becky Davison (Clerk), Christine Harris, Mickey Kosloski, Stuart Nesbit, Emma Reed (Youth Representative), Don Schultz, Gloria Smith, Thomas Spencer, Dan Unger, Jennie Ware, Mark Winters.

TRUSTEES

Sandy Cowden, Jim Darden, Diane Feineis, George Gillespie, Ed Hurt, Katherine Willis.



First Presbyterian offers you the opportunity to give electronically. Scan the QR Code to the left and make a donation.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 36th Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

On the web at www.firstpresvb.org

phone: 757.428.6332 | e-mail: office@firstpresvb.org

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)