



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GUILFORD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 5, 2024

The prelude is a time of transition, from hurried lives into the eternal presence of God. At the sound of the bells, we invite you to make this a time of prayerful preparation for worship. Our service is live-streamed and recorded. Your participation is your consent to be recorded.

+all are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

You are invited to read aloud the words in **bold**.

Sing! a new creation - located in the rack under the pew (green)
Glory to God Hymnal (purple)

Confession is a hallmark of the Reformed tradition. We believe that it is important to begin worship by confessing the ways we've fallen short of God's intention for us.

Trusting in the everlasting mercy of God, each confession is concluded by the **Assurance of Pardon**, a liturgical reminder that no sin is so powerful as to keep us from the love of God.

During the **Passing of the Peace** you're invited to greet one another by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you" and responding "And also with you."

The **Prayer for Illumination** is a prayer asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance to help us interpret scripture faithfully with critical minds and compassionate hearts.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

+GATHERING SONGS *Sing a New Song* *Sing! a new creation #1*
Psalm 98: Sing a New Song to the Lord *Sing! a new creation #112*

+PRAYER OF THE DAY Ellen Weiner

+CALL TO CONFESSION

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God,
we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts.
Forgive us, we pray,
and lead us toward wholeness,
that we may be filled with your joy.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

+ASSURANCE OF PARDON

+PRAYER RESPONSE *We Are Forgiven* *Glory to God Hymnal #447*
We are forgiven. We are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God!

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (Responsive) Psalm 98
O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gained him victory.
The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world and those who live in it.
**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.**

Holy wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Come and Sing Unto the Lord* arr. Eugene Englert
Ed Kimbrough, trumpet

THE SERMON "Cows Will Moo an Allelu!" The Rev. Stephen Fearing

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

+HYMN (page 4 of bulletin) *God Conducts the Earthy Chorus* BEECHER

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from a Brief Statement of Faith (10.3)
**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created
the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of
every race and people, to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's
commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as
truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to
our care. We deserve God's condemnation.**

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

OFFERTORY *Bread of Heaven* words and music by Jay Althouse

+DOXOLOGY LASST UNS ERFREUEN
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

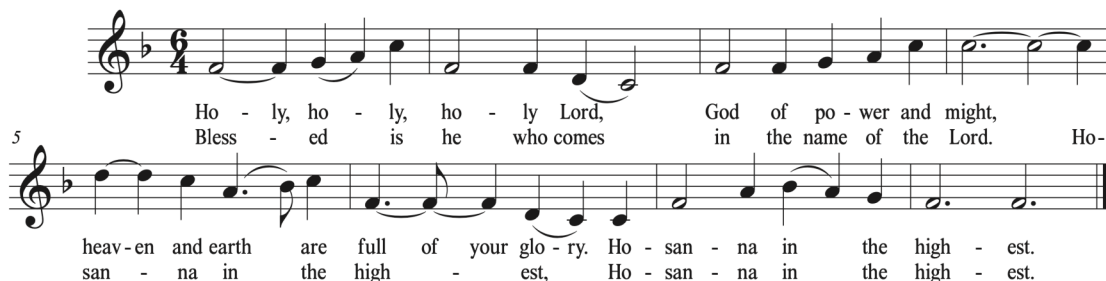
Psalm 98: Psalm 98 calls all of creation to praise God. It emphasizes that God is the God not only of Israel (v. 3) but also of the whole world (v. 9), and that God's enthronement is for the purpose of sovereign governance, a rule that will reveal, in the words of Isaac Watts, "the wonders of his love."

A Brief Statement of Faith: In 1983 the two largest Presbyterian churches in the United States reunited. The "Plan for Reunion" called for the preparation of a brief statement of the Reformed faith for possible inclusion in The Book of Confessions. This statement is therefore not intended to stand alone, apart from the other confessions of our church. It does not pretend to be a complete list of all our beliefs, nor does it explain any of them in detail. It is designed to be confessed by the whole congregation in the setting of public worship, and it may also serve pastors and teachers as an aid to Christian instruction. It celebrates our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task.

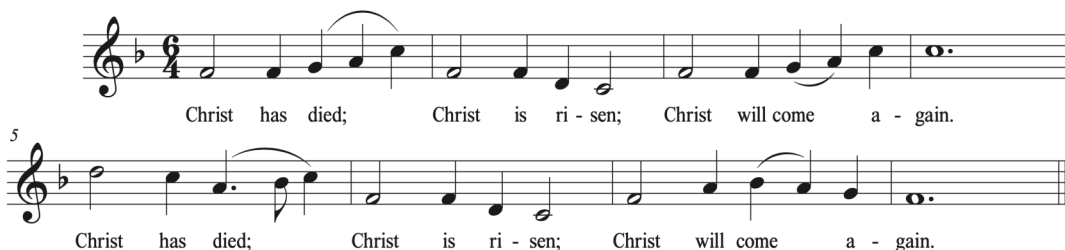
**Text GPPC to
73256 to give
online.**



In every time and every age, O God, it is good and faithful that we give you thanks...
 ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Blessed are you, O God, creator of all things...
 ...Remembering our Lord’s self-giving love, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Blessed are you, O Spirit, giver of life...
 ...we praise you, God of all that is, now and forever.



COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GO IN GOD’S NAME

+HYMN #526 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* LINSTeAD

+BENEDICTION

+BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Glory to God Hymnal #582*

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
 and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
 and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

+POSTLUDE

END OF WORSHIP.....BEGINNING OF SERVICE

The second pew on the pulpit side is reserved for those who are hearing impaired.
 Hearing aid devices are available at the sound desk.

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Hymn #526: This “communion calypso” (as the author called it) affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians. Because this text was written to fit a pre-existing tune, it has a rather telegraphic style that encourages pondering.

God Conducts the Earthy Chorus

A Hymn Inspired by Psalm 98

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2024

Tune: BEECHER

Meter: 8.7.8.7 D

Music: John Zundel, 1870

Piano

1. God con - ducts the earth-y__ chor - us; roar - ing seas will clap their hands.
2. Pea - cocks preach in per - fect pitch - es, cows will moo an al - le - lu!
3. Crick - ets chirp in joy - ful sing - ing, snakes will hiss and birds will tweet.
4. God finds joy in all these off - 'rings, be they barks or chirps or howls,

5

Pno.

An - cient songs birthed long be - fore us, buzz - ing bees a - cross the lands.
All cre - a - tion sings its__ rich - es, lifts in praise a song a - new.
Waves crash forth with might-y__ ring - ing; dol - phins leap to keep the beat.
sea - shells, waves, or winds un - falt - 'ring, and let's not for - get the owls!

9

Pno.

All cre - a - tion sings in con - cert; flo - wers praise their ma - ker's deeds.
Dogs will yip and bark in wond - er, lift - ing howls un - to the moon.
Cats me - ow in four part harm - 'ny; mice chime in and bring the cheese!
All of na - ture knows its pur - pose; God a - lone in pow - er reigns.

13

Pno.

Tower - ing trees to dust - y__ de - serts, gard - ens grow - ing sprout - ing seeds.
E - le - phants will stomp with thund - er, march - ing on to join the tune.
Count - less ants a - mass an__ arm - y, chant - ing praise un - til "at - ease."
Ev - 'ry creat - ure sings God's just - ice; God, in turn, each voice or - dains.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Breakfast and the Bible is every Sunday at 9 a.m. Free breakfast with Bible story and song. Families welcome. Westminster Room.

Join us for The Word This Week, Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Library.

Monday Night Bible Study— Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Library

Baseball Outing is TODAY at 2:00. Guilford Park Presbyterian Church has a block of Grasshoppers tickets behind home plate. Buy tickets directly from Fellowship Committee chair Jim Lumsden, jimlumsden3744@gmail.com or 847-840-5302. Invite friends and neighbors.

Buddy and Me are monthly activities for children grade 2 and under along with their favorite buddy. We meet on the second Saturday for fellowship and support at church or a scheduled field trip.

May 11 Saturday, 2nd Saturday fun with baking. Come and make some cookies to share (maybe with Mom?) and enjoy. Please contact for Kay Owen or Kim Row to let us know you are coming or get more details.

May 19 Sunday, It's Pentecost! Join us in worship for an opening processional of streamers.

Make sure you are on the email for upcoming activity details. Contact Kim Row, krow@guilfordpark.org or Kay Owen 72kowen@gmail.com to get on the B.A.M.! email list.

Our church celebration of Pentecost is May 19! Our Pentecost offering is our birthday present to the church. This offering helps children at risk, youth, and our youngest adults. Please be generous. 40% of this offering will stay locally in Greensboro.

The Burlington Boys Choir will sing a short concert of sacred and secular music in our sanctuary on May 19. The program will begin at 10:45 a.m. immediately following an abbreviated 10 a.m. worship service. There will be an offering collected for the Boys Choir during the concert.

PW Salad Supper May 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall— Calling all women to bring a salad to PW's Annual Salad Supper. Honorary Lifetime Membership for 2024 will be announced. Previous Honorary Lifetime Membership recipients will be recognized for their years of service to GPPC. The evening guarantees plenty of great salads, plus fellowship and camaraderie among all GPPC women. Sign up by May 19 on the PW Bulletin Board.

Graduate Sunday is coming! We want to celebrate your graduate in our church community. If you know of a high school, college, or program graduate please contact Kim Row, krow@guilfordpark.org. We would like to acknowledge them in worship. They do not have to be present. Send their name, graduating from where, future plans, and a picture.

VBS Dates and Theme are set! Children can register as town participants and adults can register as shop keepers. August 5-8. Check it out below. Can't come but want to help? We would love to borrow your pop up tent canopy. Let Kim Row know if you have one we can borrow. Register now at <https://vbspro.events/p/guilfordpark>

A big THANK YOU to Corliss McGinty, Jason Beale, Jody Wood, Pastor Stephen, John Parker, Lisa Whisenant, and Hallie Smith for donating blood at the OneBlood drive on April 23. Your blood is greatly needed and will be used in Greensboro and surrounding communities. Thank you!

Check It Out— I learned a new word a few weeks ago – **REREDOS**. Two points for you if you know the definition without looking it up on your phone. A reredos is an ornamental screen covering at the back of an altar or, in our church, behind the communion table. The three-panel reredos in our church depicts the trinity as do the three panels of the communion table. The left panel is a star of David, for God the Father. The center panel is Chi Rho, for God the Son. The right panel shows seven flames, for God the Holy Spirit. These panels were designed by our architect, Hansel Fink and were carved by Harold Barrier, Bill Hall, Ernest Skillman, Fred Waterhouse, Robert Wechter, and Jake Webb. Come up to the chancel area after church to look at the beautifully carved panels of our **reredos** and **communion table**.

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 5

Communion Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and the Bible– Westminster
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:15 a.m. C&Y– Youth Lounge
- 11:15 a.m. J&P– Library
- 2:00 p.m. Children’s Music
- 2:00 p.m. Grasshoppers Game

Monday, May 6

- 9:00 a.m. Librarian– Library
- 2:00 p.m. Treasurers– Library
- 7:00 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study– Library
- 7:00 p.m. Gem & Mineral Club– Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 7

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting– Library
- 11:00 a.m. The Word This Week– Library
- 11:00 a.m. Circle 4– Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Fellowship– Library
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Handbells– Westminster
- 7:00 p.m. YES Rehearsal– Choir room

Wednesday, May 8

- 7:00 a.m. Men’s Book Study– Green Joe’s
- 7:30 a.m. High School Morning Muffins– Panera

Thursday, May 9

- 6:00 p.m. Guilford Park Guys– gym
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir– sanctuary

Friday, May 10

- 12:00 p.m. Circle 9– Parlor

Saturday, May 11

- 10:00 a.m. BAM!- Westminster & Kitchen

Sunday, May 12

Mother’s Day

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and the Bible– Westminster
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 2:00 p.m. Children’s Music

BITTERS SOCIAL HOUSE
307 STATE STREET
MAY 15 | 6:30 P.M.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

“Are You a Christian?”
The Doctrine of Justification



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: John Parker, Kit Schooley, Doug Campbell

Liturgist: Ellen Weiner

A/V operator: Gary Parker

Communion Servers: Rita Jennings, Jaime Hendricks, Barbara Sasser, Mike Sasser

Home Communion Servers: Linda Fitts (Robert and Cindy Webster), Judy Campbell (Don and Sue Bassett), Sandi Otwell (Marie Thomas and Janet Thomas and Grace Sink)

Opening/Closing: Gray Amick/AB Kimel

Bread Delivery: Phyllis and George Setzer

Ministers: All the members of the Church

Pastor: Stephen Fearing

Parish Associate: Kit Schooley

Parish Associate: Fred Beck

Christian Educator for Children and Youth: Kim Row

Director of Music Ministries and Organist: Bill Allred

Music Director for YES Worship Service: Brian Fitts

Church Administrator: Jane Sharpe

YES Accompanist: Jordan Hart

Preschool Director: Rebecca Willoughby

Missionaries we support: Jan Feliciano in Mexico, and Tracey King-Ortega in Nicaragua

Guilford Park is an Earth Care Congregation. Today's bulletins are printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper. Please recycle in the baskets at each exit from the sanctuary.

GPPC Elders:

Class of 2024

Mary Bruce

Kay Cheshire

Lisa Jones

Jansen Lasley

Kay Owen

Don Yelton

Owen Beale— Youth Elder

Class of 2025

Katherine Glasgow

Bill Hickling

Brad Kemmerer

Leslie Loyd

Jim Lumsden

Tim Peck

Class of 2026

Heather Amick

Mike Bivona

André Conway

Rita Jennings

Jill Moore

John Parker

GUILFORD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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