

***No matter who you are***

***or where you are on life’s journey,***

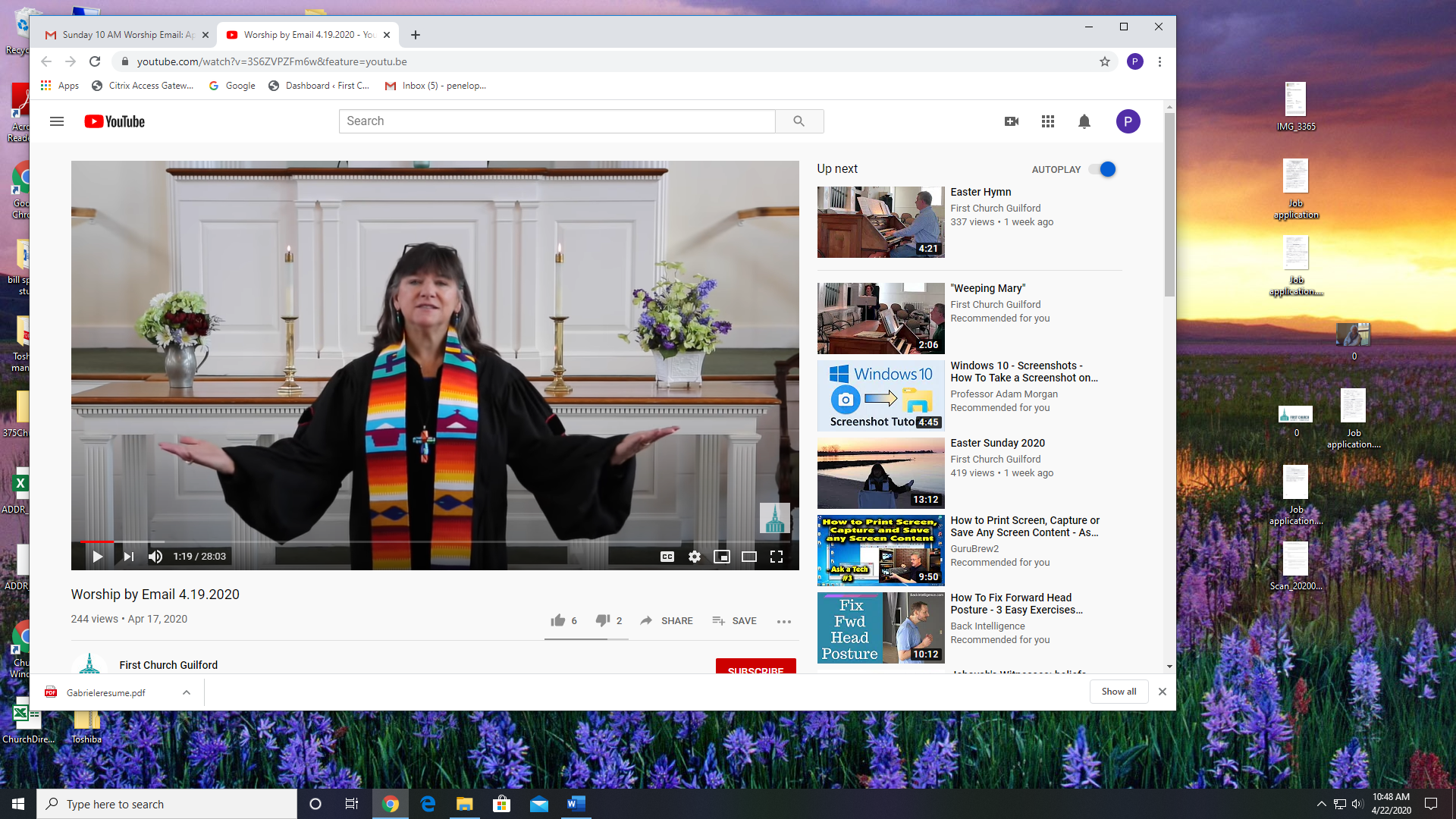
***you are welcome here.***

7 June 2020 10:00am

***“Seasons of Life – Embracing the Day”***

**Children’s Sunday**

**Welcome** Rev. Dr. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham



**Introit:**

Junior and Cherub Choir

**Passing of the Peace:** Lucy and Emily Mitchell

**Call to Worship:** read by The DePetris and Walk families

**Offertory:**

Junior Choir

**Doxology:** ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***Praise God, for all that love has done;***

***Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.***

*(You are welcome to sing your preferred version of the Doxology.)*

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8   Beres Family

Genesis 33:8-10 Jacob and Esau Rory Melvin

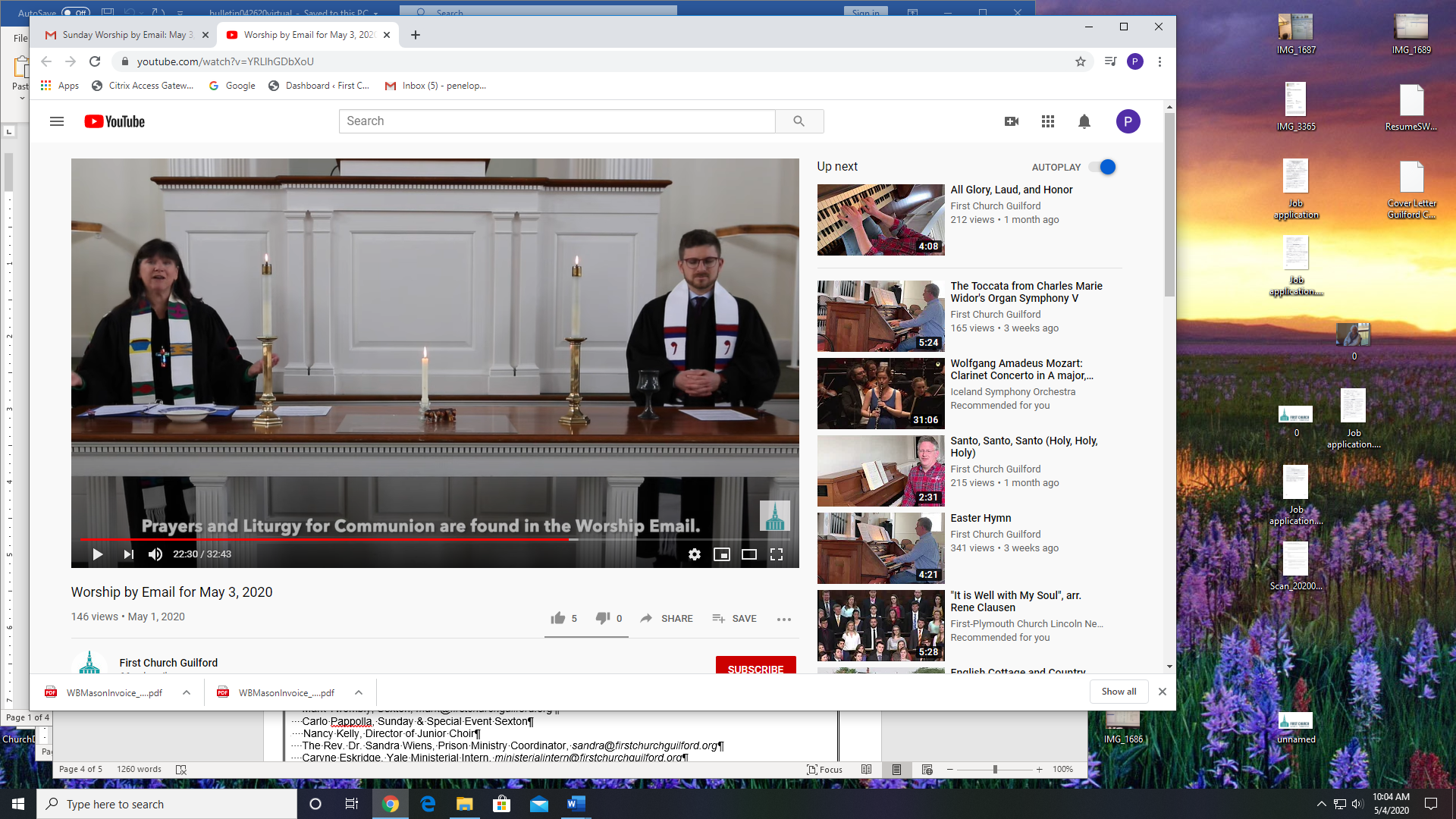
Luke 10:38-42 Mary and Martha Anastasia Connors

Luke 1:45-49 Elizabeth and Zecchariah -  Jacobson?

Matthew 7:24-27 The Two Houses - Schlagheck

Ruth 4:13-16  Ruth and Naomi Fitz Pant

**10:16 Sermon:** “God Goes to Church” Judi Wallace and Kate Ott



**Invitation to Communion:**

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for being the giver of insight and understanding, the author of light and hope, and the beginning of grace and love.

**People: We come to the table in gratitude and with a spirit of humility.**

Leader: With those from the south and north, east and west, sages of old and prophets of today,

**People: we gather as people seeking justice, desiring unity, practicing love through physical distancing and in spiritual connecting.**

Leader: We share this feast at the table of inclusivity and declare together:

**All: In the cross, Jesus was your presence of unending love and in the empty tomb the bright light of life. With the generations- past, present and future-**

**we proclaim grace and hope of life eternal.**

**Communion Prayer**

**Weaving God, as the body of Christ, we gather together-apart again. Wonderfully and uniquely made by you, we bring a variety of gifts to the table of grace. Living out loud and in diversity we knit together our callings as we celebrate our faith that grounds us in love and justice. As we share the meal of remembrance, we are ever grateful for the life and teachings of Christ.**

**Encourage us to learn how to offer your message of inclusion to all, O God. Empower us to speak the truth in love, listen with clarity, reach out in compassion, act with wisdom, and invite the Spirit to guide us.**

**Trusting that though we are many, we are one faith family nestled in your care. Though we are different, we are united in your love. Embracing equity and building community, we lean into you this morning.** *(Hold silence)* **As we open our minds, our hearts, and our hands, hear our ache. Sorrow fills our hearts as we lean into you and hold close each sibling marching, praying, running, struggling, yearning, and crying out for justice. From our streets and our homes, we pray each person can truly “breathe” in your divine love and live as an equal  and free person worthy to be loved.**

*(Hold Silence)*

**In the power and freedom of the resurrected Christ we pray offering the prayers of our hearts:**

**Gratitude for the love and care of this faith community; all graduates; Cindy C. on the death of her father; Wally H. and family on his son’s death;** **Jay on the death of his father; Susan B., in hospital recovering from fall; Gilda, mother of Lou F.; Peter, son of Sally K, recovering from surgery; Cindy M.’s diagnosis of lung cancer; Lauren with a high-risk pregnancy; the mother of Alison L.; Mary-Lynn O.; parents who cannot visit their children and grandchildren; those awaiting diagnosis; Grace and all hospital chaplains; those suffering from the virus, those who are grieving; all those struggling with difficult diagnoses; family and friends of those who have completed suicide and those contemplating suicide; those living with chronic diseases, dementia and cancer, and their families; those living with domestic violence; families dealing with addictions; those who suffer; natural and human-made disasters;** **and for peace and health for all.**

**And we continue praying as Jesus taught, saying:**

**Our Father *(or Creator)*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom *(kin-dom)* 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 *(kin-dom)*, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Communion Music**

Junior and Cherub Choirs

**Sharing of Bread and Cup –** *please use bread and juice you have at home.*

**Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**:

**Eternal Spirit, as this once-scattered grain was gathered to become one loaf, so may all your people be woven together by your grace and peace. As this fruit was brought forth from the vine, so may we go forth in your love, planting fields of compassion that harvest mercy and justice. Amen.**

**Commission/Benediction: Peace be with you**

**Postlude:**

**+ + +**

**Shall We Gather at the… Green?**  
**Sunday June 7th 11 am After Online Worship-by-Email**  
**Fellowship Time (at a distance):** We are planning a safe, physically-distanced opportunity to see one another. On Sunday, June 7th at 11:00 am (after watching worship) those who wish can park along the Green, or sit in chairs **far** apart, and the staff will walk along the inside sidewalks on the Green to wave and chat at a distance. If you choose to participate, we insist on everyone wearing masks. If you have been missing seeing staff and others in the congregation, and are not in a high-risk group, come out to say hello.

After the “at a distance” greeting of one another, there will be an opportunity to "lift our voices” starting at 11:30 am. We will have chalk available to draw body outlines on the sidewalk and write the name of someone unjustly slain. Please keep any chalk you touch. In addition, please bring your family Bibles and open to a meaningful text. We will scatter about behind our Eliminate Racism sign in the memorial garden and take a group picture with open Bibles that remind us that social justice is grounded in faith.

**Passing the Peace and Fellowship Hour:** Please continue our spirit of worship and reach out to a few people to say hello and exchange the peace of Christ.

**Offerings:**  First Church’s worship and ministries continue, albeit in different ways. We know that some are not in a position to give, or keep up with their pledge at this time, and we hold you in prayer. Thank you to those who are able to continue to mail in or drop off their offerings.

**Clergy Phone Hours:**The clergy are available by phone - 203-453-5249: Ginger (ext. 204) Tues., 9-11am; Jake (ext. 205) Wed., 2-4pm.

**Worship Sunday, June 14th 10am Church worship emailed.**

**Welcome to First Congregational Church!**

**We are thankful** that you are worshiping with us, and we hope that you have found inspiration and fellowship. If we can be of service to you, please contact one of us:

The Rev. Dr. Ginger Brasher-Cunningham, Lead Minister, [ginger@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:ginger@firstchurchguilford.org)

The Rev. Jake Miles Joseph, Minister of Faith Formation, [jake@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:jake@firstchurchguilford.org)

William C. Speed, Director of Music Ministries, [bill@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:bill@firstchurchguilford.org)

Judi Wallace, Acting Director of Children and Youth, [judi@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:judi@firstchurchguilford.org)

Penelope Rebuzzini, Office Manager, [office@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:office@firstchurchguilford.org)

Annemarie Alexa, Bookkeeper/Data Manager, financeoffice@firstchurchguilford.org

Mark Twombly, Sexton, [mark@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:mark@firstchurchguilford.org)

Carlo Pappolla, Sunday & Special Event Sexton

Nancy Kelly, Director of Junior Choir

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Wiens, Prison Ministry Coordinator, [sandra@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:sandra@firstchurchguilford.org)

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