

***No matter who you are***

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

***you are welcome here.***

21 June 2020 10:00am

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

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

**Introit:**

**Gathering Prayer-**

**When we rise in the morning sun, O God, we taste the possibility of hope and joy. Thank you for the opportunities that can be birthed in each day, and your love that grounds us on our journey. As we venture beyond our doors, we pray for wisdom. As we move beyond our bias, we pray for clarity. Forgive us, Holy One, when we have settled with what we have “known” rather than what else there may be. Teach us to truly follow Jesus and to love neighbor as self. We pray in gratitude for the wonderful fathers and those who have been like fathers to us. Even as we celebrate the depth of those relationships, we remember those who did not know the love of a father. We pray for those who long to be fathers, and for fathers who have experienced the unspeakable sorrow of the death of a child. For the complications that surround this day, God our loving Heavenly Father-Mother-Parent, we pray. As we hold silence, hear now the utterances of our individual and collective hearts . . .**

**And hear now the spoken prayers of our community and beyond:**

**For Vicki N. and family on the death of her father; Cindy C. and family on the death of her father; Wally H. and family on their son’s death;** **Preston M. recovering from knee surgery; Gilda, mother of Lou F.; Cindy M.’s diagnosis of lung cancer; the mother of Alison L.; Mary-Lynn O.; parents who cannot visit their children and grandchildren; those awaiting diagnosis; 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; those living with natural and human-made disasters;** **and for peace and health for all.**

Now we pray 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.**

**10:16 Moment** Judi Wallace

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory Music:**

**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:** Psalm 150

The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version of Psalm 150.

*Hallelujah!*

*Praise God in the sanctuary;*

*praise God in the mighty firmament!*

*Praise God for God’s mighty deeds;*

*praise God according to God;s surpassing greatness!*

*Praise God with trumpet sound;*

*praise God with Lute and harp!*

*Praise God with tambourine and dance;*

*praise God with strings and pipe!*

*Praise God with clanging cymbals;*

*praise God with loud crashing cymbals!*

*Let everything that breathes praise God!*

*Hallelujah!*

**Sermon:** Rev. Jake Miles Joseph

**Commission/Benediction**

**Postlude:**

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**Passing the Peace and Fellowship Hour:** Share the peace of Christ and catch up with some First Church folks you have not seen in a while.

**Thanks to our musicians:**

**The flower photograph was taken by**

**Please submit prayer requests** to include in the worship bulletin by Wednesday each week to [office@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:office@firstchurchguilford.org).  To respect privacy, we ask for first names and non-sensitive prayers only please. Please contact the clergy with sensitive non-worship-ready prayer requests.

**Grocery Card sales update**:   To make it easier to purchase $100 grocery cards (using cash or check) during this Covid19 summer, you can stop by the Spencer House (corner of Broad & State streets) on the State St. side porch entrance on Wednesdays starting June 24 from 10 a.m. -12 noon!  The Grocery Card sales team will have cards for purchase from the window there so you won’t have to enter the office.   Remember: the Grocery Card sales program enables First Church community members to purchase $100 gift cards for Big Y, Bishops Orchards, and Stop & Shop, cards which the church has acquired at discounts under the stores’ special community support programs.  This is a fundraising ministry of the church which can provide significant income for the budget, so the sales team looks forward to seeing you at the ’sales window’! If you wish cards may also be purchased to give to the church for the ministers to distribute as needed. A tax form is available for those gifts.

**Clergy Phone Hours: Please call** 203-453-5249 to speak with Ginger (ext. 204) Tues., 9-11am; or Jake (ext. 205) Wed., 2-4pm.

**Worship on Sunday, June 28th will be emailed at 10am.**

**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)

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Annemarie Alexa, Bookkeeper/Data Manager, [financeoffice@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:financeoffice@firstchurchguilford.org)

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

Carlo Pappolla, Sunday & Special Event Sexton

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Wiens, Coord, Prison & Re-entry Min.,[sandra@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:sandra@firstchurchguilford.org)

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