

***No matter who you are***

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

***you are welcome here.***

5 July 2020 10:00am

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

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

**Introit:**

**Gathering Prayer:**

**Traveling God of redemption,  
Together-apart we proclaim how grateful we are that you walk with us through years of learning and transformation. Empower us in our quest for equity and call to love. On this weekend set aside for celebrating independence, we pray for all the enlisted people and those who have risked their lives to care for others. We pray in gratitude for all the health care workers at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. As we hold them in our hearts, we ask that you surround with your peace those still traumatized by the effects of war. As we remember all our veterans and their families, we pray for all who feel the battle scars of life and seek independence. For the pursuit of justice, we seek wisdom to discern how to continue calling our world to the realization of inequitable living conditions. Empower us God of Hope to ask for forgiveness and then help ground us in grace to move forward in your love. We pause now to pray for that which dwells in our hearts and then for our church 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;** **for those who have lost their beloved pets;** **Carin S.,** **Preston M., Gilda, mother of Lou F.; Cindy M.’s diagnosis of lung cancer; the mother of Alison L.; Mary-Lynn O.; John and Crissy and Nate and Dylan; 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.**

**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

**Offertory:**

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

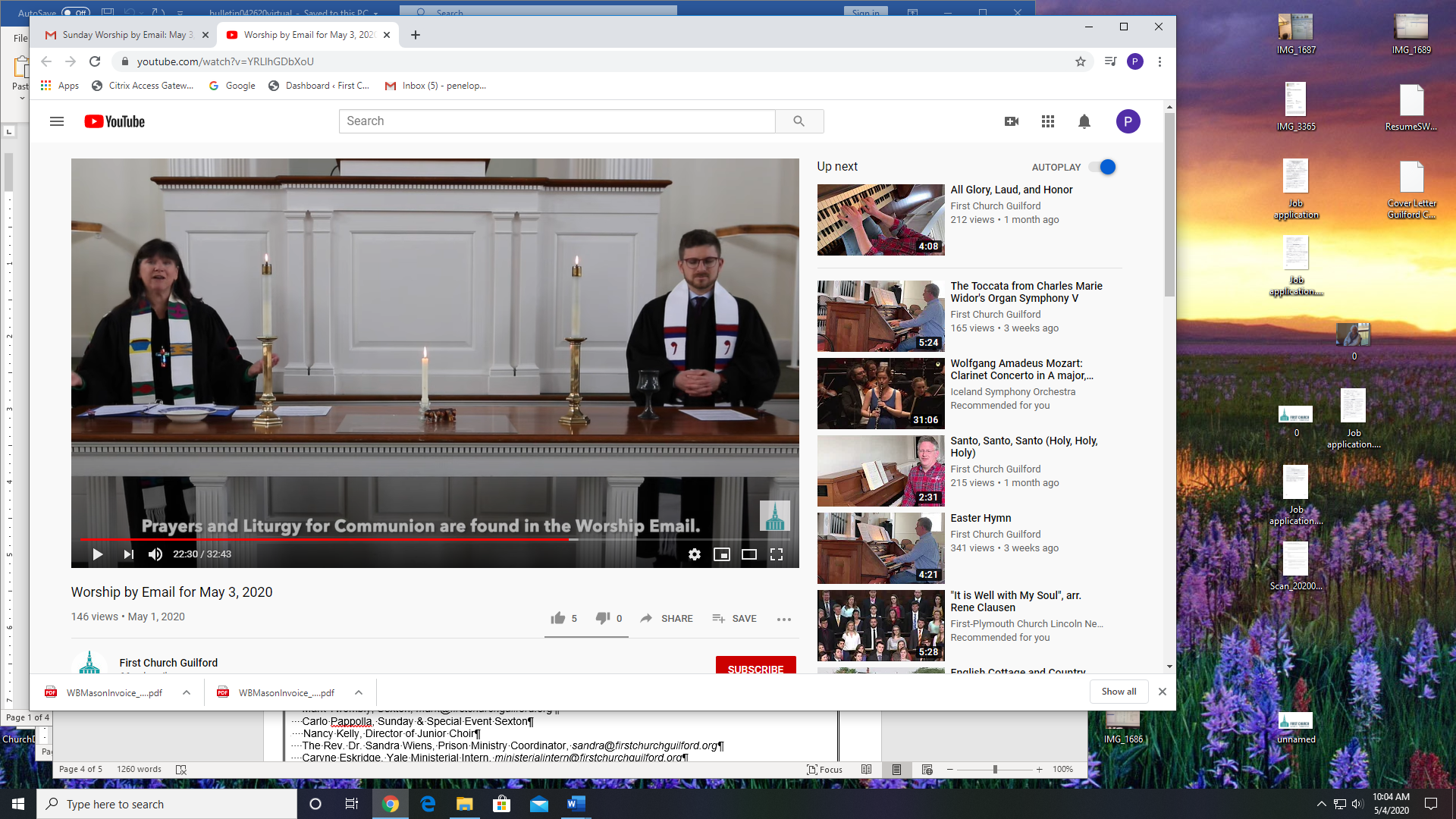
***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***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:**



**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**

**Communion Music**

**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**

**Postlude:**

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**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 is away – his phone hours will resume on July 15th.

**Worship Sunday, July 12th 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, Director of Children and Youth, [judi@firstchurchguilford.org](mailto:judi@firstchurchguilford.org)

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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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