

***No matter who you are***

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

***you are welcome here.***

19 July 2020 10:00am

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

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

**Introit:**

**Gathering Prayer-**

**God of dreams - dreams of night and day - hear our prayers. Although at a physical distance from one another, we join our hearts again in prayer. We believe you to be in this place, in each of our places. Incline your ear as we voice our frustrations of separation as well as the ways we have missed the mark of love. As we climb out of days of grey, empower us to be people who make meaning out of tragedy. As we yell to the heavens, let us know that you hear our pleas and walk with us.** *(Hold silence)*

**For all those feeling the weight of the world, heavy in spirit, we pray this day. As we ache with those in despair, we rejoice with all who have found hope. Help us voice our sorrow and live in joy.  Together we pray for our community, those we know, and those known to others . . .**

**For Pat R. going into Hospice care; Matt S., and family on the death of his father;** **Mike N. and family on the death of his mother;** **Alison L. and family on the death of her mother; Janice B., recovering from a fall; Patricia A., Jake’s grandmother, recovering from a fall; Cherry recovering from surgery; Alex, grandson of Larry & Jodi B.; for those who have lost their beloved pets;** **Marion M., mother of Linda M.;** **Carin S.,** **Preston M., Cindy M.; Mary-Lynn O.; Ron, neighbor of Sue J.; Jackie and Frank; 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.**

**As Jesus prayed, we join him 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:**

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

And he dreamed, and behold: a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

And behold: the God stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants; and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

And behold: I am with you and will keep you in all wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken."

And Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place--and I did not know it!"

And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

And Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

**Sermon:** Rev. Mandy Mizelle

**Commission/Benediction**

**Postlude:**

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We welcome back as our guest preacher, Rev. Mandy Mizelle, one of our 2018 Interim Bridge Ministers.

**Passing the Peace and Fellowship Hour:** Share the peace of Christ and catch up with some First Church folks you miss seeing.

**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 Cards for Big Y, Bishops & Stop & Shop are available to purchase on *Wednesday mornings 10am-noon through the window on the State St entrance of Spencer House.* $100 (cash or check) buys $100 of groceries and the church earns $5. Grocery cards may also be purchased to donate to the church for clergy to distribute to those with food insecurity.**

**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, July 26th 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)

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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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