

 ***No matter who you are***

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

 ***you are welcome here.***

30 August 2020 10:00am

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

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

**Introit:**

**Gathering:**

We open our hearts, our hands, and our minds. We breathe in the breath of God, and breathe out the love of God, and we continue in worship.

**10:16 Moment** Judi Wallace

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer:**

**Resurrecting and Restoring Holy One,**

**Gather us into your care on this Sunday. With siblings throughout our country and across the globe, may our hearts be broken open and ache with all who cry out for justice. As the days of COVID linger and circle about, we mourn with those who have been destroyed by this invisible, isolating, and robbing enemy. As our country is flooded and on fire, we pray for those trying to escape the devastation of natural disasters. And as political landmines, biting speech, and inhumane actions permeate our air, call us to our better selves. Empower people of faith to work together, allowing the Spirit to guide us into a more loving and just existence.**

**In the kinship of faith, we pray for  . . .**

**For Dut M., and Anyikor A. and family on the death of her brother, Natali; Tom P., and family on the death of Elizabeth; Jennifer W. and family on the death of her mother, Judy; Janice N. & family on the death of her mother, Rita; Pete R. and family on the death of Pat; for Patti M., and family, on the death of Steve; Berdella Z; Tim B., friend of the Ramseys; Brooks, grandson of Karen O.; for Joan H. and all who have lost beloved pets; Catherine W.; Marlene D.; Carin S.,** **Cindy M.; 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.**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 41: 10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you,

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**Sermon:** Clergy and Staff

**Offering Question:**

**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.)*

**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.

**Please submit prayer requests** to include in the worship bulletin by Wednesday each week to 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.

**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, September 6th will be 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

 The Rev. Jake Miles Joseph, Minister of Faith Formation, jake@firstchurchguilford.org

 William C. Speed, Director of Music Ministries, bill@firstchurchguilford.org

 Judi Wallace, Director of Children and Youth, judi@firstchurchguilford.org

 Penelope Rebuzzini, Office Manager, office@firstchurchguilford.org

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

 Mark Twombly, Sexton, mark@firstchurchguilford.org

 Carlo Pappolla, Sunday & Special Event Sexton

 The Rev. Dr. Sandra Wiens, Coord, Prison & Re-entry Min.,sandra@firstchurchguilford.org

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