

THE SEASON OF EASTER

THIRD SUNDAY APRIL 18, 2021 † SANCTUARY & VIRTUAL SERVICES

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GATHERING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Sarah Chancellor-Watson

VOLUNTARY (8:30 service) "Dorian Echo Fantasie" Steven B. Blackmon Sweelinck

VOLUNTARY (10:30 service) "Love Bade Me Welcome" Frank Convit, baritone Vaughan Williams

*CALL TO WORSHIP Miriam Hollar (8:30) | Rick Grubb (10:30)

God has called us to be faithful servants.

Our Creator will hear us when we call.

God puts gladness in our hearts and minds.

We will lie down in safety and sleep in peace.

Our faith strengthens us for each day's living.

God empowers our ministries of caring.

We trust God, whose children we are.

We look forward to what God will reveal to us.

Let us worship God!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of our ancestors, author of life, source of Easter good news, we are drawn together again by the mystery of life and death. We call on You, so far beyond our knowing, with a mixture of faith and doubt. Let Your face shine on us as we put our trust in You. Draw together the fragments of our busy lives around the central core of love which You provide, that we might relate to one another as Your children. Grant us a fuller sense of what is right and good, and help us to live at our best. Amen.

HYMN "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" WESTMINSTER ABBEY

CALL TO CONFESSION

Life with eternity in it is God's present gift to us. We have heard this good news, but we are slow to believe. We have received it, but we are slow to trust. It is ours to enjoy, but we have not lived it. Recognizing God's truth and grace, let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We are disturbed and distressed, O God, by the evil that surrounds us. It is hard to view some people we see as Your children. We often wonder why we should confess our sins when there is so much evil beyond our influence? Yet we know that we, too, do not abide in Your love. We sin by turning away from sisters and brothers who are also beloved by You, however they may differ from us. We seek now the forgiveness You promise and the health You offer. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (*unison*)

Forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to all who repent and seek new life in Christ. The peace of God dwells in us when we honestly examine our selves, exposing our wounds to Love's healing and our self-deceit to Love's correction. Beloved, we are accepted by God whose will for us is a joyous freedom in Christ Jesus!

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, help us to hear what You want us to hear, so that we can be who You want us to be, and be strengthened to go and do what You want us to do, all in Jesus' name. Amen.

FIRST READING (*response: Thanks be to God.*)

Deuteronomy 32:1-7

Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak;
let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
May my teaching drop like the rain,
my speech condense like the dew;
like gentle rain on grass,
like showers on new growth.
For I will proclaim the name of the Lord;
ascribe greatness to our God!
The Rock, his work is perfect,
and all his ways are just.
A faithful God, without deceit,

just and upright is he;
yet his degenerate children have dealt falsely with him,
a perverse and crooked generation.
Do you thus repay the Lord,
O foolish and senseless people?
Is not he your father, who created you,
who made you and established you?
Remember the days of old,
consider the years long past;
ask your father, and he will inform you;
your elders, and they will tell you.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (*10:30 service only*)

Hugh Britton Sanderford, IV

Presentation

Zach Christiansen, Elder

*Affirmation of Faith (*from "A Brief Statement of Faith"*)

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God,
the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love, God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.**

But we rebel against God; we hide from our creator.

**Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.**

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Over the Water

Baptism

Presentation and Prayer

SECOND READING (*response: Thanks be to God.*)

John 1:14-18

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON

"Truthful Grace and Graceful Truth"

Harry Barrow

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (8:30 service only, please see Baptism section above for text)

*GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Living God, thank you for sending us Your Son, Jesus Christ, who was full of grace and truth. Help us as individuals and as a Church family, to follow Him. Help us to embody that difficult paradox of grace and truth.

Loving God, remind us that truth demands that we build some fences, and that grace demands that these fences be flexible. Enable us to serve You with graceful truth and truthful grace.

Be close to all who are on our Prayer List. Surround them with Your healing mercies. O God, from Whom neither life nor death can separate those who trust in You, and in Whose love holds in its embrace all Your children, in this world and the next, unite us to Yourself, that in fellowship with You, we may be united to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Give us courage, constancy, and hope, through Him who died and was buried, and raised again for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM (8:30 service)

"Love Bade Me Welcome"
Frank Convit, baritone

Vaughan Williams

ANTHEM (10:30 service)

"Now the Green Blade Riseth"
Chancel Choir Chamber Singers

French carol, arr. Lindley

SENDING

HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM RHONDDA

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
walk with you along the way.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart
cause your heart to love.

May you see the face of Christ in everyone
you meet,

And may everyone you meet see the face
of Christ in you.

*CHORAL RESPONSE

"An Irish Blessing"
Chancel Choir Chamber Singers

Blackmon

*VOLUNTARY

*Congregation, please stand as you are able.

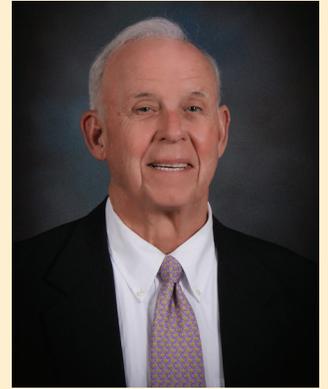
The ushers will collect the offering at the doors as you exit. You can also make a donation at www.scapc.org/donation.

Please exit through the doors you entered and take your bulletins to dispose of in the baskets at the doors.

Today's videography has been prepared by Steven B. Blackmon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning we welcome to the pulpit THE REV. DR. HARRY BARROW, our new Interim Senior Pastor! Upon graduation from Columbia Seminary, Harry served as Associate Pastor of the Raleigh Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee; as Director of Admissions of Columbia Theological Seminary; and for 32 years as Senior Pastor of Newnan Presbyterian Church, Newnan, Georgia.



Harry's wife Madeline worked as a writer/editor in health communications for public health organizations and federal contractors serving the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention until her retirement in 2019. Since then she has been providing communications support for the Coweta Samaritan Medical Clinic, a free clinic that serves uninsured and medically underserved residents of Coweta County. Harry and Madeline have two adult children, Leland and Anne. Please join us in welcoming Harry and his wife Madeline into the SCAPC community!

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, James Alfred Robeson and Louise Peters Morecraft; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Estill Allen Bell; by Bill and Ann Bell.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY for the 8:30 service are Mayson Buffington, Michael O'Keefe, Thomas Schulingkamp, and Wesley Simon. Serving for the 10:30 service are Laurie Young, Nancy Jane and Charlie Carson, Noah Hardie, and Pierce Young.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL: Children and parents are invited to a new Sunday School series that will meet weekly through May 23 from 9:30 – 10:15 AM outside the Land Building. Come hear the stories of Jesus and the early church while making crafts and art projects! Masks and social distancing will be maintained. Reservations are not required but we ask that you email Michele Murphy at michele@scapc.org if you plan to participate. All children must attend with an adult (parent or chaperone). If your family would like to attend either the 8:30 or 10:30 AM worship service in person, you will need to make your reservation separately each week at www.scapc.org/reservations.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us for a new class entitled "Painting the Stars"! Classes take place in the Land Building at 9:30 AM and can be attended virtually via Zoom as well. The curriculum celebrates the communion of science and faith and explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. There is a video component to the class, featuring a number of well-respected theologians. Amy Morris and Geoff Snodgrass will facilitate the class. Click on the "Sunday School" button at www.scapc.org for the Zoom link.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Kay Lejeune and her family on the death of her husband, Dr. Francis "Duke" E. Lejeune, who died on April 15th. Dr. Lejeune had been a member of our church for 79 years. His service will be Tuesday, April 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
is being administered today to
HUGH BRITTON SANDERFORD, IV,
son of Adele and Brice Sanderford.