



*Let the little children come to me.
Luke 18:16*

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY

GUILFORD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 21, 2024

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

The prelude is a time of transition, from hurried lives into the eternal presence of God. At the sound of the bells, we invite you to make this a time of prayerful preparation for worship. Our service is live-streamed and recorded. Your participation is your consent to be recorded

+all are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

You are invited to read aloud the words in **bold**.

Sing! a new creation - located in the rack under the pew (green)
Glory to God Hymnal (purple)

Confession is a hallmark of the Reformed tradition. We believe that it is important to begin worship by confessing the ways we've fallen short of God's intention for us.

Trusting in the everlasting mercy of God, each confession is concluded by the **Assurance of Pardon**, a liturgical reminder that no sin is so powerful as to keep us from the love of God.

During the **Passing of the Peace** you're invited to greet one another by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you" and responding "And also with you."

The **Prayer for Illumination** is a prayer asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance to help us interpret scripture faithfully with critical minds and compassionate hearts.

PRELUDE

I Sing the Mighty Power of God *Glory to God Hymnal* #32
Tune: FOREST GREEN
st. 1 congregation, st. 2 choir, st. 3 congregation

+GATHERING SONGS

Lord, Be Glorified *Sing! a new creation* #43
Lord God Almighty *Sing! a new creation* #9

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rebecca Willoughby, Preschool Director

+CALL TO CONFESSION

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive)

from *Justice Unbound*

Merciful God, you created a world of plenty,

yet there are children starving for food, thirsting for clean water.

You created a world of peace,

yet there are children in the path of war,

innocent lives lost to the violence of weapons and hatred.

You created a world with time for rest,

yet there are children in homes and communities so wrought with uncertainty and

fear that no rest comes and sleep carries with it memories of fear.

You created a world touched by your compassionate hand,

yet there are children who never hear kindness and never experience

unconditional love in ways they can understand.

It is our sin, through what we have done and what we have left undone, what we have said and what we have kept silent, that has caused your world to feel less compassionate, less restful, less peaceful and less bountiful.

Forgive us. Place us back into the work of reconciling ourselves to our neighbors and this world so that we may again return to your loving creation.

+ASSURANCE OF PARDON

+PRAYER RESPONSE

Sing! a new creation #55
Alleluia!, Alleluia!, In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Fellowship

Jim Lumsden

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SUNG SCRIPTURE

This Is The Day (Psalm 118)
All Children

Trad. Fiji

TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES *I've Got the Joy*
Pennies for Hunger Kim Row
Jesu, Jesu *Glory to God Hymnal #203*
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Holy wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Let Us Love in Deed and In Truth* Paul Nicholson

THE SERMON “Let Us Love” The Rev. Stephen Fearing

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

+HYMN #713 *Touch the Earth Lightly* TENDERNESS

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH By Norman C. Habel
We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God’s presence, a home for us to share with all people and life forms.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became part of the Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

Pennies for Hunger is a program that was started by Salem Presbytery where member churches were asked to contribute a small amount per meal to help feed the hungry.

Hymn #713: An Australian aboriginal saying opens this gentle hymn from New Zealand on the stewardship of creation. “Clouds of disaster” in the second stanza refers to the testing of nuclear devices then occurring in the Pacific Ocean, but the concern for all created things is timeless

Earth Care Congregations are congregations that have committed to the "Earth Care Pledge" and accomplished a specific number of actions toward caring for God's earth in four categories: worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Congregations earning 25 points in each of the four categories will be certified as Earth Care Congregations and receive various honors. Congregation members will also be invited to participate as individuals by completing similar actions in their homes.

Prayer Cards are available in the pew pockets to be passed to our prayer team. You may drop your prayer request in the offering plate.



Text GPPC to
73256 to give
online.



+REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT AS AN EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth. Therefore:

Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.

In education, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.

Our facilities will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.

Our outreach will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You're invited to scan the QR code to add one or more prayer requests. Or, you can go to www.menti.com and use code 5369 1206. Please remember that all entries are public information. Take care to refrain from sharing any information about someone else unless you're sure you have their consent to do so.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GO IN GOD'S NAME

+HYMN #188

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

+BUBBLE BLESSING

END OF WORSHIP **BEGINNING OF SERVICE**

The second pew on the pulpit side is reserved for those who are hearing impaired.

Hearing aid devices are available at the sound desk.

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CCLI License #1675218

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Breakfast and the Bible is every Sunday at 9 a.m. Free breakfast with Bible story and song. Families welcome. Westminster Room.

Join us for The Word This Week, Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Library. This is the lectionary group Pastor Stephen hosts each week to discuss the scripture(s) for the upcoming Sunday service. All are welcome and no preparation is needed. Just come as you are with a curiosity for the text.

Monday Night Bible Study– This week's Monday Night Bible study will explore Paul's letter to the Philippians and we'll discover the scripture verse that inspires Stephen Curry to be an NBA MVP. He wears the verse in his shoe and lives by it. We meet at 7 p.m. on Monday in the Library and welcome all Bible truth-seekers to come.

Buddy and Me are monthly activities for children grade 2 and under along with their favorite buddy. We meet on the second Saturday for fellowship and support at church or a scheduled field trip.

May 11 Saturday, 2nd Saturday fun with baking. Come and make some cookies to share (maybe with Mom?) and enjoy. Please contact for Kay Owen or Kim Row to let us know you are coming or get more details.

May 19 Sunday, It's Pentecost! Join us in worship for an opening processional of streamers.

Make sure you are on the email for upcoming activity details. Contact Kim Row, krow@guilfordpark.org or Kay Owen 72kowen@gmail.com to get on the B.A.M.! email list.

Blood Pressure Clinic– Please plan to stay after worship on April 21 to participate in a blood pressure clinic in Fellowship Hall, hosted by the Congregational Care Committee. Have your blood pressure taken and receive information about healthy blood pressure management. If you are planning to come, signing up on the Congregational Care Committee board outside Westminster room will be helpful.

TREE OF GIVING– During the months of April and May, we invite our GPPC congregation to donate items to the **Family Service of the Piedmont**. Family Service of the Piedmont is a private, not-for-profit agency focused on building safe and healthy families in the Piedmont Triad. They serve more than 19,000 clients each year, addressing issues of domestic violence, child abuse, mental health, and financial stability. More information can be found on their website at <https://www.fspscares.org/>. See your eNews for the complete list of needed supplies.

The OneBlood Big Red Bus will be at Guilford Park on Tuesday, April 23 from 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. All blood collected stays in our local healthcare system. The need for blood is greater than ever. All donors receive a \$20 gift card and a OneBlood gift. You can sign up here: https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1472914 Questions? Contact Lisa Whisenant, 336-549-6712.

FRIENDLY YOGA FOR EVERY BODY: Wednesday, April 24, 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga (45 minutes), 5:00 p.m. Yoga on the Mat (60 minutes). No props needed for Chair Yoga; for mat yoga, bring a mat and props if you have them, but there will be extras. Practices are appropriate for beginners and experienced yogis. See Catherine Eagles with questions.

2024 Guilford Park Mission Fundraiser Dessert Auction— The Mission Fundraiser Dessert Auction will be Sunday, April 28 in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m....right after Mission Sunday Service. Bring a bag lunch and bid on some of the wonderful desserts baked by members of the church. All funds raised will go to Missions of GPPC – Youth/Adult Mission Trips, GUM meals, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance needs and donations to non-profit organizations. Watch for sign-up sheet to donate a dessert.

The Justice & Peacemaking Committee will be sharing "letter writing kits" for hunger advocacy in conjunction with our upcoming Mission Dessert Auction on April 28. While our annual *Offering of Letters* for Bread for the World is set for later in June, we want to give those who are interested an early start in preparing letters for this year's effort. Stop by our table at the Dessert Auction to pick up your kit and learn more about the important work of Bread for the World and how you can heed our call to hunger advocacy through our letters to members of Congress on behalf of hungry people at home and around the globe. ***For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. Matthew 25:35***

Cooper Kirkpatrick is organizing a get ready for summer day on May 4 at Camp Carefree! Read his letter in the upcoming May Guidepost or see it on the Youth bulletin board and sign up alongside our children and youth to help. [Camp Carefree - Community Volunteers: Camp Carefree: Revamp the Camp - Workday 2024 \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

Parents Night Out. We are exploring a new initiative to give parents in our church and preschool a date every other month or so when they can drop off their kids at the church for about 4 hours, and use that time for a romantic dinner, to take in a movie, or maybe just to do laundry without interruption. If you want to explore this with us, please raise your hand by signing onto the sheet on the Fellowship bulletin board or contact Jim Lumsden to express interest in this.

Let's fight hunger together! Beginning now through the month of April, please bring some canned meat every time you come to church on Sundays. Any type of canned meat will be much appreciated and can be placed in the GUM collection boxes in the main hallway. Greensboro Urban Ministry is serving many more families at their food pantry than in the past. The need is great and we can help! Thanks so much. Guilford Park Mission Committee

Baseball Outing is Sunday, May 5, at 2:00. Guilford Park Presbyterian Church has a block of Grasshoppers tickets behind home plate. Buy tickets directly from Fellowship Committee chair Jim Lumsden, jimlumsden3744@gmail.com or 847-840-5302. Invite friends and neighbors.

The Burlington Boys Choir will sing a short concert of sacred and secular music in our sanctuary on May 19. The program will begin at 10:45 a.m. immediately following an abbreviated 10 a.m. worship service. There will be an offering collected for the Boys Choir during the concert.

PW Salad Supper May 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall— Calling all women to bring a salad to PW's Annual Salad Supper. Honorary Lifetime Membership for 2024 will be announced. Previous Honorary Lifetime Membership recipients will be recognized for their years of service to GPPC. The evening guarantees plenty of great salads, plus fellowship and camaraderie among all GPPC women. Sign up by May 19 on the PW Bulletin Board.

Graduate Sunday is coming! We want to celebrate your graduate in our church community. If you know of a high school, college, or program graduate please contact Kim Row, krow@guilfordpark.org. We would like to acknowledge them in worship. They do not have to be present. Send their name, graduating from where, future plans, and a picture.

VBS Dates and Theme are set! Register now at <https://vbspro.events/p/guilfordpark>.

Check It Out— I learned a new word a few weeks ago – **REREDOS**. Two points for you if you know the definition without looking it up on your phone. A reredos is an ornamental screen covering at the back of an altar or, in our church, behind the communion table. The three-panel reredos in our church depicts the trinity as do the three panels of the communion table. The left panel is a star of David, for God the Father. The center panel is Chi Rho, for God the Son. The right panel shows seven flames, for God the Holy Spirit. These panels were designed by our architect, Hansel Fink and were carved by Harold Barrier, Bill Hall, Ernest Skillman, Fred Waterhouse, Robert Wechter, and Jake Webb. Come up to the chancel area after church to look at the beautifully carved panels of our **reredos** and **communion table**.

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 21

Celebration of Preschool

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and the Bible– Westminster
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:15 a.m. Blood Pressure clinic– Fellowship Hall
- 2:00 p.m. Children’s Music
- 3:30 p.m. Session– Westminster
- 5:00 p.m. All Youth Fun Fellowship

Monday, April 22

- 9:00 a.m. Librarian– Library
- 2:00 p.m. Treasurers– Library
- 6:00 p.m. Guilford Guys Alumni– gym
- 7:00 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study– Library

Tuesday, April 23

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting– Library
- 11:00 a.m. The Word This Week– Library
- 2:00 p.m. OneBlood Big Red Bus– gravel lot
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Handbells– Westminster
- 7:00 p.m. YES Rehearsal– Choir room

Wednesday, April 24

- 7:00 a.m. Men’s Book Study– Green Joe’s
- 7:30 a.m. High School Morning Muffins– Panera
- 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga– Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Mat Yoga– Fellowship Hall
- 6:45 p.m. GUM Dinner

Thursday, April 25

- 6:00 p.m. Guilford Park Guys– gym
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir– sanctuary

Sunday, April 28

Mission Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and the Bible– Westminster
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Mission Dessert Auction– Fellowship Hall
- 2:00 p.m. Children’s Music

Earth Care Pledge

Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God’s grace and glory in creation.

Our **education** will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation.

Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation.

Our **outreach** will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Jansen Lasley, Skip Bailey, Trent Walton, Mike Bivona

Liturgist: Rebecca Willoughby, Preschool Director

A/V operator: Cooper Kirkpatrick

Opening/Closing: Ed Cheshire/John Parker

Flower Visitation: Marge Cromer

Bread Delivery: Ralph and Ann Swain

FLOWERS ON THE LORD'S TABLE today are given to the glory of God and in honor of our Preschool, by your friends at GPPC. Teachers, please take a flower before you leave.

Ministers: All the members of the Church

Pastor: Stephen Fearing

Parish Associate: Kit Schooley

Parish Associate: Fred Beck

Christian Educator for Children and Youth: Kim Row

Director of Music Ministries and Organist: Bill Allred

Music Director for YES Worship Service: Brian Fitts

Church Administrator: Jane Sharpe

YES Accompanist: Jordan Hart

Preschool Director: Rebecca Willoughby

Missionaries we support: Jan Feliciano in Mexico, and Tracey King-Ortega in Nicaragua

Guilford Park is an Earth Care Congregation. Today's bulletins are printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper. Please recycle in the baskets at each exit from the sanctuary.

GPPC Elders:

Class of 2024

Mary Bruce

Kay Cheshire

Lisa Jones

Jansen Lasley

Kay Owen

Don Yelton

Owen Beale— Youth Elder

Class of 2025

Katherine Glasgow

Bill Hickling

Brad Kemmerer

Leslie Loyd

Jim Lumsden

Tim Peck

Class of 2026

Heather Amick

Mike Bivona

André Conway

Rita Jennings

Jill Moore

John Parker

GUILFORD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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