



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
GUILFORD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
January 28, 2024

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.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder

wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

ANTHEM *Prayer for Peace*
Brian Fitts, tenor

TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Kim Row

SECOND LESSON James 3:13-18

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

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

THE SERMON “Journeying Through James: Part 3” Rev. Stephen Fearing

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

+HYMN #174 *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom* MADELEINE

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

From Mr. Rogers: “Imagine what our real neighbors would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person. There have been so many stories about the lack of courtesy, the impatience of today's world, road rage and even restaurant rage. Sometimes, all it takes is one kind word to nourish another person. Think of the ripple effect that can be created when we nourish someone. One kind empathetic word has a wonderful way of turning into many.”

Five Often Unintentional “Stumbling Blocks” to using our tongue/words wisely:

- Language re: LGBTQIA+ neighbors
- Language re: Children/youth
- Language re: Other marginalized communities
- Language re: God
- Language re: Social Media / News

Hymn #174: Drawing on numerous scriptural images of Wisdom (Greek: Sophia), especially in Proverbs, this text offers an alternative perspective on Trinitarian theology. The Wisdom tradition has played a role in Christian mysticism for centuries, as witnessed by the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

The Apostles’ Creed affirms the theological convictions of the early Church and was originally used as a catechesis for baptismal candidates.

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.



Hymn #450: These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

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 5472 8093 . 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 *Spirit of Wisdom* Andrew Fredel

+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 #450 *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

+BENEDICTION

+BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Glory to God Hymnal #451*
stanza 3
*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with they children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, they will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

+POSTLUDE *Festive Finale* Malcom Archer

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LOOSE OFFERING on the last Sunday of each month (today) will be designated to go to the Deacons' Fund. These funds are distributed at the Pastor's discretion for urgent financial needs within our congregation as well as emergency funding for needy individuals in our community.

Breakfast and the Bible is every Sunday during the 9 a.m. Free breakfast with Bible story and song. Families welcome. Fellowship Hall.

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 Sunday School—in the GPPC Library at 7 p.m. We'd welcome all members and guests to join us in this study.

Session is looking for four volunteers from the Congregation to join three members of Session on the Nominating Committee. The time commitment is small, but the importance is large. We will meet as a group in late August/early September to identify and put forth a slate of congregation members for the Session class of 2027. The committee then contacts those members and requests them to serve for a three-year term. A box will be placed on Gathering Table in the rear of the Sanctuary for anyone inclined to volunteer. Please help us with this very important committee. Bill Hickling, Chair of the Nominating Committee

GPPC Yoga Returns! Yoga is not a cure-all, but it can help our balance and improve bone strength if practiced regularly. Join Catherine Eagles on Tuesday, January 30 for a yoga practice focused on balance and bones. At 4 p.m., she will offer a 45-minute chair yoga practice; no props needed. At 5 p.m. she will offer a 60-minute mat yoga practice; bring a mat, strap, blanket, and blocks if you have them, but Catherine will have some extras if you don't. Open to all at Guilford Park at no charge.

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.

February 10—Saturday, 2nd Saturday fun with tie-dye. A white 100% cotton t-shirt is required for best results. Please make sure Kay Owen has that shirt before February 10 so that it can be prepared for dying. (contact for Kay, 72kowen@gmail.com). Please 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 email list.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING—Each year thousands of individuals and groups from all fifty states participate in Souper Bowl of Caring donation fundraisers for their local food charity of choice. Since 1990, over 300,000 groups have participated to support local food programs in their community. Our youth group will be collecting dollars in soup pots and cans of soup for those in need before and after the worship service on February 11. Every dollar and food donation will go directly to a local charity. What if everyone watching the BIG GAME gave just \$1 to hunger relief in their community? That would be over 330 million meals from just ONE event! Join us!

Come on out for **GPPC's annual Chili Cook-off** on Sunday, February 25 at 6 p.m. Sign up to bring your tastiest chili for some friendly competition. Who will win bragging rights for the best chili? Who will be our Rookie winner? We also need chili eaters! Sign up to let us know you're coming to taste these chilis. Bring a dessert to share. Sign-up sheet for chefs and eaters are on the Fellowship board. Or email Emmy Biaggi at emmy.biaggi@gmail.com.

TREE OF GIVING— This winter season through February, we are asking our GPPC family to consider donating hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, and coats for our "**Tree of Warmth.**" Donated items can be placed in the labeled basket in the church lobby. These donations will be delivered to YWCA emergency overnight shelter for families.

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 28

9:30 a.m. Breakfast and the Bible– Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
2:00 p.m. Children's Music
4:00 p.m. High School Worship Planning

Monday, January 29

9:00 a.m. Librarian– Library
2:00 p.m. Treasurers– Library
7:00 p.m. Monday Night Sunday School– Library

Tuesday, January 30

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting– Library
11:00 a.m. The Word This Week– Library
4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga– Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m. Mat Yoga– Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Adult Handbells– Westminster
7:00 p.m. YES Rehearsal– Choir room

Wednesday, January 31

7:00 a.m. Men's Book Study– Green Joe's
7:30 a.m. High School Morning Muffins– Panera
7:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study– Zoom

Thursday, February 1

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

Friday, February 1

5:30 p.m. KidsJam Movie Night

Sunday, February 4

Communion Sunday

9:30 a.m. Breakfast and the Bible– Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:15 a.m. C&Y– Youth Lounge
11:15 a.m. J&P– Library
2:00 p.m. Children's Music
5:00 p.m. Session Dinner
5:30 p.m. All Youth YoCo

BELLES OF LIBERTY



GENDER, BENNETT COLLEGE,
AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
IN GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

LINDA BEATRICE BROWN

Book Review & Author Visit

Dr. Linda Beatrice Brown

February 11 – Book Review

February 18 – Author Visit

11:15–12:15 Westminster Room



Sponsored by GPPC Justice & Peacemaking Committee

FREE YOGA CLASS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30 | FELLOWSHIP HALL

4 P.M. - CHAIR YOGA

5 P.M. - MAT YOGA PRACTICE



LED BY CATHERINE EAGLES

OPEN TO ALL AGES AND ABILITIES



Chili Cook-Off

**Sunday
February 25
6:00 P.M.**

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Scott Moore, Kenny Thompson, Ralph Lawrence, Jane Lawrence

Liturgist: Lisa Whisenant

Camera operator: Rick Cromer

Soundboard operator: Martha Higgins

Opening/Closing: Tim Peck/Ralph Lawrence

Flower Visitation: Gary and Julie Parker

Bread Delivery: Karen and Halstead McAdoo

FLOWERS ON THE LORD'S TABLE today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bonnie Cheshire Fulton, Ed's sister, by Ed and Kay Cheshire.

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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