Service of Worship | September 19, 2021

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Wilson, NC

First Christian Church at Worship

September 19, 2021

Gathering Music — Casey Childers, piano

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Gary Walling

Prelude — Casey Childers, organ

Theme and Variation I on "The Gift of Love" arr. Janet Linker

Call to Worship — Charles Cauley

Leader: We are called to love the Lord our God
People: We are called to love with all our heart and soul
Leader: We are called to love the Lord our God
People: We are called to love with all our mind and strength
Leader: We are called to love the Lord our God
People: And we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.
Leader: Come, let us love our God and share God's love in this time of worship!

Opening Hymn of Praise — CH #494 vs. 1,2,3

They Will Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land (refrain)

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: (refrain)

Sesquicentennial Psalm: **Psalm 143** Charles Cauley

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground, making me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds, I meditate on the works of your hands. I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit. Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Save me, O Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path. For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. In your righteousness bring me out of trouble. In your steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am your servant.

Common Prayer **Our Sesquicentennial Prayer** Charles Cauley

During our Sesquicentennial, Lord, shake the dust of 150 years from our church. Shake us hard. Consecrate us afresh – body, soul and spirit – to Your purposes. Lord, awaken us to the complacency of our old age. And set us free. Refresh in us Your ways and Your love. Raise up a passionate new generation in our church, Lord, to demonstrate for one another and for our neighbors your eternal Grace. With awe, wonder and love, we pray these things in the name of Christ. Amen.

Children's Moment Jeannette Etheridge

Pastoral Update Rev. Gary Walling

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn of Prayer ***O Lord, Hear My Prayer***

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.
O, Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Scripture **John 15:9-17** Charles Cauley

Sermon Rev. Gary Walling

At the Crossroads of Awe, Wonder and **LOVE**

Solo ***I Choose Love*** by Mark Miller Todd Brame, soloist

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

Offertory Casey Childers, organ

Variation II on "The Gift of Love" arr. Janet Linker

(During the offertory, feel free to bring forward your gifts and place them in the offering plates)

Blessing of the Gifts Rev. Gary Walling

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of the Elder Wanda Sutton

Words of Institution Rev. Gary Walling

Music for Communion

The Lord's Prayer — Rev. Gary Walling

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.

Benediction — Rev. Gary Walling

Postlude — Casey Childers, organ

Finale on "The Gift of Love" arr. Janet Linker

Call to Worship written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell
(re:Worship: Search results for Love (re-worship.blogspot.com)

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Sesquicentennial Month Mission Opportunities

Hearne Elementary School-Our goal is to collect 150 items to provide to the teachers and administrators.

Week of Compassion-Funds raised will provide relief to hurricane flooding victims and Afghan refugees

Music for Hope-Money and food items raised at the concert will support the ministry of Hope Station

Next Sunday, We Will Give Thanks to God for 150 Years of Awe, Wonder and Love That Has Been Lived Out at First Christian Church, Wilson

The Countdown Clock will be showing 000:00:00:00.

Let the celebration begin!

Join us for our Worship Service next Sunday morning at 10am – and bring a friend – as we reflect upon the journey we have been taken these last 150 days and begin to savor what lies ahead of us with God's leading. Together we will lift our voices in praise and prayer for all that has been and all that will be. In addition, two anthems which have been specially commissioned and written for the occasion will be unveiled. At the conclusion of the service, weather permitting, we will adjourn to the lawn to partake in light and safely wrapped pastries.

We have been waiting a long time for this day – maybe not 150 years, but a long time. Come be with us next Sunday.

Tithes and Offerings are received with Thanks and Gratitude
They may be left in the offering trays or may be sent to:
First Christian Church of Wilson, PO Box 2702, Wilson, NC 27894
Or to give online, go to:
www.fccwilson.org/giving-options
Text FCCWILSON to 73256

Welcome!

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today in person or online and hope the worship we share will prepare you for the coming week! We would be grateful if you would take a moment to provide contact information and/or feedback by email at seniorminister@fccwilson.org or calling the church office at 252-237-4125.

Prayer Concerns

Peggy Almond, Keith Brenner, Shane and Tammy Brewer, Ricky and Wanda Brown, Jack and Jackie Clifford, Jeannie Daniels' mother, Sue Ferrell, Robert Group (Kathleen Ujlaki's nephew), Larry Gunn (Dawn Gunn's husband), Wimpy Jefferson, Elaine Batts Percival, Issac Perry (Janice Whitehurst's father), Janet Robbins, Anna Jane Ruffin, JC Steelman (Theresa Mathis' father), Ron Taylor (former organist at FCC), AJ Walston, Sim Wooten (William Wooten's brother)

The 9th Annual Music for Hope Benefit Concert

On Friday, Sept. 24th at 7PM:, First Christian Church will host the Music for Hope Benefit Concert. It is coordinated by Casey Childers on behalf of our community musicians, to support the ministry of Hope Station! This concert will feature a wide array of musicians including: Christopher Pharo, organist at Calvary Episcopal Church in Tarboro; Amy Shortt, Director of Music at Lakeside Baptist Church in Tarboro; Elizabeth Winstead, owner of the Singers' Studio; Caleb Skinner and the West Nash UMC Choir; David Scott, saxophone and Andrew Childers, voice; Lauren Hong, vocalist; Dexter Ruffin, pianist and Matthew Joyner, voice and more! This event will close with a Mass Choir work entitled, "Love Has Broken Down the Wall". The concert will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel, First Christian Church of Wilson, NC.

Church Calendar

Today, September 19

11:00am Disciples Class (in the Parlor)
11:11 Small Group Book Study: Canoeing the Mountains
FCC Rocks available to be painted

Monday, September 20

11:00am Mobile Music Ministry: Home of Jack and Jackie Clifford

Tuesday, September 21

5:30pm Encounter Rehearsal
6:30pm Chancel Choir (Fellowship Hall)
7:00pm Sesquicentennial Readers

Thursday, September 23

6:30pm Elder's Meeting

Friday, September 24

7:00 pm Music for Hope Benefit Concert (livestreamed)

Sunday, September 26

10:00am Worship: Live and Livestream (also recorded for later viewing)
11:00am Disciples Class (in the Parlor)
11:11 Small Group Book Study

First Christian Church

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Website: www.fccwilson.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FCCWilson
Rev. Gary Walling ***Senior Minister***
Casey Childers ***Organist and Minister of Music***
Charles Cauley ***Interim Office Administrator***
Connie Farris ***Financial Secretary***