



North Raleigh Presbyterian Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020

11905 Strickland Rd
Raleigh, NC 27613
919-848-9529
northraleighpc.org
*a congregation of the
PC(USA)*



God, our source and our salvation,
in love you made us and by love you have
redeemed us. Make your love for us bear fruit in
our forgiveness of others, that in this life we may
know your all-embracing compassion and in the
world to come receive the everlasting joy of
fellowship you share with your Son, Jesus Christ,
and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The mission of North Raleigh Presbyterian Church is to be a
welcoming community serving Jesus Christ through
engaged discipleship.*

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our God is majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor,
and worthy of our highest praise.

All: Who is like the Lord?

One: Our God blew back the waters,
prepared a path through the sea,
and appeared as a pillar of fire
to light the pilgrim way.

All: Who is like the Lord?

One: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

**All: Let us sing to the Lord
who triumphs gloriously!
Let us worship God.**

HYMN 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we are quick to ask for grace
when we have fallen short, for patience when
we have stubbornly turned away from you.
Why are we slow to show the same mercy to
others? We keep track of wrongs and cling to

old hurts, rather than offering the forgiveness that could free others and ourselves. We strive to be more faithful, Lord; we want to be more loving. So, we kneel before you once again to ask for patience and grace. Transform us, we pray. Pour out your mercy upon us, until it flows forth from us through acts of love. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOOD NEWS

One: Friends, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are loved and accepted, forgiven and
freed!

All: Thanks be to God.

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING

EPISTLE READING

Romans 14:1-12

ANTHEM

I Will Arise
NRPC Choir

arr. Shaw/Parker

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:23-35

SHARING THE FAITH WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

SERMON

RESPONDING

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Confession of 1967, 9.14*

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP &

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

HYMN 445 *God, How Can We Forgive*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Processional From Oratorio*

'Judas Maccabeus'

GH Handel



Preacher: Lisa Hebacker

Liturgist: George Spransy & Brandon Melton

Music Leadership: Terri Nicotera

Pianist/Organist: Ju Hyun Kim

Tithes and offerings may be presented by mail
or by way of online giving
(click 'Give online' at northraleighpc.org).

NRPC NEWS AND EVENTS

DIGITAL CHURCH EDITION

Birthdays: Vernie Dove, 9/14; Debi Collins, 9/15;
Libby Fitzpatrick-Pena, 9/15; Adam Hayes, 9/15;
Will Collins, 9/16; Amy DeShong, 9/17; Linda McKinney, 9/18

Meeting of the Congregation There will be a called meeting of the congregation today to elect a slate of officers for the class of 2023 at 11:30am. NRPC members were mailed instructions for this meeting. Please contact the office at 919-848-9529 if you need assistance to join.

Youth Group for middle and high school ages will meet on select Sunday nights this fall. Join us today for our first gathering at 4:30pm outside at NRPC. Consult Friday News for details or contact Brandon Melton (BrandonMelton@nrleighpc.org).

Fall 2020 MAX (Music, Arts, and eXpression). MAX begins Wednesday, September 16th at 5:45pm. Watch Friday News for more details about each week's plans.

Campus Spruce-up. Please join the Buildings & Grounds team Saturday, September 19th at 8:30am to prepare NRPC's outdoor areas for use this fall! We will spruce up flower beds, spread mulch, pot mums, and complete various other tasks. Coffee, water, and goodies provided! Please bring a mask to wear while on campus. Hope to see you on the 19th! Contact Megan Livengood (MeganLivengood@yahoo.com).

Women's Bible Study will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (beginning Sept. 22) at 10:30 am via zoom. All women are invited to gather for this study of Matthew's gospel. Contact Candy Tedrick (ctedrick@att.net).

Men's Friday Bible Study meets Friday mornings, 7:00-8:00 am, via ZOOM. NRPC men gather for study, conversation and prayer. Their study is around the focus bible passage for the upcoming Sunday.

Contact Dick Christensen (christnr@aol.com).

Women's Spirituality Group will meet on the third Fridays, 10:00-11:00 am, NRPC Grounds. Join us Friday, September 18th. We'll gather beneath the trees of NRPC, consider the trees mentioned in the Bible, and mostly visit and pray together. Contact Lisa Hebacker (lisahebacker@nrleighpc.org).

Adult Sunday School Several adult classes and groups are meeting digitally and would welcome your joining them: Cornerstone, Pioneer and CSI have sessions online or virtual gatherings. If you are interested in joining or would like more information please contact Brandon Melton BrandonMelton@NRaleighpc.org.

NRPC Meal Ministry Our Meal Ministry of NRPC is part of the ministry of the Board of Deacons. This ministry provides a supply of frozen casseroles, soups, and stews to be stored in the church freezer. Please see the Friday news for more details.

Car Talk (NRPC Style) - Brandon and Lisa are glad to visit outdoors, by phone, or via e-mail. Please reach out directly or ask Caroline (919 848-9529 or office@nrleighpc.org) to schedule time to meet.

Worship videos help us gather for shared worship, even if we are not gathered in the same physical space. Light a candle, grab a bible (and hymnal, if you have one) and join us at vimeo.com/user109687503.

Prayer Ministry e-mails are distributed on Wednesdays. Send requests to BrandonMelton@NRaleighPC.org.

Parish Gatherings. NRPC Deacons are coordinating opportunities for parish groups to meet outdoors at church for brief worship/fellowship gatherings. Watch e-mail (and listen to v-mail) for your invitation to one of these gatherings.

Sacred Arts. Watch for invitations to submit photos, artwork or written material to foster our shared worship at NRPC.

THIS WEEK AT NRPC DIGITAL CHURCH EDITION

Sunday 9/13	6:00 AM	Worship Video delivery (V link via C)
	11:30 AM	Called Meeting of the Congregation (Z)
	4:30 PM	Youth Group (O)
Monday 9/14	8:00 AM	Sharing God's Story (C)
	6:30 PM	Deacon Meeting (Z)
Tuesday 9/15	4:15 PM	Staff Meeting (Z)
Wednesday 9/16		Prayer Ministry (C)
	5:45 PM	MAX (O)
Thursday 9/17		
Friday 9/18	7:00 AM	Men's Bible Study (Z)
	10:00 AM	Women's Spirituality (O)
	12:00 PM	Friday E-News distribution (C)
Saturday 9/19	8:30 AM	Campus Spruce Up (O)
Sunday 9/20	6:00 AM	Worship Video delivery (V link via C)

Legend:

V=Vimeo. All videos available at vimeo.com/user109687503

C=Constant Contact. E-mails delivered to your inbox. Subscribe on the homepage of our website at www.northraleighpc.org

Please note: you do not have to sign up again if you already receive the Friday news.

Z=ZOOM. Visit zoom.us for information or the app.

O= Outdoors

Ministers: All the Congregation

Pastor: Lisa Hebacker

LisaHebacker@nraleighpc.org

Assoc Pastor: Brandon Melton

BrandonMelton@nraleighpc.org

Director of Music: Terri Nicotera

TerriNicotera@msn.com

Church Organist: Ju Hyun Kim

Kimjuhyun81@gmail.com

Office: Caroline Parker

Office@nraleighpc.org

THE CONFESSION OF 1967

9.14 God's love never changes. Against all who oppose the divine will, God expresses love in wrath. In the same love, God bore judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring all people to repentance and new life.

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal

which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more

sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-

where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

445 God, How Can We Forgive

1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an-guish flow,
 3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,

How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?

When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

This text reflects both the struggle to deal with a deep personal hurt and a keen awareness of biblical language and content. The opening line of stanza two, for example, draws on the root meaning of the Greek word for sin, and the beginning of stanza three alludes to John 8:3-8.