

# Worship Guide for Sunday, November 8, 2020 | 10:00 am

Watch live on [NPC's Facebook Page](#).

## PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

Cliff Brock

This is the day the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. David Jones

**Welcome** | Please let us know that you are tuned in. Please leave a message in the comments thread. All may view the Worship Guide at [www.newnanpres.org](http://www.newnanpres.org) if you wish to follow along.

**Thanksgiving** | God blesses us generously and it is out of this abundance that we are able to give to the operation and mission of the church. We give thanks for the hospitality that is a part of this congregation. Our families who have experienced loss are supported through visits and prepared meals. Committees and teams dedicated to hospitality help to host funeral services. Thank you for your continued support of NPC's hospitality.

**Outreach Opportunity** | This November we are assisting One Roof with Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes. For \$40, One Roof can purchase items to feed Thanksgiving dinner to a family in need. Because of their excellent buying power, they are asking for financial donations. Make checks payable to NPC and designate them for One Roof/Dinner Boxes. You may also give online through Realm.

**Hubbard Fund Endowment Fund** | The Hubbard Endowment Fund was established in 2012 through a generous gift by Bill and Linda Hubbard. Over the past eight years, the trustees, upon approval by the Session, have disbursed approximately \$125,000 from the fund for various ministry needs and opportunities. We are pleased to report the fund has had a net increase in value of \$47,000 since inception based on solid financial investment gains. *(Continued on Page 7.)*

OPENING PRAYER

As we prepare for a time of worship, we breathe in God's mercy...  
And breathe out God's mercy to others...

HYMN 347 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, vv. 1 & 3

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Tyler Brock

Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus and his righteousness. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin that we might find forgiveness and new life in Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and gracious God,  
you are all light and wonder and glory.  
You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live.  
Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more.  
Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness.**

**Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you.  
Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace,  
for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good.  
In the name of Jesus we pray...**

*We keep a moment of silence for personal confession.*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: Nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Believe the gospel! We are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

#### RECEIVING THE PEACE

Jesus tells us, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." In this time, let peace reign in our hearts as we strive to live out God's will. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

#### A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Darcie Jones

#### GLORIA 585 Glory to God

*Cantor: Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!*

*ALL: **Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!***

*Cantor: To God be glory forever!*

*ALL: **To God be glory forever!***

*Cantor: Alleluia, Amen!*

*ALL: **Alleluia, Amen!***

### ***LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD***

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, to whom should we go? You have the words of eternal life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, speak to us of your promises that we might hear your truth and enjoy you forever; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

#### NEW TESTAMENT

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

"Grieving with Hope"

"We live in the shadow of death, but we wait for the dawn. We grieve, but not as others do, for we are the people of hope." Bryan Erickson is the pastor of Trinity United Methodist in Birmingham, AL and he writes these words in his short commentary on this passage. What does it mean for Christians who not only wait for the dawn but have seen the promise of dawn rise from the dust of the crucifixion? We have heard it said, we have read it, and even if we struggle

to believe directly in Jesus being raised from the dead, we believe that God alone is the author of life and death and for our God, death is but a transition from this world into life eternal. Paul tells us in this letter to the church in Thessalonica that we must not grieve as others do, as those who have no hope. For, of course, we have hope. Our hope does not rely on death being pain-free or that the separation from our loved ones is not devastating. Rather, our hope relies on the assurance that despite the pain of loss and separation, we are ultimately united with each other and with Christ.

Last week was All Saints' Sunday. We held up during that service, the names and memories of Christians who have gone on before us into the Church Triumphant, who have crossed the Jordan, who have gained their eternal reward, who now reside in God's everlasting arms. Choose the comforting words that work best for you, but the blessed assurance remains that Jesus is not just mine or yours, but also theirs. Their death does not change our trust that they belong to Christ. This is in part what Paul is addressing in this letter. Now, we must remember to take care when reading Paul's letters as each one of them from Romans to 1 Thessalonians is a reply to a specific set of questions, anxieties, or struggles in the life of a specific community of believers.

Paul, in his response to these believers, wants to put their minds at ease, that their loved ones who have died will not miss out on the joy of Christ's return. Paul and every other Christian of his time believed that Christ would return any day to enact a final judgment separating the sheep from the goats, the righteous from the wicked and establish once and for all God's kingdom here on earth. The Thessalonians took this so seriously that Paul has to convince them not to quit their jobs. Paul reminds them that despite our belief in Christ's imminent return, the fact remains that we know not the day nor the hour. So even as Paul comforts them in their grief, he is reminding them that there is yet work with which to engage.

This is the paradox in which all Christians live. We are assured of our salvation in Christ and yet, that same faith compels us to live an ethical and godly, compassionate life. Assured of our salvation, our work is far from over. Instead of languishing in the accomplishment of accepting the truth of God's love for us, the real work of repentance begins. This work is our grateful response to the grace God has shown each of us. For the Thessalonians, there is no need to wallow in sorrow or worry over the fate of their lost loved ones. Paul assures them that in fact those lost will be the first to celebrate Christ's ultimate victory. And quickly after, those who are left working to bring about God's kingdom will be joined with those already gone, unified in Christ.

In the death of a loved one, most of the grief for us Christians is not worry over pain or eternity. The pain comes from the loss of this cherished relationship's future. Right now, I can point to the years ahead with my mom or my siblings, my wife or my children and I expect their presence and our interaction to shape my life, impact my decisions. They matter to me and they influence my decisions. They inspire me to be a better man, a better husband, father, sibling, son. And those of you in this congregation. We have a future together and your presence, your hopes, fears, and desires as a community influence my actions as your pastor. I care what happens to you and I believe that you care what happens to me. Because of this, we march forward together.

Our lives are made more complete because we are in them together. When one of these relationships in our lives is lost, the grief is about the loss of hope for what comes next. Because there is no more earthly hope. The relationship doesn't progress beyond this endpoint. This ending of relationships has the possibility, if we forget our unity in Christ in life and in death, to sink us. What I mean is that we can get so caught up in the loss of a relationship that we struggle to move forward in hope. This is what Paul is warning us about. We are not uninformed and so we must grieve as people who hope. I am convinced that death is not the worst separator of relationships. And I am worried that in churches and communities all over our country, we have allowed earthly politics to be a larger divider of relationships than even death.

In our state of Georgia, our national election is as razor thin as we've ever seen it. We are headed to two...two runoff elections. That is how evenly divided we are, just in our state. How

many democrats were grieving on Wednesday morning at the looming loss of the presidential election. How many republicans are grieving this morning as it looks like they will in fact lose the presidential election? How many of you in these pews and in your homes are among these republican and democratic voters riding this roller coaster of political desire? How many of us are already grieving the relationships we will lose when we find out for whom our neighbor or our coworker or our fellow church member or our family member voted?

Paul tells the Thessalonians and by extension each of us that we must grieve as those who hope. In the case of our national atmosphere, we must hold on to that same hope that unity in Christ is not only still possible, but up to us to cultivate. I said this last Sunday that no matter what happened in the election, God remains on the throne. This is still true, even as many among us grieve a loss and fear for the future. Even as many of us celebrate a victory and believe in a better future. The paradox of our faith is still true. We grieve not as others do, but as ones who have hope. The assurance of our salvation in Christ remains. All that is left is our grateful response. So may we all grieve together at relationships that may be fractured because of politics. But may we grieve as those who have hope. Hope in Christ that his love and grace for us will compel us to continue the hard work of healing together all that is broken in each one of us. Remember that we live in the shadow of death, but we don't just wait for the dawn, we work for the dawn. Let the work begin.

*A time of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

SERMON HYMN 840 When Peace Like a River, vv. 1 & 4

***When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.***

Refrain: ***It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.***

***Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.*** (Refrain)

## ***RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD***

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.**

ANTHEM

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

lyrics: Frances Havergal | music: Cliff Brock

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.*

*Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.*

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kate Caswell's father, Carl Miller, is hospitalized in Macon.  
Martin & Sharon Harmon, Martin's ongoing cancer treatment  
Kimberly Dickens and family, friend of NPC, return of cancer

Let us pray for the needs of the world, responding to Eternal God, with "hear our prayer."

God of life, you created the world and called it good. In Jesus Christ you came to redeem us; his resurrection is our promise of eternal life. By the power of your Spirit you claim us, strengthen us, and prepare us to live with you in glory. In sure and certain hope, we pray for your world, that we may live into your coming reign of justice and peace.

For the church, wherever it thrives and wherever it struggles—  
keep us faithful to your gospel. . . .

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who govern—grant them wisdom and a commitment to justice. . . .

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For planet Earth—heal its wounds and make us better stewards of its wonders and gifts. . . .

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are dying—calm all fears and welcome them into your peace. . . .

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer from anxieties and ills—give them relief. . . .

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who endure the days and nights without food or shelter—feed and protect them. . . .

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer in silence—comfort those who carry secret sorrows. . . .

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

For all who seek your face . . .

Eternal God, **hear our prayer.**

With thanks that you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, we entrust all of life to you, gracious God, our Alpha and Omega, our only hope in life and in death; through Jesus Christ, who taught us to say, praying...

#### 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.**

## **GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S WORD**

HYMN 475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, v. 3

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

### **BENEDICTION**

May the grace of Christ surround you, the love of God uphold you,  
and the Holy Spirit spark you with unquenchable fire  
as you wait and work for the kingdom to come. **Amen.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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### **CALENDAR**

#### **Sunday, November 8**

10:00 am      Worship, Sanctuary  
11:00 am      Worship Ministry Meeting, Hannah Fellowship  
6:00 pm      High School Youth, Barrow Hall

#### **Monday, November 9**

6:00 pm      Nar-Anon Family, Youth Room

#### **Tuesday, November 10**

10:00 am      Staff Meeting  
6:00 pm      SOS Circle, Barrow Hall  
6:00 pm      Middle School Youth, Hannah Fellowship

#### **Wednesday, November 11**

5:30 pm      Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
7:00 pm      Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

#### **Thursday, November 12**

6:00 pm      Worship, Sanctuary

#### **Friday, November 13**

5:30 pm      AA Meeting, Hannah Fellowship

#### **Saturday, November 14**

9:00 am      Girl Scout Event, Barrow Hall

#### **Sunday, November 15**

10:00 am      Worship, Sanctuary  
12:00 noon      Confirmation Class, Barrow Hall  
6:00 pm      High School Youth, Barrow Hall

GIVING REPORT	Giving 2020	Giving 2019
Pledged	\$354,317.94	\$341,610.90
Unpledged	\$24,889.00	\$57,078.49
Total	\$379,206.94	\$398,689.39



Members and visitors alike, please plan to give today in whatever way you are able either [Online through Realm](#), through your bank account, using the QR code or by mailing a check to the church. Thank you for your generosity.

**Christmas Eve Worship Survey** | If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete the survey linked below. We are interested in your plans to attend worship on Christmas Eve. You may also contact the Church Office at 770-253-4405 or by emailing at [npcadmin@newnanpres.org](mailto:npcadmin@newnanpres.org) to indicate your preferences.

[CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SURVEY](#)

**Hubbard Fund Endowment Fund Report** *continued...*

The purpose of the fund as outlined in the By-laws is to disperse monies on an annual basis for use above and beyond what is traditionally provided by the normal operating budget. Allocations are to be as follows:

- For use by the Youth Ministry in programs to enhance the Christian nurture of our youth
- For use by the Property Ministry for upkeep, maintenance, repair and replacement of property
- And, for other uses by any Ministry as selected by the Trustees

Over the past 8 years, funds have been used to support many important programs and projects across most of our Ministries. Some of these include youth retreats and outings, Merida mission outreach, refurbishment of the Session room, enhancements to the Cornerstone Garden, paraments for the sanctuary, sound system for Barrow Hall, Christian education materials, new phone system, and family retreats.

In 2020, although all funds have not been used due the pandemic, a record level of funding at \$22,500 was approved and will be used moving forward. The funding went to the Youth Ministry to attend the Merida mission trip and various other local activities; Property Ministry for replacing an AC unit in pre-school area and new furniture for Associate Pastor's office; Worship Ministry for a seminar for our hand bell choir director and sanctuary banners; Outreach Ministry for building materials for Merida; and Communications Ministry for a camera to enhance video streaming in the sanctuary.

We are accepting applications for funding requests for 2021 between now and year-end. If you have thoughts on a project or program, please reach out to one of the elders to let them know. We look forward to seeing how the Hubbard Endowment Fund will assist Newnan Presbyterian Church in our mission to Glorify God not only next year but for many years to come.

*Tim Bowyer, Paul Ellen, and Winn Wise  
Trustees, Hubbard Endowment Fund*