



SHARON PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Dr. Rob Blumer: Senior Pastor
Rev. Ron Nelson: Associate Pastor
Dr. David Tang: Director of Music
Martin Pruitt: Director of Youth

Sharon Presbyterian Church † 5201 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210
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Third Sunday of Easter

Assembling In God's Name

May 5, 2019

10:30 am

Prelude

Angelus

Jules Massenet

Trinity Chimes

Call to Prayer

The choir offers this Call to Prayer as a response to this week's tragic shooting at UNCC.

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

African-American Spiritual / Arr. Hogan

We shall walk in peace.

We shall walk through the valley in peace. For Jesus Himself will be our leader. We shall walk through the valley in peace.

We will meet our loved ones there. For Jesus Himself will be our leader.

We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no sorrow there. For Jesus Himself will be our leader.

We shall walk through the valley in peace.

Vocal Ensemble

* Call to Worship

based on Psalm 30

Leader: O Lord our God, we praise you.

People: We cried to you for help and you answered us.

ALL: You have restored our lives; you have rescued us from the grave.

* Prayer of Confession (All)

Lord God, in the light of your glory we see the evil we have done, the suffering we have caused, the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied. Heal us of our sin, wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace, so that we may follow your way and tell the good news of the gospel. Amen.

(Continue Silent Prayers of Confession)

* Assurance of Pardon based on Psalm 30:11
Leader: Rise up from the dust! Cast off the shroud of sorrow and put on the joy of the Lord.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
ALL: Thanks be to God.

* Gloria Patri (All) Hymn No. 581
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People and 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.

Reception of New Members 2019 Confirmands
Lowell Barefoot, Grace Busby, Max Doak, Jay Knepp, Alyssa Micheau and Carter Pesta

Greet Neighbors (Please sign and pass the friendship pads at this time)

* Hymn, No. 687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Proclaiming God's Word

Time with Young Children

Nursery Care: Children under 4 are invited to the Nursery in Rooms 3-5 of the Charles Little Activity Building. **Wiggling Worshipers:** Children who are not yet ready to sit through "big church" (4 to 6) are invited to attend a separate worship service just for children. They will be escorted from the Sanctuary immediately following the Children's Sermon by adult volunteers holding the "Children's Church" sign on the right hand side of the Sanctuary. Parents should meet their children in classroom #301, located in the Barbara Ward Building, or on the playground, after worship.

Wiggling Worship Leader for today is Danelle Martin.

MUSIC NOTE: Today's anthem text is based in large part on Psalm 25 and is a fitting exhortation to today's communicants, especially when the congregation joins the communicants in spiritual solidarity for the journey they are about to undertake

Anthem

Teach Me Your Ways, O Lord

Larson, Psalm 25; Hughes, Larson

Teach me your ways, O Lord, teach me your ways. Guide me in truth, O God, show me, I pray.
You are the God of my salvation; My hope in ev'ry situation. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Good and upright are you, Lord,
you guide the humble by your word while teaching right from wrong.
Help me walk the path aright, more by faith and less by sight. You are my strength and song!

THE CONGREGATION IS ASKED TO SING:

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrims through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me 'til I want no more; feed me 'til I want no more.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee!

Chancel Choir

Scripture Lesson

Acts 9:1-20

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

"The Gospel at Risk"

Dr. Rob Blumer

Living into God's Word

* Affirmation of Faith (All) 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.

Worship with Tithes and Offering
Offertory

Serenity

Roger C. Wilson

* Doxology

Hymn, No. 606

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below;
praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* Prayer of Dedication

Going in God's Name

* Hymn, No. 720

Jesus Calls Us

* Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Trumpet Recessional on "Hanover"

Franklin Ashdown

* All who are able may stand

Today's Worship Leaders: Dr. Rob Blumer, *Senior Pastor*; Rev. Ron Nelson, *Associate Pastor*; David Tang, *Director of Music*; Martin Pruitt, *Director of Youth Programming*; R. Lance Burnette, *Organist*

Please see an usher for hearing aids and large print Bibles, hymnals and bulletins. Children's Bible storybooks are available in the narthex for use during worship.

We extend a very warm welcome to all of our guests today. We hope you feel you are truly a part of the family of faith and will visit again. Please sign the Friendship pad when it is passed down the pew. If you are seeking a church home in this community and would like to discuss uniting with Sharon Presbyterian, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad, speak to a pastor at the conclusion of the service, or contact the church office. We are delighted you are here!

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of wedding anniversaries of Myra and Pete Rounds and Megan and Jason Talley.

Congratulations to Billy and Hannah Morse in the birth of a daughter, Ellis Leigh Morse, who was born on April 14, 2019

Deepest sympathy is extended to Tricia Platts in the death of her father, Troy Martin, who died on April 23, 2019.

Please remember in prayer: *in the hospital:* Josie Tiller (St. Jude); *recently discharged from the hospital:* Emily Houpt, Mary Baker (White Oak of Rock Hill); *those at home:* Sylvia Burke, Carol Ann Allen, Ray Shrum, Tricia Davis (Sharon Towers Health Care), Darie Lapp, Starr Bennett, Roger Suiter (Sharon Towers Health Care), Chris Price, Cheryl Davis, Grier Stanford, Jimmy Blanchard (Elaine Eichler's brother), The Robson Family (Weekday School family), and our homebound members; Jeremy and Luta Garbat-Welch (PCUSA Missions in Malawi); Our Mission Partners in Peru; Chenoa Stock and José Luis Claure (PCUSA Missions in Peru). The prayer list is reset on the second Monday of each month. To submit or resubmit a prayer request, please contact Ron Nelson (ron@sharonpcusa.org). By request, prayer concerns may remain private and will not appear in the published list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you have any feedback you would like to share with our church's Facilities Subcommittee? Have you noticed a light out, a leaking faucet, or a limb hanging in a tree? If you know of an issue, please help us to be aware so that we can make plans to address the matter. Simply send an email to spcfacilities@sharonpcusa.org, and we will follow up. Thanks for helping us to be good stewards of the buildings and land with which God has blessed us!

INVITE

Just Jesus: From Social Justice to Social Change *Sunday, May 5th, Myers Park Baptist, 6:30 pm; Monday, May 6th, Myers Park Presbyterian, 6:30 pm*

Join us for a public lecture exploring the importance of converting a passion for social justice into a movement for social change, featuring Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon and Rev. Jim Wallis. The program is sponsored by Union Presbyterian Seminary's Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation. Dr. Blackmon will give the first lecture **May 5th at Myers Park Baptist Church**, located at 1900 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC, across the street from Queens University. The lecture will take place in the **sanctuary, starting at 6:30 pm**. Following the lecture, a reception will be held at the church. Rev. Wallis will give the second lecture on **May 6th at Myers Park Presbyterian Church**, at 2501 Oxford Place, Charlotte. This lecture will take place in the **sanctuary, starting at 6:30 pm**. Following the lecture, a reception will be held in the church's Welcome Center. For more information, contact Dr. Rodney Sadler at rsadler@upsem.edu

Summer League Softball - June-August, Mondays & Fridays, 6:15 pm, Ball Field

Join us for a little exercise and friendly rivalry amongst the South Charlotte Softball league, about 30 teams from all denominations. The registration fee is \$50 and the minimum age is sixteen.

Hurry, registration deadline is May 15th. Anyone interested contact Keith Mason at hk.mason@cms.k12.nc.us or 704-458-7813.

Sharon Presbyterian Weekday School Spring Fundraiser

Thursday, May 16th, 5-7 pm, Playground

Please join us for a fun night as we enjoy the new playground, and visit with SPWS families. We will have a bounce house and a food truck. Bring a blanket if you plan to picnic!

Next Steps Gathering – Sunday, May 19th, 9:30 am, Chapel

Come to a Next Steps Gathering and find out how to get involved in the life of the church. You will also have the opportunity meet other newcomers and some not-so-newcomers. Join us for a campus Tour. What is the Gathering Room, and where is the gym? Did you know that we have a seminary, counseling center, and weekday school program on our campus? Wear or bring some comfortable walking shoes as we explore our campus. We love little ones and will be providing a nursery in the gym building for newborns through age 4. For more information or to RSVP, contact Rev. Ron Nelson at 704-553-0869 or ron@sharonpucua.org.

Brownie Troop Parent Information Meeting

Sunday, May 19th, 11:45 am, Parlor

Please join us for “What it means to be a Girl Scout”. We will start with a light lunch in the gym, followed by a meeting in the Parlor to share all that is great about Girl Scouts! There will be a presentation about Girl Scouting followed by a Q & A session. Plan to bring your daughter with you to enjoy some exciting Girl Scout activities with a group of graduating seniors from Girl Scout Troop 1460; a troop that has been sponsored by Sharon Presbyterian Church for the past thirteen years. For more information contact Sherry Meacham at sherryomeacham@gmail.com.

Sonatas and Rhapsodies – Sunday, May 19th, 4 pm, Sanctuary

Come out and enjoy an afternoon of classical music right here in our sanctuary!

Our own Dennis Anderson will perform a clarinet recital with Dr. Greg Thompson, and special guest artist Hubert “Tex” Arnold, composer and pianist. Works by Debussy, Brahms, Bernstein and more will be featured. **Admission is free!** We sincerely hope you’ll be able to attend and support this labor of love.

Vacation Bible School – August 12th – 16th, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm, Entire Campus

Join Sharon Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School as we go on an epic African adventure that engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids will explore God’s goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. To sign up, visit <http://bit.ly/spcvbs2019>. For additional questions, contact Lauren Wheatley at 803-312-1073 or lauren.c.wheatley@gmail.com.

TEACH

Wednesday Bible Study – *Wednesdays now – May 22nd, 9:30 am, Gathering Room 202*

Our Wednesday morning Women’s Bible Study will begin a new study on “The Miracles of Jesus” by Jessica LaGrone. We invite members and friends to join us each Wednesday for this 6 week study. Participant Guides are available at www.christianbook.com or www.amazon.com. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Howie at chowie723@gmail.com or 704-578-3350.

Sharon Presbyterian Weekday School Summer Camp: Active Fun!

July 9th thru August 1st, 9:25 am-12:50 pm

SPWS is excited to host our annual summer camp. Join us every **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday** as we explore our world through *Active Fun*. We will have tons of summer activities, crafts and more! New this year – we have extended our pick up to 12:50 pm and students will eat lunch at school. Parents will pack lunches and we will not have mid-day snacks. For registration forms, visit our website at www.sharonpcusa.org/preschool or contact Jennifer Hulighan, Weekday School Director, at spws@sharonpcusa.org.

Children and Youth Music Program

Sundays; Chapel Room 302

Please note that rehearsals will not be held Sunday, May 5th and Sunday, May 12th

Grace Notes 11:45 am until 12:15 pm

Full Measure 4:30 to 5:30 pm

Please contact Kristine “Kiki” Neale if you have questions or need more information lesneales@yahoo.com.

Children and youth Sunday School Class Schedule

Unit 5: May 12

Kindergarten through seventh grade will meet in classrooms upstairs in the Chapel. High School youth meets in Gym Room 1.

SERVE

Red Cross Bloodmobile – *May 12th, 8:30 am -1:00 pm, Gym*

We would like to encourage everyone who can give blood to join us! We will be signing up donors before and after services in the narthex on April 28th and May 5th, or you can call Letty or Dave Latta at 704-321-3420. Giving blood is a way to improve or save someone’s life and you can make that difference!

Mother's Day Flower Arrangement

On Mother's Day, May 12, the flower arrangement will be in honor/memory of mothers. Each name is \$2.00. Please mail, deliver, or place your money/check with the form in the offering plate by Sunday, May 5. Make your check payable to Sharon Presbyterian Church and designate for Mother's Day Arrangement. The names of donors and those being honored/remembered will be listed on Mother's Day, May 12. Any money collected over the cost of the arrangement will be given to the Sharon Presbyterian Church Weekday School.



Mother's Day Flower Arrangement

My name & phone: _____

| In Memory Of | Given By |
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| In Honor Of | Given By |
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The 2019 Confirmation Class

Richard Lowell Barefoot, III; son of Stella and Rich Barefoot

Grace Kathlyn Busby, daughter of Rachel and Taylor Busby

Maxwell Greer Doak, son of Marcy and Travis Doak

James Dennis Knepp, son of Amanda and Jim Knepp,

Alyssa Tate Micheau, daughter of Kathy and Michael Micheau

Carter David Pesta, son of Joni Pesta

Confirmand Faith Statements

Lowell Barefoot

I believe that God is our Lord and Savior and He created all so we owe Him our life. I believe that God has endless love for each and every single human. God created all so He doesn't have to provide us with salvation yet He loves us so much that he still does. He listens to all of us and cares for us. God uses the bad things in our life to greater our faith and relationship with Him. I believe that Jesus was sent to the earth by God to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus is the physical representation of God the Father. When Jesus first came to earth He came as the lamb, and when He comes back He will be the lion and everyone will know that Christ is real and has risen. When Jesus was on the earth the Jews wanted Him as their physical king to destroy Rome, but He was here to be their spiritual king and guide them through their walk with Christ. I know that the Holy Spirit works in miraculous ways and is always with us through the bad and good things in life to guide us in our spiritual walk with the Lord. I believe that the church is a sanctuary where people come together and bring friendship, kindness, and love for each other. Above all that I believe that the church is a place for worship. I know that the Presbyterian core values are worship together and friendship. To me the Presbyterian Church is a community brought together by God. My faith is very important to me. I think that it signifies who I am and how I act. I believe my duty as a Christian is to have a Christ-like character to lead others to Christ. Christians should love one another despite their differences and their story because in the end God made us all.

Grace Busby

God is the Heavenly Father who watches over everyone. He loves me and everyone else in the world no matter what. God also forgave us of our sin. I know him from the Bible, songs, and his miracles, and he knows me. I believe Jesus is the mighty son of God and is the Messiah of God's people. I believe he was crucified on the cross and rose from the dead 3 days later. He loved all people big and small and is very caring and kind. He believed in the act of doing good things instead of just thinking them. To me, my faith means following God's word, believing in him, and trusting him. As a Christian, I should be doing God's work, spreading his ideas, and in general being a positive member of my community. I will bring his word with me and share it wherever I go, as it will remind me of how I should live my life.

Max Doak

I believe in God who created all things in this world, and God is Lord of all. I believe God sent His son Jesus to earth as a human to teach us about God. Jesus was crucified and died for our sins, and he was raised from the dead. I believe we are to follow in Jesus' footsteps by spreading the word of God, loving, and helping others. I believe the Bible is where we learn about God and how God wants us to live our lives today. The church is a place where we go and worship God with other people. For me, faith is knowing that God is always there for me. I know God watches over me and forgives me for my sins. God provides for me every day, and I am able to grow closer to God through the daily events of my life. I believe God gives everything a purpose in life, and my purpose is to love others and help spread the word of God.

Jay Knepp

I believe that God created everything and rested on the 7th day. God created us in his image, loves us more than we deserve and listens to my prayers.
I believe that Jesus is the Messiah...the son of God who died on the cross for our sins and I know he will come again. His name has power.
I believe in the Holy Trinity and know that the Holy Spirit is a part of it along with God the Father and God the Son...where all parts are equally important.
I believe a church is not just a building...but the feeling and the community inside that building. And when we get to take communion, the bread and wine are symbols of Jesus' blood and flesh. And even though we are already forgiven when we sin, we should apologize so that God knows we know that we have done wrong.
God *knows* us, he *loves* us and wants us to love him back and my *duty* as a Christian is to show respect for God and Jesus in whatever I do.

Alyssa Micheau

I believe that God is my guide through the rough times and leads me to do the right thing. Church and the bible tells me about God and how to follow God. I believe he has a plan for everyone including me. God's plan for me is to be the best person I can possibly be and to help spread his name and lead others to do good.

I believe in the father, the son, and the Holy Ghost. I believe that God is the father, Jesus is the son, and the Holy Ghost is the spirit of Christianity that is always around us and that leads us to the right thing. I believe that the father, the son, and the Holy Ghost are three different things, but they all come from the same source which is God. I believe that Jesus came to save us from our sins. Before Jesus came, the world was full of sin. Jesus was sent by God in order to save us from our sins. Jesus died on the cross for us to cleanse the world of our sins.

My duty as a Christian is to live in God's name and to spread the light of Christianity as much as possible. I feel that being a part of a church will open me up to more opportunities and allow me to grow and improve in my faith. I believe that the Presbyterian Church fits me and my faith because it is more engaging to me and my style of learning. I believe that someone who doesn't go to church can still be a Christian but I also believe that having a good church community is a good source of many opportunities. At Sharon Presbyterian, I am offered with so many amazing opportunities that help me grow as a Christian.

Throughout my confirmation journey I have learned so much about how important it is to have a good relationship with God. I believe this is a perfect opportunity for me to further my relationship with God and become a passionate member of our church.

Carter Pesta

I believe Jesus was God's son and I feel that God loves us with all of our faults. And that He gave us his son to help us believe. When I was younger, I used to pray to God for answers. God doesn't give us answers. He gives us strength and the ability to try and find them on our own. We are not always successful or understand what he is trying to say to us. We just need to have faith in Him. And as a Christian I believe my duty is to help other people believe as well.