SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
7th Sunday after Easter
May 21, 2023
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Time for quiet prayer and meditation . . .
"Be still and know that I am God."

We Come Before God in Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" arr. Davis

* Call to Worship

L: Praise the Lord!
Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!
P: Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!
L: Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!
P: For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with salvation.
(Psalm 149:1-4)

* Hymn "Guide Me, O Great Jehovah" No. 65

* Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess our sinfulness,
our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we are shamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.
Forgive our sins,
and help us to live in your light
and to walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

* Gloria Patri 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.

Recognition and Blessing of High School Seniors (11:00 a.m.)

Prayer for Children
(Ages K3-K5 may leave for Children's Church)

Little ones to Him belong:
Lord Jesus, bless our children. Amen.

God Gives to Us Through His Word

Anthem (11:00 a.m.) "Because the Lord Is My Shepherd"
Adult Choir arr. Carmichael

Scripture Lesson Luke 19:11-27

Sermon The Gospel of Luke Dr. Seel
LXII. When He Returned, Having Received the Kingdom

We Respond to God's Word

* Hymn "O Jesus, I Have Promised" No. 724

* Apostles' Creed (Unison)

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.

Call to Prayer (11:00 a.m.) "Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying"
Adult Choir Medema

Prayers of the People and 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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Jesus Loves Me" arr. Bock

* Doxology and Prayer of Dedication 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.

* Hymn "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" No. 744

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response "Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole"

In your love, make us whole. May we rest in your compassion.
Calm the lost, weary soul in the warmth of your love.
May your peace fill our hearts. May we know the love of Jesus.
By your grace, you console. Make us holy, make us whole.

* Postlude "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" arr. Hopson

** Congregation Stands*

Please write your request, tear off this form, fold, and place in the offering plate.

PRAYER REQUESTS
The Tuesday Morning Prayer Group meets each week at 10:00 a.m. to pray for the EPC family and any other special needs.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Name and date: (optional)

_____
(These are kept confidential!)

WELCOME TO VISITORS

If you are visiting today, we would like you to know that it is a privilege to have you with us. It is our hope that you will find a warm welcome and an atmosphere to worship God.

We would love a record of your visit. Please fill out the following and place in the offering plate when passed.

_____
Name

_____
Address

_____
Phone Number

_____
Email Address

☐ 1st Time Visit

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Given in memory of my mother, Dorothy Hagood Grantham, on her birthday, by Dottie Grantham. She was a fine role model, one which inspires me every day.

Staying Connected

Church information can be found on our website and in our weekly Connect emails. Please contact the church office if you are not receiving these very important emails.

NEW INFORMATION???

Do you have a new phone number? New email address? Any changes in your family's information?

To help keep the church's records current, please fill out the form below and return it in the offering plate, call us at 859-4220, or E-mail the office: *dicie@easleypresbyterian.org*.

Name:

_____

New Information:

_____

_____

Thank You!

NURSERY STAFF

Victoria Rose Brock, Valerie Brock, & Lindsey McAlister

CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS TODAY

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Ginna Lister

SAFE PLACE MONITOR

David Owen

MAY USHERS

9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Eric Dillon, Head	Michael Baker, Head
Melanie Branham, Asst.	Melissa Wilbanks, Asst.

SOUND & LIGHT	VIDEO
Roger Kilpatrick	John Franks

Member News

We express Christian love and sympathy to Sue Kavanagh in the death of her brother, Scott McFie, who died on May 13, 2023.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. William P. Seel, ***Pastor***
Ext. 2014, bill@easleypresbyterian.org
Rev. Dr. Christie S. Gravely, ***Associate Pastor for Congregational Life & Care***
Ext. 2027, christie@easleypresbyterian.org
Rev. John DuBose, ***Associate Pastor for Youth & Missions***
Ext. 2036, john@easleypresbyterian.org
Ginna Lister, ***Director of Christian Education***
Ext. 2030, ginna@easleypresbyterian.org
Robert Norris, ***Director of Music***
Ext. 2023, robert@easleypresbyterian.org
Marianne Norris, ***Organist***
mariannenorris2012@yahoo.com
Phyllis Sams, ***Preschool Director***
Ext. 2016, phyllis@easleypresbyterian.org
Jonene Garrett, ***Church Secretary***
Ext. 2010, jonene@easleypresbyterian.org
Cynde Whitmire, ***Christian Education Secretary***
Ext. 2022, cynde@easleypresbyterian.org
Dicie Thompson, ***Financial Secretary***
Ext. 2012, dicie@easleypresbyterian.org
Tony Brock, ***Building Superintendent***
Ext. 2035

CHURCH OFFICERS

Session

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Floride Caldwell	Gregg Branham	Carolyn Brice
Paul Cook	Karen Cooper	Barry Brock
John Cutchin	Phil Darity	Meg Jewell
Joel Ledbetter	Dennis Latham	Kelvin Kearse
Kathy Lyles	Wilma Shealy	Dan Nunnery
Robert Sams	Scott Wilbanks	Monty Oxendine

Diaconate

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Britt Burnett	Melanie Branham	Michael Baker
Dustin Coats	John Dockery	Lori Brock
Lucas Durham	Eric Goodwin	Eric Dillon
Chad Lister	Mary Ann Merritt	Candice Ledbetter
Greg Lucas	David Owen	Annie Rossley
Melissa Wilbanks	Stephen Roach	Brad Wilson

Trustees

Dexter Rogers	David Whittemore	Jack Brock

Easley Presbyterian Church

May 21, 2023

200 South 1st Street—Easley, SC 29640-2934
864/ 859-4220 (Office)
www.easleypresbyterian.org

Recognition and Blessing of Our High School Graduates

Introduction of Graduates & Presentation of ESV Study Bibles

Litany of Recognition

Leader: You have grown up here on the stories of God.
We have told them to you, sung them to you, acted them out —
hoping to teach them to you;
and, in turn, with gratitude,
we have listened to you tell them to us, sing them, act them out —
teaching us in return.

People: **We have prayed for you more than you know,**
both in frequency and in urgency.
Amidst our prayers, we give thanks for you continually.
And today we celebrate your achievement,
with pride in what you've done,
and in what we see you becoming.

Leader: We pray that the stories of God will continue to sustain you,
encourage you, challenge you, and transform you,
wherever you go, whatever you do —
these stories of God's truth and grace,
of God's love and of the redeeming of all creation.
These are the stories we pray you will continue to hear,
continue to live toward, continue to live into.

People: **Each one of you is a special part of this congregation.**
We are proud of you, and we love you.
We promise to continue to support you with our love,
our counsel and prayers,
and to continue to walk with you on your journey of faith.
Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek God's will in all you do,
and God will direct your paths.

Prayer

(parents of graduates are invited to come forward to lay on hands during the prayer)

Leader: Almighty and gracious God,
beneath your loving-kindness our lives are lived,
and by your wisdom truth is found.
We pray for our graduates who have finished a course of study,
and now move on to something new.
Take away any anxiety or confusion of purpose,

and give them confidence in the future you plan,
where energies may be gathered up
and given to neighbors in love.

We ask that the friends and families gathered around them today
might be to these graduates a sign of your love for them,
and of your good intentions for their lives.
We thank you for the labor of parents that this moment represents,
for the good efforts of teachers and administrators and coaches,
for the fellowship of friends and colleagues.

O God of the past, present, and future,
help these graduates to know that you will be active in their future,
just as surely as you have been active in their past.
Help them always to be aware of Christ as their Good Shepherd,
that they might continue to seek justice, love kindness,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Blessing

(the congregation is invited to stand)

People: **May God's blessing rest on each one of you.**
May God's light shine on you, and make your path clear.
May hope carry you through the challenging times,
and gratitude be your response when life is good.

May God continue to bless you and challenge you.
May you always be surrounded by people who love and support you.
May you ever grow more fully into the person God wants you to be,
and may you discover the incomparable joy
of living lives that bring honor and glory to God. Amen.