

# **Laurinburg Presbyterian Church**

600 West Church St. Laurinburg, NC 28352

September 9, 2018 -23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time

## **Our Vision Statement: The Word In Action**



Founded 1859

The Rev. W. Robert (Rob) Martin III, Pastor

José Rivera, Director of Music

Sean McDonald, Organist

Supported Missionary

Christopher McReynolds

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 9, 2018

Eleven o'clock

*Please pass the Friendship Pad found at the end of the pew and return it to its starting place. If you are worshiping with us for the first time, we invite you to leave your address on the pad. This will give us the opportunity to share with you the work and witness of our community of faith—and to welcome you into our midst!*

### Thoughts for Reflection

*"Real courage is when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what."*

— Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird

### Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

#### The Prelude

*Variations on "Jesus Loves Me"*

Sean McDonald

#### The Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 146:5-10)

Do' Martin

Come and worship!

**We will praise the One between, within, and over.**

Trust in the One who co-creates the was, the now, and the will-be.

**Our hope is in the One who creates expansive love calling us to do the same.**

Follow the One who never breaks covenant.

**We follow the One whose extravagant love calls us to co-create justice for the oppressed,**

**feed the hungry, unlock prisons,**

**and welcome strangers, orphans, and widows.**

Praise the One whose justice is grace-full and inclusive.

**We praise the Spirit that spans the ages.**

#### \*Congregational Hymn

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

# 291

#### \*A Litany of Confession and Ever-Present Grace

The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III

**How glibly we say we trust you, Holy One,  
and how quickly our fears silence our words.**

**We find you standing at the side of the poor,  
while we cozy up to the rich and famous.**

**We find you standing behind the counter**

**serving the hungry at the soup kitchen,**

**while we are stocking our freezers and pantries till they overflow.**

**while we are stocking our freezers and pantries till they overflow.  
We look down at those whose hands are dirty,  
but your hand of mercy pulls them into your all-embracing love.**

**Forgive us, O God, and do good to us  
when we have trouble doing good for others.**

**Surround us with your love;  
surround us with your grace;  
surround us with your peace;  
surround us with the Spirit of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior.**

*A time of silence to contemplate these words  
and how they apply to us personally and as a community of faith.*

### **Assurance of Ever-Present Grace**

Be strong, do not fear!  
For God comes,  
comes to fill your parched souls with living water,  
to open your eyes to the grace which is yours.

**God comes,  
for no other reason than to save us--  
and this is, indeed, good news for us all.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **\*The Musical Assurance**

(Sung to the tune **CRUSADERS' HYMN # 630**)

**Broad is God's welcome,  
Broader, still, God's mercy—  
Grace neither height nor depth can end.  
This grace is gentle,  
This grace is caring,  
Allowing tattered lives to mend.**

**\*The Sharing of Christ's Peace and Compassion**

**The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III**

**Musical Interlude**

**Sean McDonald**

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**The Prayer for Illumination**

**Do' Martin**

**Gracious and guiding God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that, as the Scripture is read and received, we may be challenged and changed! Amen**

**The Gospel of Mark 7: 24-37**

<sup>24</sup>From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Word of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God !**

**The Time for The Child in Us All**

**The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III**

*After the time with the children, children age 4 through Grade 5 may follow their Sunday School teachers upstairs. Please collect your children from Room 207 at the conclusion of worship today.*

**Choral Selection**

**The Journey Is Our Home**

**LPC Choir**

**The Prompting**

**The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**\*The Hymn of Response**

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

**# 645**

**\*An Affirmation of Our Faith** (A South African Creed)

**Do' Martin**

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

**We believe that God is at work in our world**

**turning hopeless**

**and evil situations into good.**

We believe that goodness and justice  
will triumph in the end

**and that tyranny and oppression  
cannot last forever.**

One day all tears will be wiped away;  
**the lamb will lie down with the lion,  
and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.**

True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired,  
they are assured and guaranteed in Christ.

**This is our faith.**

**This is our hope.**

**The Invitation to Offer Your Time and Treasure**

**The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III**

**The Offertory**     *Variations on "O Worship the King"*

**Sean McDonald**

**\*The Response to Our Offerings**

(Sung to the tune **REGENT SQUARE # 143**)

**These our gifts we bring, Most Holy.**

**God of glory, God of peace.**

**May they help the weak and lowly**

**find new life and fear's release.**

**And let us be gifts to others**

**as Christ-Jesus taught and lived!**

**\*The Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

**Do' Martin**

**O God, through the offering of our gifts, may we become a more open people—open-minded in hearing the call and challenge of your Word, open-hearted in healing a battered and broken world, and open-handed in heeding your call to embody and enact abundant love and abiding grace. And so now as we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves, may we also be gifts to one another-- as Jesus so taught and lived! AMEN**

**The Prayers of the People**

**The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III**

O God, we thank you this day for all those  
who seek to live out their faith in their everyday lives.

We know that we cannot earn your love,  
but we can respond to your love.

You call us to live holy lives  
out of gratitude for all that you have done for us.

**In hope, we lift this prayer!**

We thank you for people who find joy in the midst of trials and difficulties:  
for the hospital patient who gives hope and inspiration to the visitor,  
for the homeless person who teaches the social worker the meaning of faith,  
for the family that prays together in the face of impending death.

**In hope, we lift this prayer!**

We thank you for those who endure temptation:  
for the young person who says “no” to a friend who wants to shoplift,  
for the office worker who refuses to join in negative conversation,  
for the company executive who puts justice before profits.

**In hope, we lift this prayer!**

We thank you for those who are ever-generous in giving to others:  
for the child who puts her allowance in the church’s mission offering,  
for the young adult at a first job who dares to tithe his new income,  
for the neighbor who gets up at four in the morning  
to mow his elderly neighbor’s yard.

**In hope, we lift this prayer**

We thank you for those who are quick to listen,  
slow to speak, slow to anger:  
for couples who listen to each other in love,  
for people who count to ten before speaking their minds  
and then speak gently,  
for people who remain calm and loving when others’ tempers flare.

**In hope, we lift this prayer**

We thank you for people who live out their faith by caring for orphans,  
widows and others in need:  
for foster parents and adoptive parents,  
for those who seek to work for peace and justice  
so that fewer people will be orphaned and widowed,  
for those who share a cup of coffee with a lonely neighbor,  
for those who visit in nursing homes.

**In hope, we lift this prayer!**

We thank you for people who are doers of the word and not hearers only.  
O God, may we be counted among them.  
Help us to hear your word and to find  
joy in doing what you call us to do.  
And so may we live our lives in thankful obedience as we join together  
In the prayer Jesus taught his followers to pray, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

### \*The Closing Hymn

*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

# 327

### \*The Benediction (The Good Word)

The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III

### \*The Postlude

*"Set Me as a Seal"*

Sean McDonald

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September 10

6:00 pm PW Salad Supper Fall Gathering

### September 11

4:30 pm Membership/Stewardship

5:30 CNE

### September 12

7:00 Finance & Administration

### September 13

5:30 pm WMA

### September 16

PW Installation

### September 17

6:00 pm Session

### SEPTEMBER SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

\*Lucy Sojka, chair, Pat Ellis, Charlotte McLean, Sis Thomas

### SEPTEMBER USHER TEAM #4

\*Bradley Williams, Lead, John Clark, David Herr, Mike Coughenour, Joel Hartwell, Barbara Bateman, Wayne Hobbs, John Massey, Michael Sellers, Jamie Sutherland, Drew Williamson, Greg Wood, LeRoy McIntyre

### BUS DRIVERS pickup at Scotia 10:20

September 9      **VOLUNTEER**

September 16     **Allen McLaurin**

September 23     **David Herr**

September 30     **Bill Caudill**

## NOTES AND THANKS

**All music used in Church Services that are not in The Glory To God Hymnal are protected by Church Copyright License, CCLI # 11496004.**

**Please remember these in your thoughts and prayers—**

**Continuing Concerns:** Joel McCanna, Will Faulk-Custodian (LPC), Virginia Willams, Louise Koonce

**In Scotia Skilled:** Evelyn Crossley, Virginia Johnson, Hewitt Fulton, Frances Haupt,

Mackey McCormick, Louise Wester, Sarah Bullock

**Scotia Special Care:** Margaret Caudill

**Scotia Assisted:** Ervin Hill, Adell Page, Marion McNair, Marjorie Coughenour, Millie Peele,

Elizabeth McIntosh, Mildred Scharstein

**At Scottish Pines:** Katherine Edmund

### **The Session**

Moderator: The Rev. W. Robert Martin, III cell: 650-283-0167

#### **Class of 2018**

Kristen Anderson  
David Breeden  
Martha Olmstead  
Robin Snead  
Janet Smith  
Nick Sojka  
Susan Wentz

#### **Class of 2019**

Danny Caddell  
John Clark  
David Herr  
Deborah Hobbs  
Richard Mabry  
Annette Morgan  
Kevin Patterson

#### **Class of 2020**

Carol Sellers  
Chris Rhue  
Craig Ellis  
Jim Mason  
Angela Purcell  
Chris Carmichael  
Julian Butler

### **The Deacons**

Moderator: Bob Dyer

#### **Class of 2018**

Barbara Bateman  
Beverly Bowling  
David Carmichael  
Dan Sprouse  
Debra Sutherland  
Bob Dyer

#### **Class of 2019**

Jacque Britt  
Lynn Davis  
Kirsten Dean  
Candy Nichols  
Susan Hartwell  
Bette Sellers

#### **Class of 2020**

John McRae  
Sis Thomas  
Jane McLaurin  
Kathy Williamson  
Laurene Stubbs  
Matt Purcell

### **Presbyterian Women**

Moderator: Leslie Sellers

Vice-Moderator: Phyllis Breeden

Secretary: Julie Carmichael

Treasurer: Delia Muse

Historian: Betsy Massey

Moderator of Search Committee: Virginia McCormick

### **Staff — Office 910-276-0831**

|                       |  |          |                     |
|-----------------------|--|----------|---------------------|
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|                       | <b>Email: <a href="mailto:Revrobmartin@yahoo.com">Revrobmartin@yahoo.com</a></b> |          |                     |
| Director of Music     | José Rivera  | ext. 305 | cell: 414-218-2822  |
| Organist              | Sean McDonald  | ext. 305 | cell.: 910-373-1776 |
| Business Manager      | Charles Bounds   | ext. 304 |                     |
| Office Admin. Assist. | Cathy Meekins  | ext. 301 |                     |

**email: [laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com](mailto:laurinburgpres@bizec.rr.com)**