

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!

The heavens declare Your glory,
the arch of sky displays Your handiwork.

In your love You have given us the power
to behold the beauty of Your world
robed in all its splendor.

The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills,
the rivers and lakes all disclose Your presence.

The roaring breakers of the sea tell of Your awesome might;
the beasts of the field and the birds of the air
bespeak Your wondrous will.

In your goodness You have made us able to hear
the music of the world. The voices of loved ones
reveal to us that You are in our midst.

A divine voice sings through all creation.

-Jewish Prayer, Gates of Prayer

First Friends Meeting

Seventh Month, Twenty-Sixth 2015

Gather and Center

Prelude

Call to Worship Gather Us In choir

Welcome and Announcements Sheila Hoyer

Joys and Concerns

Silence for Centering Prayer

Listen and Respond

Hymn 649 Gather Us In verses 1, 2 & 4 *blue hymnal*

“How Wonderful O Lord” Traditional Jewish Prayer

Anthem Look at the World soloist-Jennifer Brigman

Offertory Prayer Sheila Hoyer

Offertory

Scripture Ephesians 4: 1—7 Robert Erskine

Hymn 489 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying-twice *blue hymnal*

Message The Hope of a Listening Spirituality Deborah

Waiting Worship After the Manner of Friends *If led to speak, please stand and wait for a host to bring a microphone. Please allow for a few minutes of silence between messages.*

Go Forth in Spirit

Farewell Blessing **Brittany Atkinson & Seth Steele**

Congregational Sent Forth by God’s Blessing verse 1
Benediction Hymn 712 *blue hymnal*

Please close Meeting for Worship by shaking hands with your neighbors.

Joining Deborah on the Facing Bench today is Robert Erskine. Robert was born in Scotland and was trained as an architect. He came to America to attend the University of Michigan and received a Doctorate in Architecture and Masters in Urban Planning. He practiced as a consultant/ architect/planner, but now is retired. Widower, two daughters, the younger, Sian lives in Greensboro, the older Laura, lives in London with her husband Stuart and children Abigail and Alexander.

Brittany Atkinson, Seth Steele and their dog Penny are moving to Birmingham England! They set sail in September so Brittany can pursue a Masters Degree in Global Cooperation and Security at the University of Birmingham. Seth will be looking for jobs when they arrive and Penny will be looking for nice gardens for walking. They are all excited and a little nervous too. Brittany, Seth and Penny appreciate all the love, blessings, and friendships made at First Friends Meeting.

*The flowers today are in loving memory of Ethel Pascal
given by Carson Grantham.*

IN THE LIGHT

Please hold First Friends Meeting and the wider NC Yearly Meeting of Friends as we discern a grace-filled way forward.

Lisa Moran appreciates prayer for clarity about what to do next with regards to cancer treatment.

Helen Parrish is in Japan visiting her daughter Madeline for two weeks.

Deborah and Tim will be on vacation in Michigan attending a Sues sisters reunion from July 28-August 3. Following that, Deborah will head to Baltimore Yearly Meeting on behalf of NCYM as part of the intervisitation program. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact the office.

Our office manager, Kristina, and her husband will be on vacation visiting friends in the West Virginia Mountains and then family in Pennsylvania.

ONGOING PRAYERS FOR HEALTH CONCERNS

Sam Wyrick's father **Steve**, Teri Ariansen, Monica Hix's friend **Dr. Bob Herron**, Heidi McLaughlin's son **Christopher**, Rose Corbett's mother **Betsy Wray**.

THANKSGIVINGS

For the gift of music this summer. We are thankful for Monica Citty Hix and our faithful choir. We are grateful also for those bringing special music including James, Keisha and Larry from Snow Camp Theater.

For the thoughtful, inspired prepared message last Sunday from Ashley Wilcox. We have been so blessed to have Ashley among us this summer. She will bring the prepared message for us again on August 2. On that date, we will also send her off with our blessings and thanksgivings.

JOY

Carson Grantham had successful eye surgery to remove melanoma.

Look at the world, ev'rything all around us;
Look at the world, and marvel every day.
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,
So many miracles along our way.

*Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,
Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:
All the gifts we share, and ev'ry blessing,
All things come of thee.*

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower;
Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,
Valley and flowing river, field and plain:

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer
Bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.
Ev'rything grows, ev'rything has a season,
Till it is gathered to the Father's fold:

Ev'ry good gift, all that we need and cherish
Comes from the Lord in token of his love;
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty;
His is the earth and his the heav'ns above

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:1-7

4 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

First Friends warmly welcomes visitors.

Please complete a yellow card and place it in the offering plate.

We invite you to contact pastoral staff with any questions.

Please help yourself to Quaker literature in the foyer.

If interested in doing a monthly bank draft or to make a contribution via debit or credit card, please see our Lead Morning Host, Jean Christy in the back foyer.

Gentle Reminders:

Please silence all electronic devices.

Activity packets are available for children as well as a fully staffed nursery. Please ask a morning host for assistance.

NOTES, DOODLES, & REFLECTIONS...

FIRST FRIENDS MEETING

First Friends is a Quaker Meeting
building healthy relationships
with God, one another, and all creation.

336-299-8869

www.friendlymeeting.org
office@firstfriendsmeeting.org

Office hours for the week of July 27-31:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday—Friday: Irregular, please call ahead

Ministers: Everyone

Deborah Suess, Pastor of Congregational Ministries

Sheila Hoyer, Pastor of Education and Outreach

Monica Hix, Interim Minister of Music

Ashley Wilcox, Pastoral Intern

Kristina Pisano, Office Manager

Pam Reese, Treasurer

Celeste Currie, Nursery Care

Ryan Gordy, Nursery Care

Bill Davis, Monthly Meeting Presiding Clerk

Beth Joyce, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel

Jim Kimel, Clerk of Personnel & Long Range Planning

Jean Christy, Head Morning Host

To email a Clerk or Staff: (first name)@firstfriendsmeeting.org

Sunday Gatherings

Unprogrammed at 9:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room

Choir at 9:50 a.m. in the choir loft

Semi-programmed at 11:00 a.m. in the Meetingroom