

## "I Want to Be a Follower of Christ"

"I Want to Be a Follower of Christ"  
I want to be a follower of Christ.  
I want to be one of His disciples  
I want to walk in the newness of life, so  
Let me be a follower of Christ.

What do I have to do?  
What do I have to say?  
How do I have to talk each and ev'ry day?  
What does it cost to carry the cross?  
So Let me be a follower of Christ!

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Statesville Avvenue Presbyterian Church (USA), guided by the Holy Spirit, is called by God to teach, and preach God's word, to create a climate for spiritual growth, to engage in mission outreach, and to promote peace and justice in the world.

Pastor Gary S. Blackmon – (cell) 704-493-7251  
[Gsblackmon58@gmail.com](mailto:Gsblackmon58@gmail.com)  
3435 Nevin Road, Charlotte, N. C. 28269  
704-596-4550

**SERMON NOTES:**

SCRIPTURE: \_\_\_\_\_

SERMON OUTLINE: \_\_\_\_\_

CONCLUSION: \_\_\_\_\_

SERMON APPLICATION FOR MY LIFE: \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Homegoing Service for Thomas Larry Jones, husband of Rosanna Cureton-Jones was held Saturday, August 19, 2023, at Moore's Sanctuary AME Zion Church, Charlotte, N. C. Continue to keep the families in your thoughts and prayers.
- Stewardship Committee Meeting August 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. – Zoom
- Tiki's Dance School Summer Dance Recital, August 26, 2023, from 4 pm to 6 pm here at SAPC.
- Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meeting 8-26-23 at 9:00 a.m.
- Women's Day Rehearsal, Saturday, September 2nd at 10:00 a.m. in preparation for September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Presbytery of Charlotte - Presbyterian Women's Annual Fall Gathering Saturday 9, 2023; at Mt. Olive PC. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Make plans to attend.
- Don't forget your Per Capita of \$30.00 per year per member.
- Treasurer Offerings online: Family let's not forget our tithes and offerings. Here's another way to give: [www.statesvilleavenuepresbyterianchurchusa.org](http://www.statesvilleavenuepresbyterianchurchusa.org)

Thank you Mr. Worth Williams for being our Guest Musician and Ms. Adrienne Williams our Guest Soloist.

STATESVILLE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
3435 NEVIN ROAD, CHARLOTTE, NC 28269

August 20, 2023  
11:00 A.M.

12th Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 15



**Pastor Gary S. Blackmon**  
**Camron Alford, Liturgist**  
**Mr. James Rogers, Jr., Director of Music**  
**704-596-4550**

[www.statesvilleavenuepresbyterianchurchusa.org](http://www.statesvilleavenuepresbyterianchurchusa.org)

## We Gather

**\*\* Prelude: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon Us"**

**\*\*Announcements and Welcome:**

**Lighting of Candles:**

**\*\*Introit: "This Is The Day the Lord Hath Made" #230**

**\*Call to Worship:**

**L:** We have been claimed by the God who calls us children.

**P: We, the redeemed, have been called by name.**

**L:** As with the Israelites, God promises to pass with us through the water.

**P: We, will not fear, for God is with us!**

**L:** The rivers shall not overwhelm us for God is our guide and our protector.

**P: Through God's saving grace, the waters that tested us are not he waters that wash us and nourish us.**

**L:** Great is the Fount of Every Blessing,

**P: Ever flowing, ever redeeming, ever claiming us as God's children.**

**L:** Come, let us worship the God who washes us in grace.

**\*Centering Prayer:**

**\*\*Opening Hymn: "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" #379**

**Call to Confession:** God of our Baptism, we come to that same river where you were baptized, and we stand next to you, waiting to be washed. But we confess that we often wish to do so without going through the messiness of repentance. We want your grace but act as we did before receiving it. Help us to truly be baptized by your Good News, by hearing, tasting it, and then reflecting it as the sunrise over the river's horizon.

**Assurance of Pardon:** At the water's edge, our fears are relieved, and our hopes restored, for we have turned to God because God has first turned to us. Friends, by the waters of our baptism, you and I are forgiven. **Amen.**

**Prayers for the People:**

**Choral Response: "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"**

**\*\*Special Selection: "To God Be the Glory" Ms. Adrienne Williams**

## The Word

**Prayer of Illumination:** As water splashes across our face awakens us in the morn, may your Word awaken us to your presence. Wash us in your wisdom, bathe us in your goodness, refresh us with your grace, by the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Scripture Readings: OT: Deuteronomy 6; 4-9 & NT: Acts 2:38-39  
Grace Solomon**

**Sermon: "The Little Children"  
(Luke 18:15-17)  
Pastor Gary S. Blackmon**

**Baptism of Amelia Bailey Dunn – Pastor Gary S. Blackmon  
presiding**

## We Respond

**Invitation to Discipleship: "Come to Jesus"**

**Tithes and Offerings: "Give And It Will Come Back To You"**

**\*Doxology: "Glory Be to the Father" #577**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

**Celebration Song: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" #276**

**\*Charge and Benediction:**

**Extinguishing of the Candles:**

**\*Postlude: "It Is Well with My Soul"/Passing the Peace**

**\*Please stand if you are able.  
\*\*Worshippers may enter or exit.**