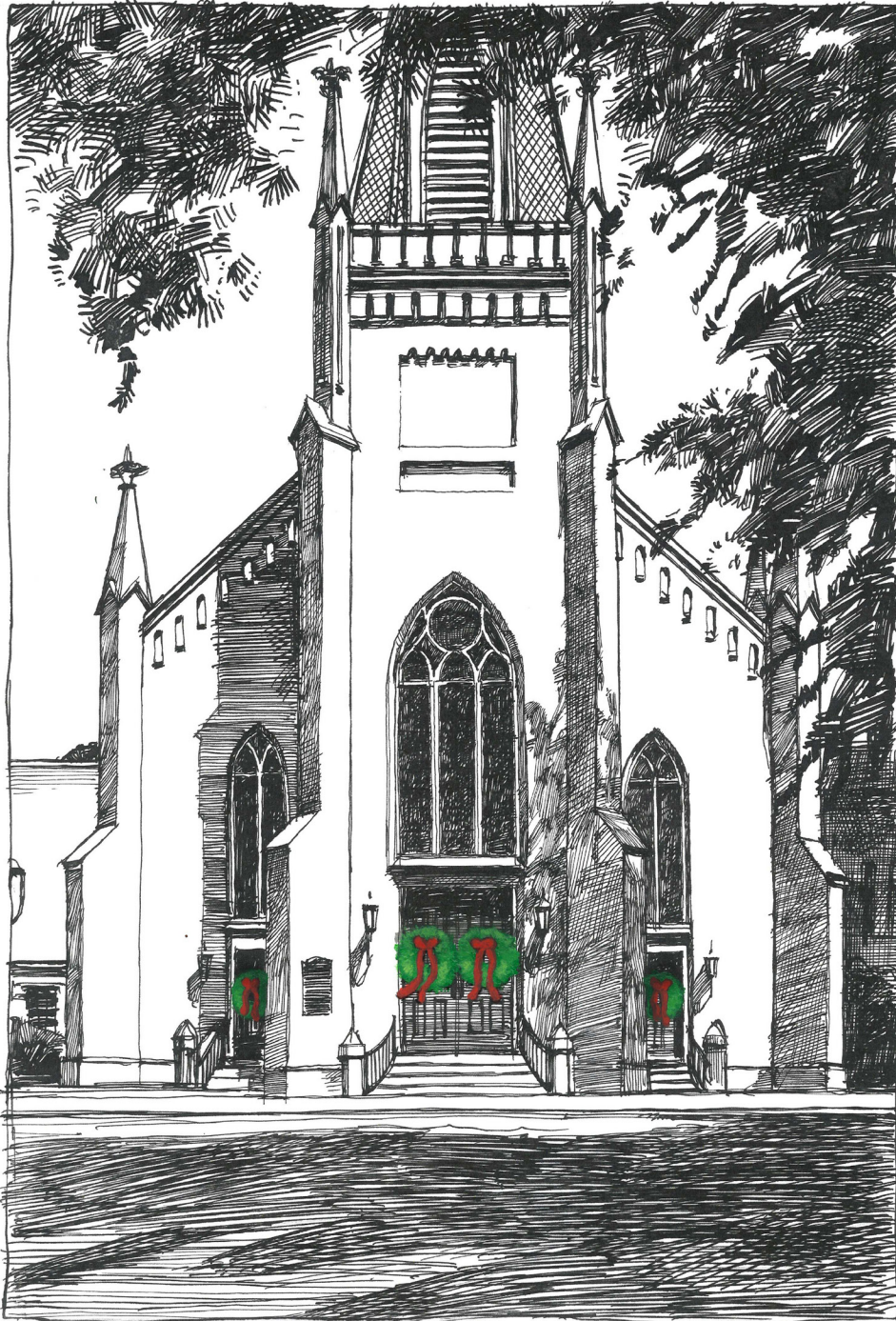


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 10, 2023 | SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



We invite you, whoever you are and whoever God is helping you to become, to join First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte in our journey of faith. God is love, and that love is for you. You belong as a child of God, and we welcome you. Come experience how that belonging might change you and our world as we seek to be for Christ in the heart of Charlotte.



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD

Are you interested in joining our church? Contact Jane Ives, Membership Coordinator, jives@firstpres-charlotte.org.

PREPARATION

Prelude | “Savior of the Nations, Come” | Johann Sebastian Bach**Words of Welcome** | Anna Dickson**Chiming of the Trinity****ADORATION**

Lighting of the Advent Candle | Jenn and Michael Williams

Advent is a time to watch.

We watch in hope for the Lord; the Word made flesh.

During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O Come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion and conflict.

We watch in hope for the Lord; He is our High Priest.

During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.

We watch in hope for the Lord; He is the great I AM.+**Hymn No. 104** | “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” | VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN**CONFESSION**

Call to Confession | Pen Peery**Prayer of Confession**

God of grace and truth, long ago your prophets told of your promise to restore and renew your people. We confess that we have not believed your promise to do these things, and have preferred brokenness over restoration, silent resignation over speaking the truth in love, apathy over hope. We have remained steadfast in the ease of the status quo, not wanting to face the hard work of repentance and change. Forgive us, Lord, and speak your promises to us again this day, that we might be changed by them, for your sake and ours.

Response to Confession | Hymn No. 90 | Jacques Berthier**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!***(to be sung multiple times)***Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.+**Response to Pardon** | Hymn No. 100 | CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism of Maeve Madeline Coughlin

Baptism of Josephine Virginia Parolin

+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.

Children ages three through first grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn. Older children are encouraged to stay and worship with their families.

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture | Isaiah 61:1-11 | pew Bible p. 691

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" | Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing "Holy, Holy" to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing "Holy, Holy, Lord!" Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon. E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light, nor lamp, nor sun. For Christ will be their all!

Sermon | "God's Anointed" | Anna Dickson

+**Hymn No. 83** | "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" | STUTTGART

RESPONSE

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer | Robert Galloway

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.

Stewardship of Life | Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Offertory Anthem | "Wake! Awake, for Night Is Flying" | Dale Wood

Wake, awake, for night is flying; the watchmen on the heights are crying: "Awake, Jerusalem, at last!" Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Come forth, you maidens! Night is past." Zion hears the watchmen singing, and in her heart new joy is springing. She wakes, she rises from her gloom; for her Lord comes down all glorious, the strong in truth victorious. Her star is risen; her light is come. Come, thou blessed one, God's own beloved son. Alleluia! Now let all the heavens adore you; saints and angels sing before you with harp and cymbals' clearest tone, of one pearl each shining portal, where we are with the choir immortal of angels round your dazzling throne. No eye has seen; no ear has yet been trained to hear. What joy is ours! We now rejoice and sing the glorious hymn of praise eternally!

The Elder assisting with the baptisms today is

Martha Eubank.

The Guest Elder is Jeff McNeill.

FIRST
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PRAYER
REQUESTS



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TEXT
TO GIVE



+**Doxology** | Hymn No. 606 | OLD HUNDREDTH

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

+**Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING FORTH

+**Hymn No. 134** | “Joy to the World” | ANTIOCH

+**Benediction**

+**Benediction Response** | DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! Amen.

Postlude | “Savior of the Nations, Come” | J. S. Bach

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Josephine Virginia Parolin is the daughter of Jacqueline and Tommy Parolin.

Maeve Madeline Coughlin is the daughter of Elizabeth and Billy Coughlin.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of grandmother Ellen Coughlin and in honor of the baptism of Maeve Madeline Coughlin.

If you wish to sponsor sanctuary flowers for a baptism, marriage, memorial/honorarium, or special occasion, please notify Diane Maye at dianenmaye@hotmail.com.

Today's Worship Leaders:

The Reverend Pendleton B. Peery, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Anna R. Dickson, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

The Reverend Robert L. Galloway, Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Young Adults

William P. Young, III, Director of Music Ministries

Catherine Hicks, Guest Organist