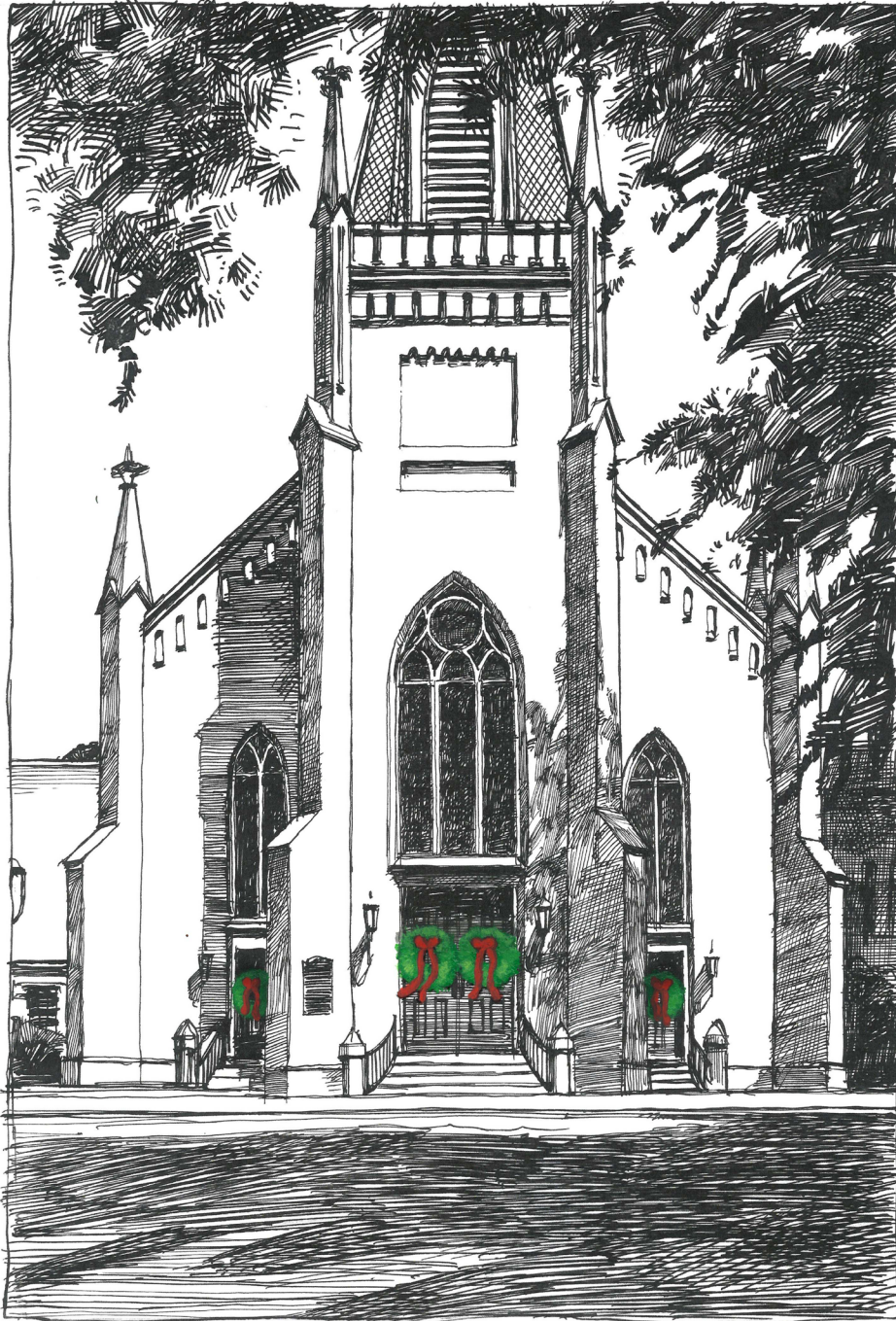


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 3, 2023 | FIRST 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 | Two Advent Carols | arr. Charles Callahan
"Keep Your Lamps" | TRADITIONAL | Carol Choir

Words of Welcome | Pen Peery

Chiming of the Trinity

ADORATION

Lighting of the Advent Candle | Taylor Chan & Aaron Mohammed

Advent is a time to wait and hope.

We wait in hope for the Lord: He is the Head of the Church.

During Advent we wait for light in the darkness.

We wait in hope for the Lord; He is the Light of the world.

During Advent we wait for comfort in sorrow.

We wait in hope for the Lord; He is the chief Cornerstone.

During Advent we wait for power in weakness.

We wait in hope for the Lord; He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

+**Hymn No. 88** | "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" | VENI EMMANUEL
Stanzas 1, 2, 6, and 7

CONFESSION

Call to Confession | Anna Dickson

Prayer of Confession | written by the Rev. Andy James

God of hope, you promise a new and different way of life, and you invite us to join you on the path to get there. Yet we usually prefer to stay on our own path. We put ourselves before others and so diminish the gift of life in each of us. We fill our days with human pessimism, assuming that nothing will ever get better rather than welcoming your deep divine hope.

Forgive us, Lord.

Show us your hope anew in Jesus this Advent, that we might see your branch sprouting anew in our midst and fill our lives and the whole earth with our embrace of you.

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 Jack Hughes Carter

+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.

Anthem | "Advent Blessing" | Kris Krunk | Kirk Choir

Bless all you sons and daughters who await the coming child; the only Son, the Promised One, who comes to us born in a stable. Bless all the children of the light, with their brilliant faces. Lift high your candles; show the night that Christ overcomes the darkness. Alleluia. The light of light overshadows. Alleluia. Brighter than the things of earth, Son of God, humble birth. Bless all who worship in this place, the coming breath of heaven, the One whose life and death becomes salvation to the nations. Alleluia. The light of light overshadows. Alleluia. Brighter than the things of earth, Son of God, humble birth. Alleluia.

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 64:1-9 | pew Bible p. 694

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Sermon** | "Expectations" | Pen Peery**+Hymn No. 105** | "People, Look East" | BESANÇON**RESPONSE****Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer** | Lucy Crain

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** | "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" | arr. David H. Williams

Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain; thousand, thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign. Now redemption, long expected, comes in solemn splendor near; all the saints this world rejected thrill the trumpet sound to hear: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! See the day of God appear! Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne; Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom as thine own. Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus. Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Jack will be baptized by the Rev. Landon Dillard. The Elder assisting with the baptism today is David Dillard.

FIRST CHURCH MOBILE CHECK IN



PRAYER REQUESTS



GIVE ONLINE



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. 106** | “Prepare the Way, O Zion” | BEREDEN VÄG HERRAN

+**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 | “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” | arr. David N. Johnson

IN LOVING MEMORY

Barbara Earl Crisp, April 26, 1945 — November 26, 2023

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Kathy McElroy upon the death of her mother, Mildred Dunlavy ; to Rabbecca Namwawa upon the death of her mother, Fidress Nachizya; and to Libby Bell and Mary Caroline Lee upon the death of their father, Al Bell.

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Jack Hughes Carter is the son of Megan and Kyle Carter.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Kimbrough's December 7 birthday by Royce Kimbrough.

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 Lucy M. Crain, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

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

William P. Young, III, Director of Music Ministries

Catherine Hicks, Guest Organist

The Reverend Landon Dillard, Associate Pastor, Shallowford Presbyterian Church