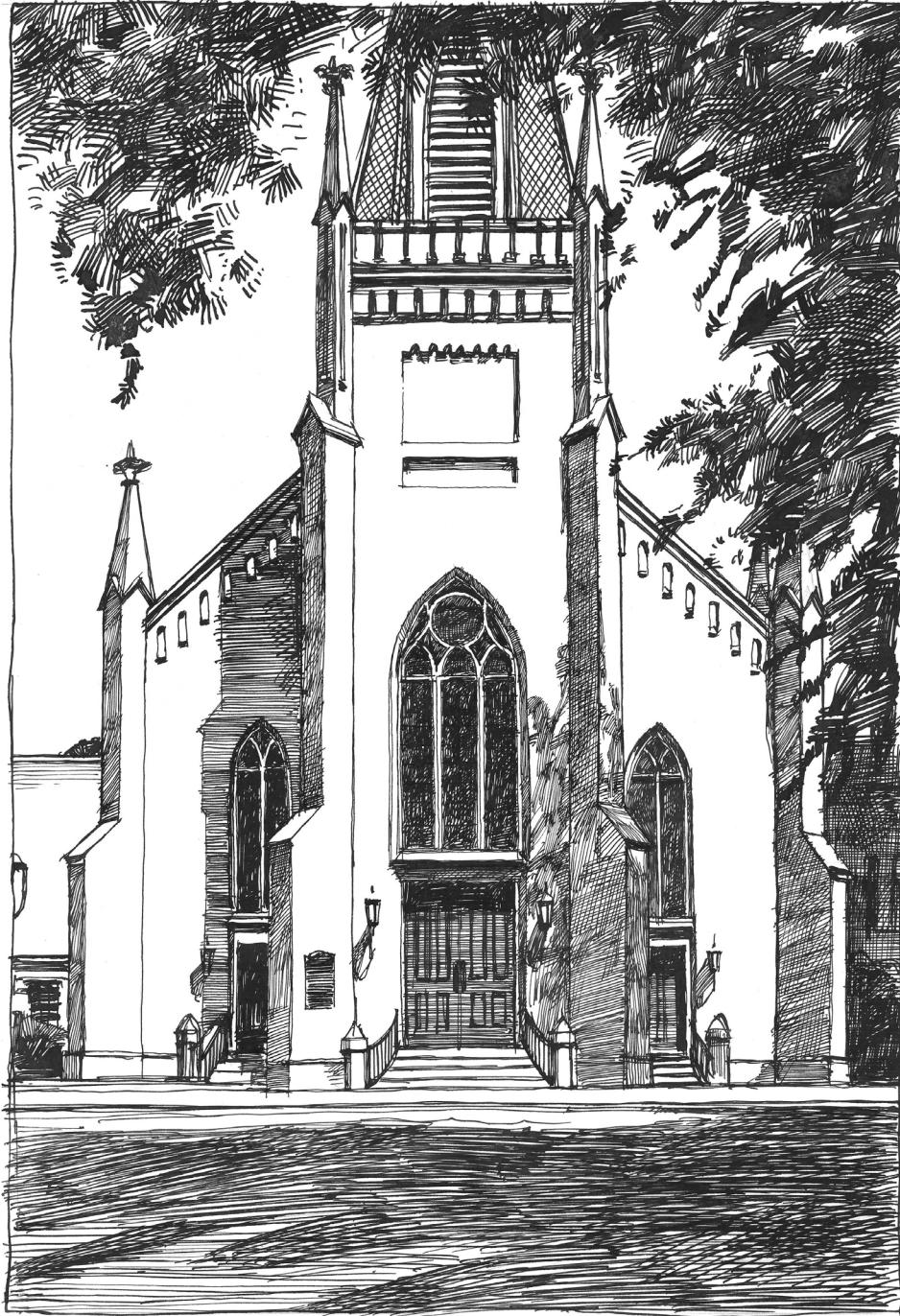


# First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | FEBRUARY 18, 2024 | FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



*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](mailto:jives@firstpres-charlotte.org).

FIRST  
CHURCH  
MOBILE  
CHECK IN

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**PREPARATION****Prelude** | Prelude on a Lenten Tune | Charles Callahan**Words of Welcome** | Pen Peery**Chiming of the Trinity**

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**ADORATION****Choral Call to Worship** | Eric Thiman*O praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power!***+Hymn No. 263** | "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" | CORONATION

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**CONFESION****Call to Confession** | Lucy Crain**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, forgive us when the distance between our head and our heart is the longest, hardest journey of all. Forgive us when we know the right answers, but do not follow with the right actions. Forgive us for acknowledging that you are all powerful, but then being too timid to trust you. Forgive us when we know our neighbors need us, but then believe that our little lives can make no difference. Free us from our fear. We ask it in faith.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, believe the good news.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**+Response to Pardon** | Hymn No. 581 | GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

**Time with Children**

*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.*

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**PROCLAMATION****Prayer for Illumination****Scripture** | John 3:1-17 | pew Bible p. 93

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** | "Witness" | arr. Jack Halloran

*Who'll be a witness for my Lord? Oh I'll be a witness for my Lord. There was a man of the Pharisees: his name was Nicodemus, and he didn't believe. The same came to Christ by night, wanted to be taught out of human sight. Nicodemus was a man who desired to know how a man can be born when he is old. Christ told Nicodemus as a friend: "Man you must be born again." He said, "Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise, repent, believe and be baptized." Then you'll be a witness for my Lord, soul is a witness for my Lord. You read about Samson, from his birth he was the strongest man that ever lived on earth. Way back yonder in ancient times he killed ten thousand of the Philistines. Then old Samson went a wanderin about. Samson's strength was never found out. 'Till his wife sat upon his knee. She said, "Tell me where your strength lies, if you please." Samson's wife, she talked so fair, Samson said, "Cut off my hair! Shave my head just as clean as your hand, and my strength will come like a natural man." Samson was a witness for my Lord, soul is a witness for my Lord. There's another witness for my Lord! My soul is a witness for my Lord.*

**Sermon** | "Encountering Jesus: Finding Courage" | Pen Peery+**Hymn No. 215** | "What Wondrous Love Is This" | WONDROUS LOVE**RESPONSE** —————+**Affirmation of Faith** | Apostles' Creed | Robert Galloway

**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.**

PRAYER REQUESTS



GIVE ONLINE



TEXT TO GIVE

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**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** | "God So Loved the World" | John Stainer

*God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

+**Doxology** | 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. 826** | “Lift High the Cross” | CRUCIFER

**Congregational Meeting****+Benediction**

+**Benediction Response** | “Amen” | Peter Lutkin

**Postlude** | Fugue in C Major | G. F. Handel

**IN LOVING MEMORY** —

*The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Dennard Teague upon the death of her mother, Mary Dennard Lindsey.*

**ABOUT THIS SERVICE** —

*If you wish to sponsor sanctuary flowers for a baptism, marriage, memorial/honorarium, or special occasion, please notify Diane Maye at [dianenmaye@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Robert L. Galloway**, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

**Mr. William P. Young, III**, Director of Music Ministries

**Dr. Catherine Hicks**, Guest Organist