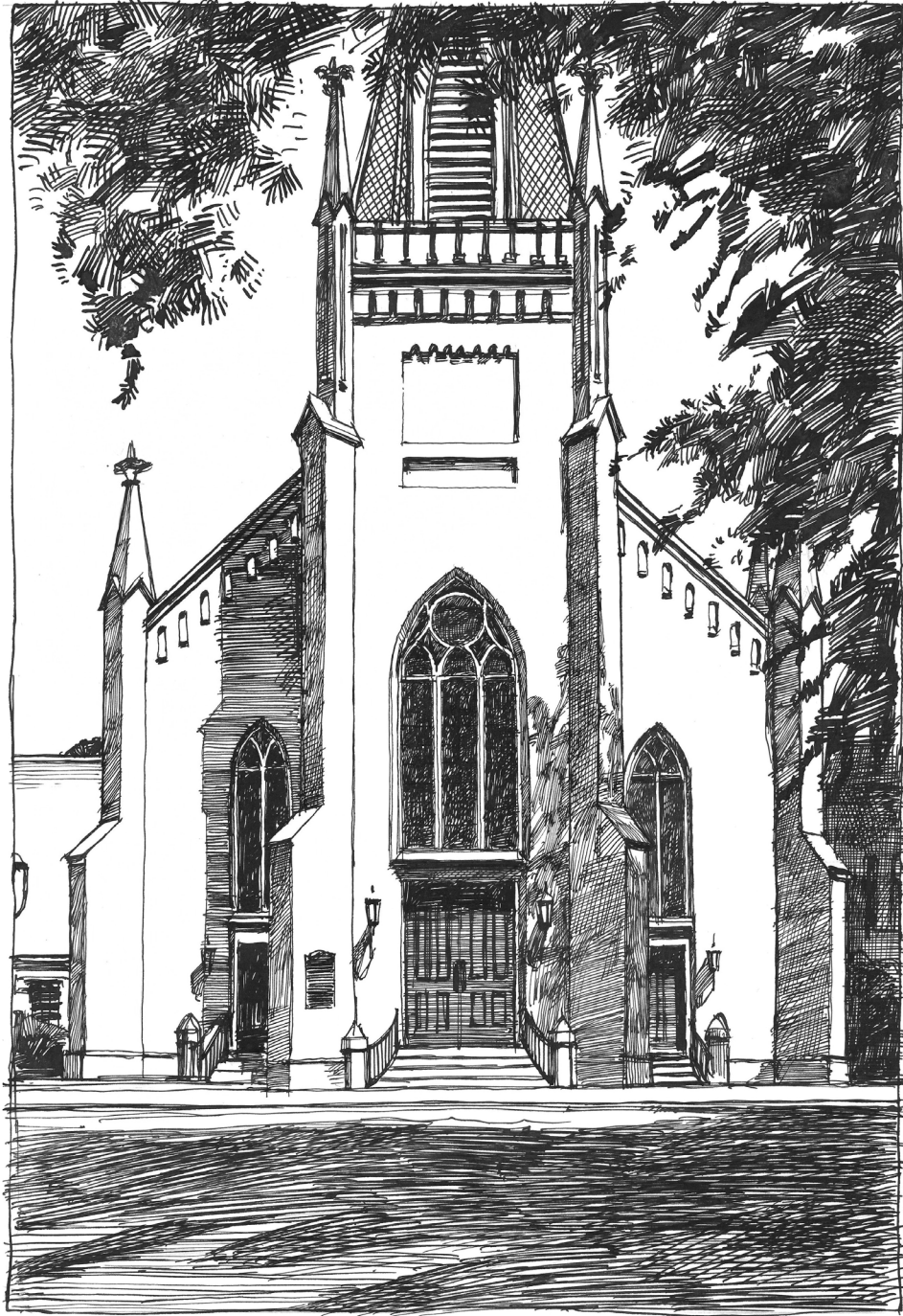


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 7, 2025 | SECOND SUNDAY OF 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 | “O Come, All Ye Faithful” | arr. Anna Laura Page | Beginning Handbells

“Sing We Nowell!” | Terry D. Taylor | Carol Choir

Nowell we sing! Tidings of joyful news we bring! Christ has come with us to dwell! Jesus, our Emmanuel. With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father. Jesus, Messiah, the Prince of Peace, come to reign forever.

Words of Welcome | Lewis Galloway

Chiming of the Trinity

ADORATION

+Lighting of the Candle of Peace | The Squires Family

Prince of Peace, we lay down our weapons;

Replace them with wonder.

We lay down our fears;

Replace them with faith.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

Bring peace to all on earth.

+Hymn No. 88 | “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” | VENI EMMANUEL

CONFESSION

Call to Confession | Lucy Baum

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, when you called Mary, she responded with openness and faith. We confess that we have shut ourselves off from your surprising grace, demanding explanations when you call us into the unknown. We are not ready to be Christ-bearers in a world that desperately needs your light, for we are too busy, too afraid, and too certain of our own plans to say yes to yours. Forgive us, and restore us to courage, that we might live according to your will.

Choral Response | IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

+Response to Pardon | IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

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.

FIRST
CHURCH
MOBILE
CHECK IN

PROCLAMATION**Anthem** | “Will You Be Ready?” | Mark Patterson | Kirk Choir | Susannah Curry, soloist

People who walk in darkness have seen a great light. The light will shine upon them; may it shine brightly tonight. Will you be ready for the light, ready for the light to shine upon you? Will you be ready for the light, ready for the light to shine? Will you be watching? Will you be listening? Will you hear the angels sing? Will you be waiting? Will you be searching for a savior and a king? People, keep watching; true light is coming. Look for a bright star in the east. Look for the Christ-child, born in a manger. There you will find the Prince of Peace.

Prayer for Illumination**Scripture** | 2 Samuel 7:1-16 | pew Bible p. 281**Scripture** | Luke 1:26-38 | pew Bible p. 56

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Sermon** | “The Mystery Made Known” | Lewis Galloway+**Hymn No. 87** | “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People” | GENEVAN 42**RESPONSE**+**Affirmation of Faith** | Apostles’ Creed | Anna Dickson

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.

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** | “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” | John Ferguson

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear. O rejoice! Rejoice!

+**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. Amen.

+**Prayer of Dedication**PRAYER
REQUESTSGIVE
ONLINETEXT
TO GIVE

SENDING FORTH

+**Hymn No. 104** | “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” | VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN

+**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 | Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel* | Adolphus Hailstork

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of Wesley Madison Keesler, son of Roxana and Andrew Keesler, on November 19, 2025.

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 Dr. Lewis Galloway, *Transitional Pastor*

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

Lucy Baum, *Director of Formation*

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

Kaitlyn Davros, *Assistant Director of Music Ministries*

Ben Geller, *Guest Musician*

Welcome!

We're so glad you decided to join us for worship today! Whether you are a member, a frequent visitor, or it's your first time here, keep reading for details about today's worship.

Are you new here? Please fill out a Connect Card, which can be found in the seatback of the pew in front of you, or scan the "Virtual Connect Card" QR code in the front of your bulletin.



Children's Offerings:

9 a.m. Service: A nursery is available for children ages birth through first grade in room P311.

11 a.m. Service: A nursery is available for children ages birth through 2 in room P311. During the service, children will be invited to participate in the Time for Children, after which ages 3 through first grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn.



Our church is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which seeks equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church.



Do you need support? We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation. Stephen Ministers are trained to engage in confidential, structured, and caring relationships with people who are going through a difficult period. If you are in a tough season and need extra support, email Mary Bowman (mbowman@firstpres-charlotte.org).

If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

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CONNECT WITH US!



@firstprescharlotte

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Announcements

Alternative Gift Market

Honor a loved one this Christmas by sharing a gift that makes a difference. You can purchase a lovely Christmas card, designed by our own talented Lucy Caldwell, and designate funds to go to the wonderful organization of your choice. Scan the QR code to purchase a card online or in person following worship on Sundays.

Singing in the Season

December 7, 5:30 p.m., Wood Fellowship Hall

Join us for the 12th annual Singing in the Season. This performance and sing-along hosted by FPC Music Ministries features choirs, handbells, orchestra, fellowship, and cookies! Tickets are free, but registrations are required. This is a casual event for all ages, and all children are welcome. Scan the QR code to register.

Order Poinsettias and Wreaths

Order by December 12

Honor or memorialize a loved one this Christmas with a poinsettia (\$15) or wreath (\$35). Scan the QR code to purchase online.

Service of Wholeness and Healing

December 11, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Find comfort and peace this season. This is a reflective candlelight service for all, and especially those who find the holidays difficult or who are carrying grief.

Children's Nativity Play

December 14, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Sign up your children to help tell the story of Baby Jesus! Everyone from birth to 5th grade is welcome to participate! Scan the QR to sign up by December 10.

Winterfest at Westerly Hills Academy

December 18, 4 p.m., WHA

Join us at the last WHA community event of the year. Scan the QR code to help with crafts, cookie decorating, Santa photos, or games!

Christmas Eve Services

- 11 a.m. Children and Family Service
(Sanctuary and live stream)
- 8 p.m. Candlelight Service
(Sanctuary and live stream)
- 11 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Service
(Sanctuary, live stream, and broadcast on WAXN-Channel 64 and WSOC-Channel 9)

There are no services on Christmas Day.



SCAN HERE TO ACCESS ALL LINKS
FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS
[FPC.TINY.US/LINKS](https://fpc.tiny.us/links)

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