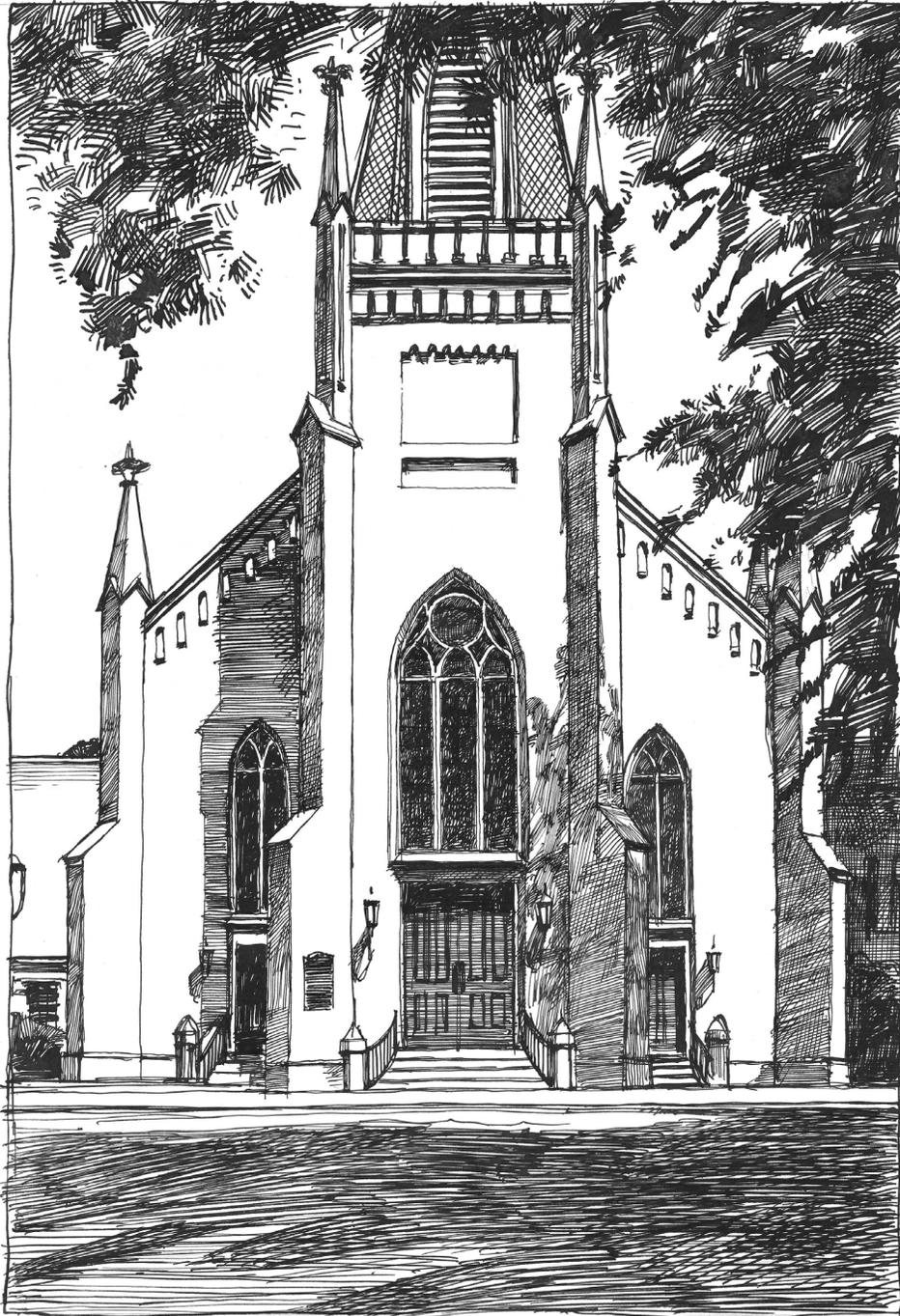


# First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | 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).

The Elder assisting with the baptism today is Abigail James.

FIRST  
CHURCH  
MOBILE  
CHECK IN**PREPARATION**

**Prelude** | Gift of Peace | Cynthia Dobrinski | Adult Handbells

**Words of Welcome** | Lewis Galloway

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**ADORATION**

**Choral Call to Worship** | Young

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is therein. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and the King of Glory shall come in. Amen.*

+**Call to Worship** | from Psalm 96 | Lewis Galloway

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth.

**Declare God's glory among the nations.**

**Proclaim God's marvelous works among all the peoples.**

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

+**Hymn No. 32** | "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" | ELLACOMBE

**CONFESSION**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** | from Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, take away my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**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.**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Baptism of Elizabeth Gwendolyn Dean (Libby)

+**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.*

+ Please stand if you are able

**PROCLAMATION****Anthem** | “God of Grace and God of Glory” | arr. Dan Forrest

*God of grace and god of glory, on your people pour your power. Crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom; grant us courage for the facing of this hour. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn our Christ; assail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom; grant us courage for the living of these days. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom; grant us courage, serving you whom we adore. God of grace and god of glory, on your people pour your power. Crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom; grant us courage for the facing of this hour. Amen.*

**Prayer for Illumination****Scripture** | Matthew 13:31-32 | pew Bible p. 14

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****Sermon** | “Small Seed, Big Bloom” | CeCe Armstrong**+Hymn No. 36** | “For the Fruit of All Creation” | AR HYD Y NOS**RESPONSE****Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer** | Anna Dickson

**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 New Members**Presentation of Tithes and Offering****Offertory Anthem** | “Spirit, Open My Heart” | Sandra Eithun | Adult Handbells

*Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart. God replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.*

**+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  
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## SENDING FORTH

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+**Hymn No. 363** | “Rejoice, the Lord Is King!” | DARWALL’S 148TH

+**Benediction**

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

**Postlude** | Menuet from *Suite Gothique*, op. 25 | Léon Boëllmann

## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

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Libby is the daughter of Haley and Clark Dean.

We welcome James Buck, Stephanie and Austen Butler, Clark Dean, Tina and Jubal Early, Julia and Remi Frost, Susie and Oliver Jones, Holly Tillett and Katie Craig, and Ramsay Williams into the full life of First Presbyterian Church.

Part of our offering today goes to the Ten-Cents-a-Meal program which is used to purchase fresh foods for our on-site Nourish Up food pantry.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sally McKenzie High by Sarah and Allen Shifflet.

The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of Theodore Preston Chang, son of Hilary and Joe Chang, on February 3, 2026.

*If you wish to sponsor sanctuary flowers for a baptism, marriage, memorial/honorarium, or special occasion, please notify Diane Maye at [dianenmayer@hotmail.com](mailto:dianenmayer@hotmail.com).*

Today’s Worship Leaders:

**The Reverend Dr. Lewis Galloway**, *Transitional Pastor*

**The Reverend Cecelia D. Armstrong**, *Guest Preacher, Co-moderator of the PC (USA) General Assembly*

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

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

**Kaitlyn Davros**, *Assistant Director of Music Ministries*

**Kathy Jarrell**, *violin*