TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



NOVEMBER 29, 2026
11 AM WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome!

Scan to fill out our Virtual Connect Card to help us get to know you.

Prayer Request

Scan to submit a confidential prayer request.

Preparation

Prelude | Variations on *Hyfrydol* | Charles Callahan

Words of Welcome | Lewis Galloway

Chiming of the Trinity

Adoration

Lighting of the Candle of Hope | Richmond Blake and Long Lam

Look, the stump that seemed dead has produced a green shoot;
Something new is growing.
Soon a little child shall lead us;
In him we will place our hope and trust.
Come, thou long-expected Jesus.
Hope of all the earth.

+Hymn No. 82 | "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" | HYFRYDOL

Confession

Call to Confession | Lucy Baum

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in the beginning you created the universe and formed us in your image. You sent Jesus into the world to teach us how to live in faith, hope, and love. Forgive us for the many ways in which we turned from your way, ignored the needs of others, and failed to be the people you have called us to be. As we watch and wait in this Advent season, may we look forward in hope to the day when Christ shall return and bring peace and justice to the earth. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

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!

Time with Children

Children ages 3 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.

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!

Scripture | Mark 13:24-37 | pew Bible p. 50

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon | "Embrace Hope" | Lewis Galloway

+Hymn No. 93 | "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" | TRURO

Ways to Give

In Person
Place your gift in the offering plate during **Presentation of Tithes and Offering**

Give Online
fpc.tiny.us/give

Text to Give
Text "givetofpc" to 73256

Venmo
@FirstPresofCharlotte

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 | "My Lord, What a Mornin'" | arr. H. T. Burleigh | Billy Manci, soloist

My Lord, what a mornin' when the stars begin to fall. Done quit all my worldly ways; join that heavenly band. Oh! My Lord, what a mornin' when the stars begin to fall.

+ Please stand if you are able

+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

Sending Forth

+Hymn No. 104 | "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" | VALET WILL ICH DIR 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 | O Lord How Shall I Meet You | J. S. Bach

About Today's Service

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William Kimbrough by his wife Royce.

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 Lucy Baum
Associate Pastor for Formation and Fellowship

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

William P. Young, III
Director of Music Ministries

Welcome!

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 on page 2 of your bulletin. Interested in joining First Presbyterian? Contact Jane Ives, membership coordinator, at jives@firstpres-charlotte.org.

Children's Offerings:
A nursery is available for children ages birth through 2 in C101 and C102. During the 11 a.m. service, children will be invited to participate in the Time with Children. Afterward, children ages 3 through first grade may leave for First Church and will return to the Sanctuary during the last hymn. **If your child will be attending First Church, please scan the QR code to check them in using mobile check in.**

COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS

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

stephen MINISTRY

Do you need support? We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation. Stephen Ministers are trained to support members through all of life's seasons. They offer one-on-one confidential care during difficult times through listening, caring, and praying. When you are in a tough season and need extra support, email Parish Associate Mary Bowman (mbowman@firstpres-charlotte.org) for more information.

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.

CONNECT WITH US!
@firstprescharlotte

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Announcements

Interested in something you see below? Visit **FPC.TINY.US/LINKS** or scan the QR code to learn more, register, or take the next step.

Advent Devotionals

Today we begin our Advent Devotional series. This year we're trying something new: all devotionals will be available in an interactive Advent calendar on our website, instead of in your email inbox. Visit our Advent webpage each day to view a new devotional. Scan the QR code to open the calendar.

Room in the Inn Volunteers Needed

December 1–March 30, Mondays and Tuesdays

Help FPC extend hospitality and care to neighbors experiencing homelessness through our Room in the Inn ministry. Volunteers are needed to host overnight, serve dinner, and provide meals.

Habitat for Humanity Volunteers Needed

December 5 and 12

We have two more work days on this year's Habitat build, and we need your help! FPC is hosting with Memorial Presbyterian on December 12.

Singing in the Season

December 6, 5:30 p.m., Wood Fellowship Hall

Join us for the 13th annual Singing in the Season—a performance and sing-along featuring choirs, handbells, orchestra, fellowship, and cookies! Tickets are free, but registration is required.

Service of Wholeness and Healing

December 10 at 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A candlelit service of music, prayer, and reflection for anyone who finds the holidays hard, and especially for those carrying grief. Fellowship, cider, and cookies will be available after the service.

Children's Nativity Play

December 13, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Children from birth through fifth grade are invited to bring the Christmas story to life in this joyful First Presbyterian tradition. Dress rehearsal is Saturday morning, December 12, and the play will be on December 13. Registration is required.

Alternative Gift Market

This Advent, honor someone you love with a gift that helps our neighbors. Instead of buying another thing, make a gift to the Alternative Gift Market, and receive a Christmas card to let your loved one know a gift was made in their name. Stop by the table in the Welcome Center to purchase any Sunday in Advent.

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