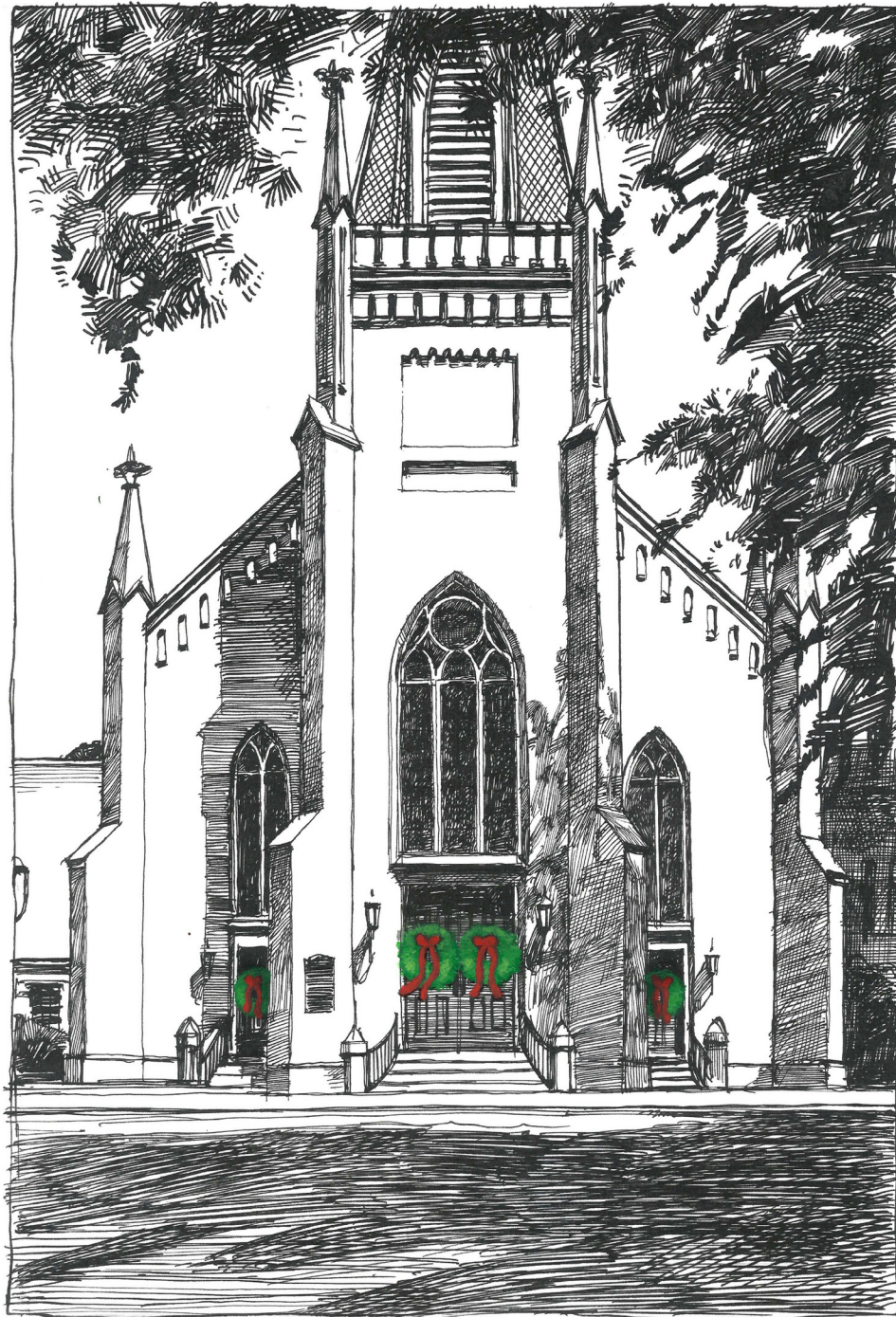


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 24, 2023 | CHRISTMAS EVE



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****Words of Welcome** | Delilah Jane Phillips**Chiming of the Trinity**

ADORATION**Lighting of the Christ Candle** | Anna, Cooper, Bella, and Rhett Bradley

We are heavy with sorrow,

but joy interrupts.

We are deep in the night,

but a star has appeared.

We are hardened by conflict,

but grace intervenes.

God, your good news of great joy is beyond our words.

Love outmatches our ability to articulate.

Let us worship God.

+**Hymn No. 133** | “O Come, All Ye Faithful” | ADESTE FIDELES**Prayer of Adoration** | Liam Smith and Robert Galloway+**Response** | Hymn No. 113, stanza 1

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Anthem | “Ding Dong! Merrily on High” | arr. Charles Wood

*Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav’n the bells are ringing: Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv’n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! E’en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, and i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest
and people sungen. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; may
you dutifully rime your eventime song, ye singers. Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

Time with Children | Godly Play

*“Godly Play” is a term coined by Jerome Berryman to describe an approach to children’s spiritual formation
that is based on creating a sacred space in which to present the stories of our faith, wonder about them
together, and then allow the children open-ended opportunities, to engage with the story on their own terms.
First Presbyterian uses Godly Play in First Church and in other areas of children’s ministries.*

Music | “Away in a Manger” | CRADLE SONG | sung by the children of the church

PROCLAMATION**Prayer for Illumination** | Maggie Rogers**Scripture** | Luke 1:46-55 | pew Bible p. 57

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Sermon** | “Magnify the Lord” | Delilah Jane Phillips+**Hymn No. 119** | “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” | MENDELSSOHN

+ Please stand if you are able

RESPONSE**+Affirmation of Faith** | Apostles' Creed | Pen Peery

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.

Christmas Offering**Offertory Anthem** | "Still, Still, Still" | arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping. Holy Star, its vigil keeping. Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth. The night is peaceful all around you. Close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth. Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber, dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

Liturgy of Light**SENDING FORTH****+Carol** | "Silent Night, Holy Night" | STILLE NACHT

During the final stanza, please lift your candle.

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, 'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

+Hymn No. 134 | "Joy to the World" | ANTIOCH**+Benediction****Postlude** | "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" | arr. Alfred Fedak

Please place your candles in the receptacle as you leave.

**PRAYER
REQUESTS**



**GIVE
ONLINE**



**TEXT
TO GIVE**



IN LOVING MEMORY

John Malcolm Murchison, Jr., *September 9, 1939 - December 18, 2023*

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The Christmas Eve offering will be collected for Roof Above. Their mission is to serve as the catalyst for systemic change to end homelessness in our community.

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 Robert L. Galloway, *Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Young Adults*

The Reverend Delilah Jane Phillips, *Chaplain for Children and Schools*

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

Catherine Hicks, *Guest Organist*

Maggie Rogers

Liam Smith