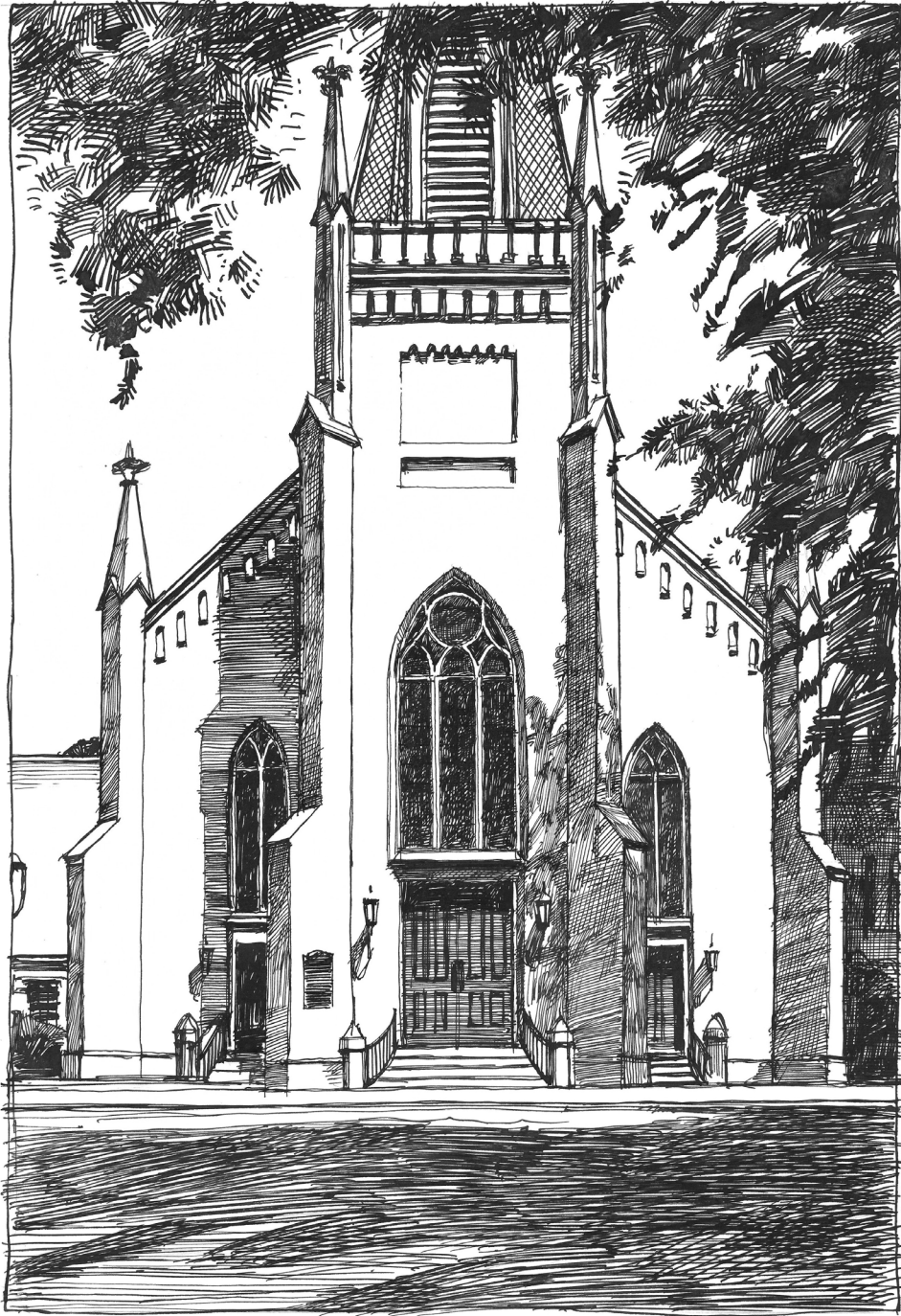


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | JANUARY 21, 2024 | THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



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** | Meditation on *Slane* | Eric Thiman**Words of Welcome** | Pen Peery**Chiming of the Trinity****ADORATION****Choral Call to Worship** | Williams, ed. Young*This is the day that Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us rejoice! Amen!***+Opening Hymn** | “God Is Here” | sung to the tune AUSTRIAN HYMN

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to teach.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd’s flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day’s dedication, all we have to give, receive: we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

CONFESSION**Call to Confession** | Robert Galloway**Prayer of Confession**

You call us to listen – for a still, small, voice, and yet we do not hear. We are so easily distracted by other voices: voices that keep us wanting more; voices that draw our attention away from our neighbors; voices that compete for our allegiance to you.

Forgive our frenetic pace – and help us to rest in your grace and mercy. Help us to rest – to be still – and to open ourselves to a word from you.

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.

FIRST
CHURCH
MOBILE
CHECK IN

+ Please stand if you are able

PROCLAMATION**Prayer for Illumination****Anthem** | “Beautiful Savior” | arr. F. Melius Christiansen | Kelly Potts, soloist

Fair are the meadows; fairer the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring. Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer; He makes our sorrowing spirit sing. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.

Scripture | John 1:35-51 | pew Bible p. 92

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Sermon** | “Choice” | Pen Peery**+Hymn No. 720** | “Jesus Calls Us” | GALILEE**RESPONSE****+Affirmation of Faith** | from *A Declaration of Faith* | Anna Dickson

In forming his people and sending them into the world Jesus called individuals to be disciples. They were to share the joy of his companionship, to understand and obey his teachings, and to follow him in life and death. We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God’s undeserved gift to each of us. It is also God’s demand upon every one of us, never perfectly fulfilled by any of us. Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life.

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** | “Be Thou My Vision” | arr. Vicente Chavarria

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my great father, I thy true son; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one. Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou, and thou only first in my heart, high king of heaven, my treasure thou art. High king of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

+Doxology | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+Prayer of Dedication**PRAYER
REQUESTS****GIVE
ONLINE****TEXT
TO GIVE**

SENDING FORTH

+**Hymn No. 634** | “To God Be the Glory” | TO GOD BE THE GLORY

+**Benediction**

+**Benediction Response**

Postlude | March on “Joyful Song” | Jon Spong

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of Lucy Elizabeth Jones, daughter of Becca and Larsen Jones.

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

The Reverend Robert L. Galloway, *Associate Pastor for Discipleship*

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

Dr. Catherine Hicks, *Guest Organist*