

# First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | APRIL 28, 2024 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



*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).

**PREPARATION** 

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**Prelude** | Ayre in B-flat | G. P. Telemann

"If Thou Art With Me" | J. S. Bach/arr. Wallace

**Words of Welcome** | Pen Peery**Chiming of the Trinity****ADORATION** 

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**Choral Call to Worship** | Young

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

+**Hymn No. 667** | "When Morning Gilds the Skies" | LAUDES DOMINI**CONFESSION** 

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**Call to Confession** | Pen Peery**Prayer of Confession**

Living God, you know who we are better than we know ourselves. We experience you as a loving parent, as a faithful friend, as a teacher committed to our lifelong learning and growth. You love us when we are at our best and no less when we are at our worst. We do not doubt your love or your forgiving heart. So we confess to you our desire to grow in love. We confess our desire to love you, as you are, being us, as we are. We confess our desire to love ourselves as you love us. We confess our desire to join you in loving others ... no exceptions. And living Creator of this beautiful living Earth, we confess our desire to cherish this world as you do ... every stone, every river, every flower, every bird or fish and other living creature. Strengthen these loving desires we pray, as Jesus taught us. Amen.

**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 age 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** 

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**Prayer for Illumination****Anthem** | "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord" | Craig Courtney

*One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which he died one voice, one song we lift in praise to him who was and is and shall be evermore. There is one body, one spirit, as you were called to one hope. One Lord, baptism, and faith, one God and father of all, who is in you all. Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts, we are given to each other for the unity of faith, that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ. One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which he died one voice, one song we lift in praise to him who was and is and shall be evermore. One faith, one hope, one Lord, one God.*

+ Please stand if you are able

FIRST  
CHURCH  
MOBILE  
CHECK IN

**Scripture** | Matthew 23:1-12 | pew Bible p. 25

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** | “How to Identify Yourself in Conflicted Times” | Brian McLaren

+**Hymn No. 306** | “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” | DENNIS

## RESPONSE

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+**Affirmation of Faith** | from *A Brief Statement of Faith* | Anna Dickson

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal son home, God is faithful still.

**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** | Crisis Assistance Ministry | Carol Hardison

**Presentation of Tithes and Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** | “The Gift of Love” | Hal Hopson

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv’n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, spirit, come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.*

+**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**

## SENDING FORTH

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+**Hymn No. 308** | “O God in Whom All Life Begins” | NOEL

+**Benediction**

+**Benediction Response** | “Amen” | John Rutter

**Postlude** | “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” | arr. Roy Guenther

PRAYER  
REQUESTS



GIVE  
ONLINE



TEXT  
TO GIVE



## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

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The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of Charlotte Read Lloyd-Smith, daughter of Alex and Gregor Lloyd-Smith.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Lillie Mikell Cochran and Benjamin James Cauble on April 27, 2024 by the Cochran and Cauble families.

Part of our offering today goes to the Ten-Cents-a-Meal program, a hunger relief and at-risk youth ministry of the Presbytery of Charlotte.

We thank Gabe Slesinger, trumpeter, for joining us today in worship.

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

Today's Worship Leaders:

**The Reverend Pendleton B. Peery**, *Senior Pastor*

**The Reverend Lucy M. Crain**, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*

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

**Brian D. McLaren**, *Guest Preacher*

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

**Dr. Catherine Hicks**, *Guest Organist*