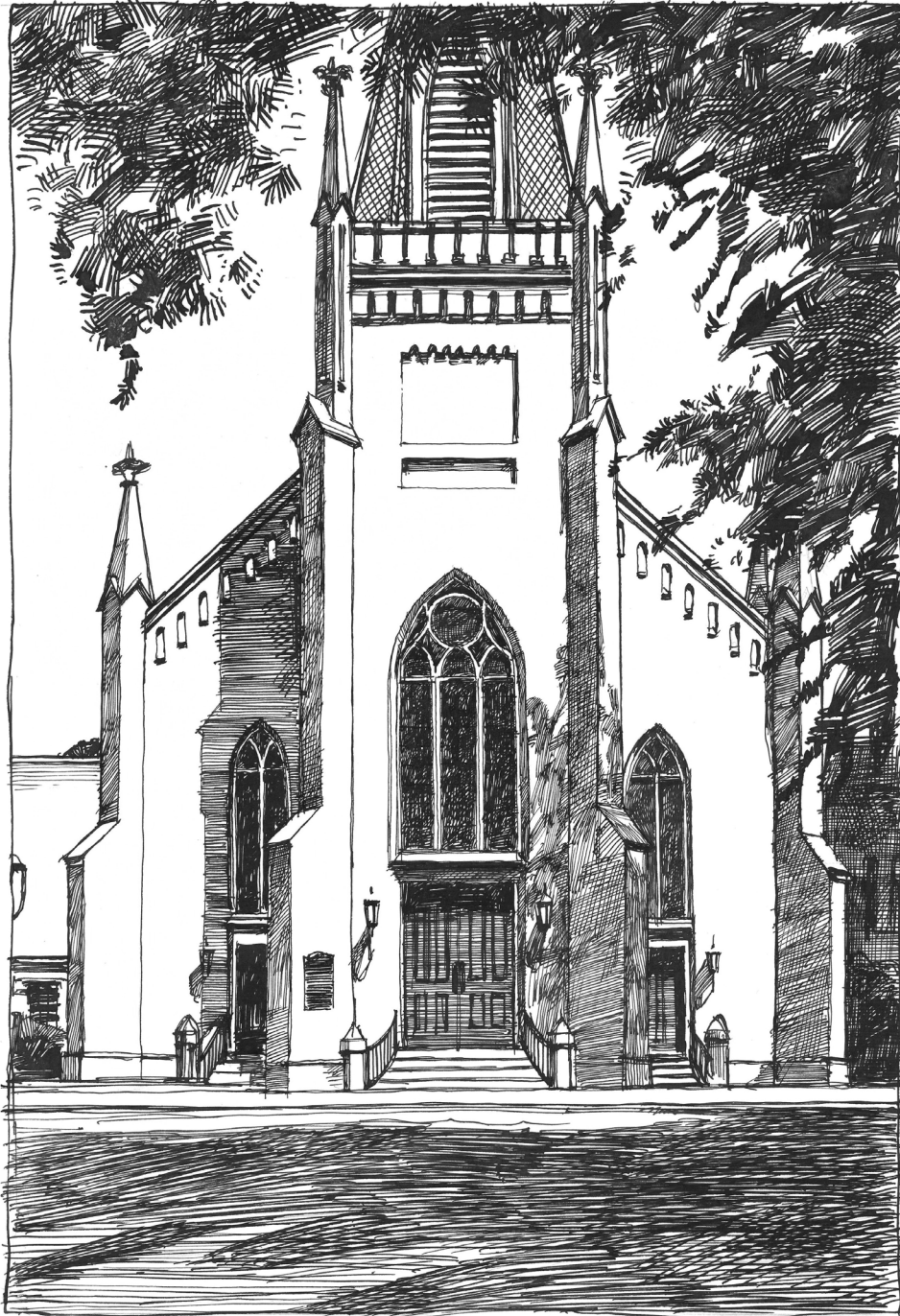


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 1, 2024 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 | “An Advent Prelude” | Charles Callahan**Words of Welcome** | Pen Peery**Chiming of the Trinity****ADORATION**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath*(the congregation will sing while seated)*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

+Lighting of the Candle of Hope | Ly & Stefan Friend

What if what the prophet says is true?

A little child will lead us to wholeness.

What if hope is possible?

We dare to ask it; we long to trust it.

God, as we await your coming,
give light, give hope.

+Hymn No. 82 | “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” | HYFRYDOL**CONFESSION**

Call to Confession | Lucy Crain**Prayer of Confession**

Gracious and merciful God, we confess that we allow disappointment, difficulty, and suffering to get in the way of our trusting of your promises. We say that you are our hope, but our lives tell a different story. Strengthen us, that we may follow in the path of the one whose journey was not marked by comfort but by faithfulness. We ask it in faith.

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!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism of Theodore Rhodes Hice (Teddy)

+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.

PROCLAMATION**Anthem** | "O Come, Emmanuel" | Elaine Hagenberg

O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appears. O come thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here, and drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel. O come, desire of nations; bind all people in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease, and fill the world with heaven's peace. O rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayer for Illumination**Scripture** | Mark 1:1-8 | pew Bible p. 34

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Sermon** | "Christmas at Mark's House" | Pen Peery**+Hymn No. 109** | "Blest Be the God of Israel" | MERLE'S TUNE**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 Tithes and Offering**Offertory Anthem** | Meditation on *Veni Emmanuel* | Raymond Haan**+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

The Elder assisting with the baptism today is Lindsay Schall.

FIRST CHURCH MOBILE CHECK IN



PRAYER REQUESTS



GIVE ONLINE



TEXT TO GIVE



SENDING FORTH

+**Hymn No. 104** | “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” | VALET WILL ICH DER 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 | “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” | Robert Hobby

IN LOVING MEMORY

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Steve and Judith Flohr upon the death of their son, and Christian Flohr upon the death of his brother, Tim Flohr.

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Teddy is the son of Julia and Carter Hice.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William A. Kimbrough and in honor of his birthday, December 7, 1942.

If you wish to sponsor sanctuary flowers for a baptism, marriage, memorial/honorarium, or special occasion, please notify Diane Maye at dianenmayer@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 Lucy M. Crain, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

Kaitlyn Davros, Assistant Director of Music Ministries

John Mooney, Cello

David Dennis, Guest Accompanist