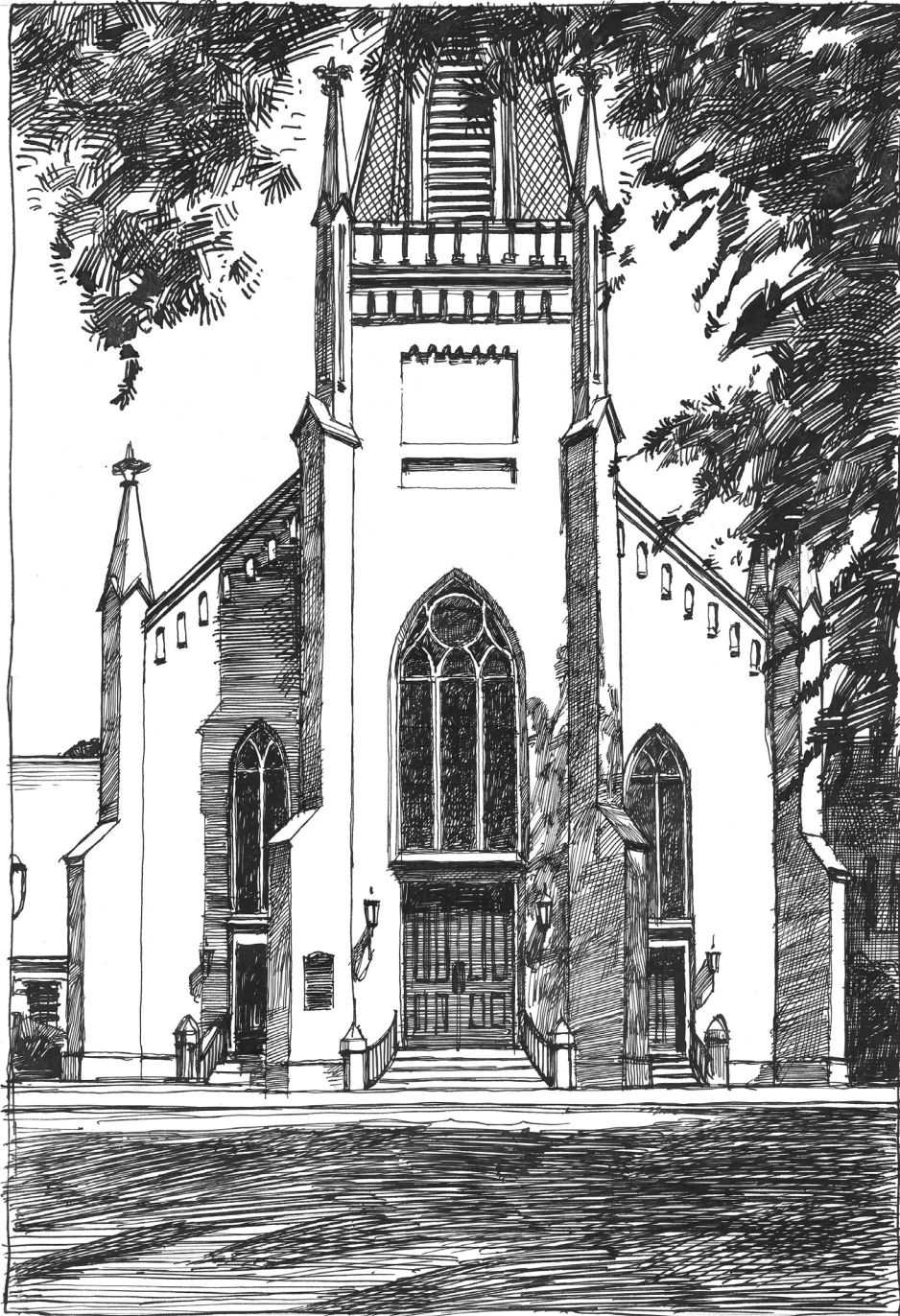


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 15, 2024 | THIRD 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 | “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” | Johannes Brahms**Words of Welcome** | Pen Peery**Chiming of the Trinity****ADORATION**

+**Lighting of the Candle of Joy** | Jean and John Mooney

What if what the prophet says is true?

We need not fear— for sorrow will flee away.

What if joy is possible?

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

God, as we await your coming,

give light, give joy.+**Hymn No. 143** | “Angels from the Realms of Glory” | REGENT SQUARE**CONFESSION**

Call to Confession | Lucy Crain**Prayer of Confession** | written by Rev. Katelyn Gordon Cooke

We confess that we are not as attentive to your presence in our lives as we should be. We let the world help us determine what is right and good instead of letting you guide us to what is faithful. We doubt your plan when it does not fit with our plan, and we prioritize what is right for us over what is right by you. By your Spirit, help us see what you would have us to see, to do what you would have us to do, and to love as you would have us to love.

Response to Confession | Hymn No. 90 | WAIT FOR THE LORD**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 Barnes Anderson Locke

+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**Prayer for Illumination****Anthem** | "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" | Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing "Holy, Holy" to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing "Holy, Holy, Lord!" Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein; rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon. E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light, nor lamp, nor sun. For Christ will be their all!

Scripture | Matthew 1:8-25 | pew Bible p. 1

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

Sermon | "Christmas at Matthew's House" | Pen Peery**+Hymn No. 105** | "People, Look East" | BESANÇON**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** | "And the Glory of the Lord" from *Messiah* | G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

+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 Steve Lynch.

FIRST CHURCH MOBILE CHECK IN



PRAYER REQUESTS



GIVE ONLINE



TEXT TO GIVE



SENDING FORTH

+**Hymn No. 134** | “Joy to the World” | ANTIOCH

+**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 | “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” | arr. Al Fedak

IN LOVING MEMORY

Renna Massey, February 16, 1937 - December 12, 2024.

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Barnes is the son of Brittan and Thomas Locke.

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 Lucy M. Crain, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

William P. Young, III, Director of Music Ministries

Kaitlyn Davros, Assistant Director of Music Ministries