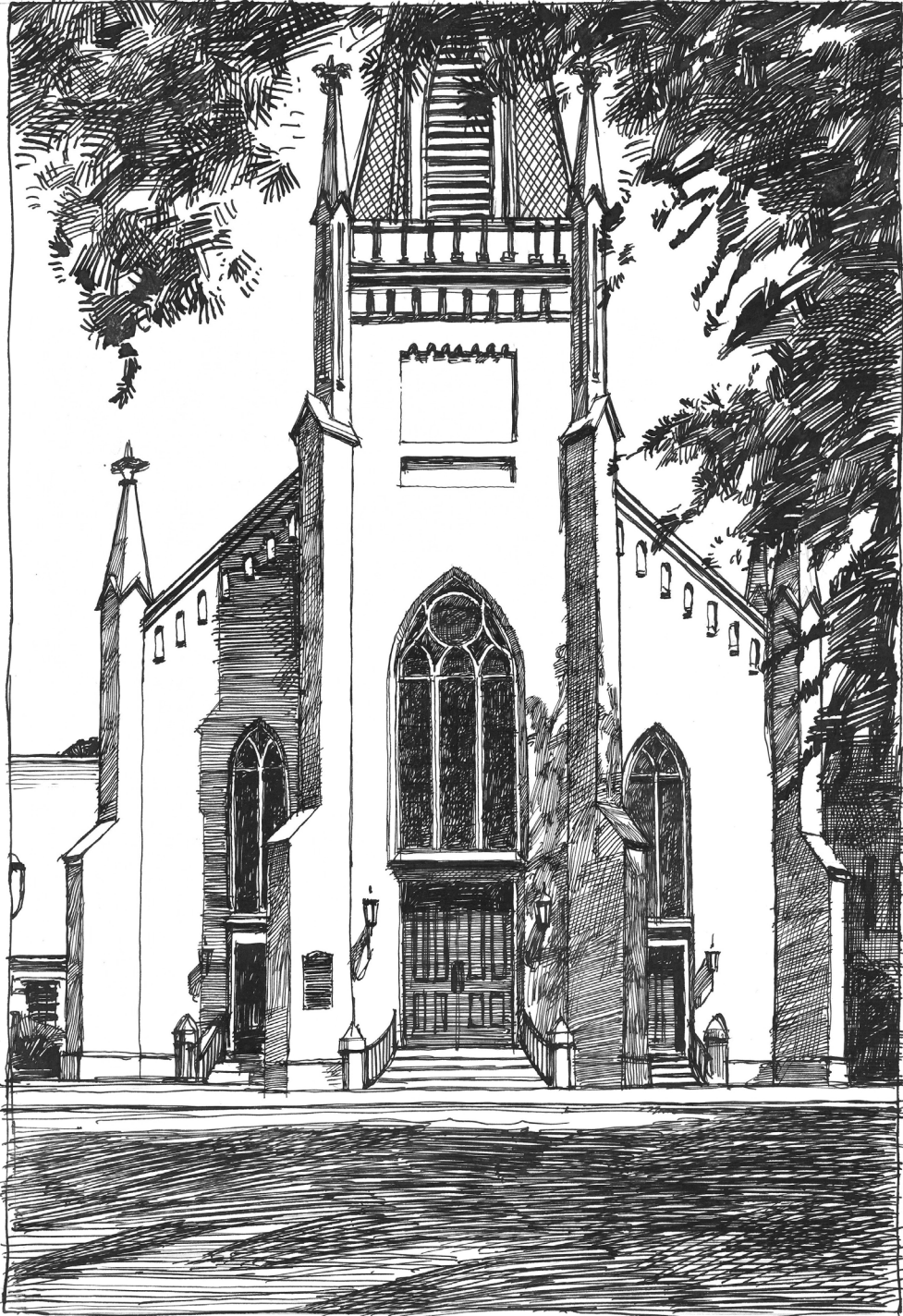


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD

Are you interested in joining our church? Contact Jane Ives, Membership Coordinator, jives@firstpres-charlotte.org.

Prelude | “In Sweet Rejoicing” | J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome | Pen Peery

Chiming of the Trinity

Lighting of the Candle of Love | Judith and Steve Flohr

What if what the prophet says is true?

Every valley will be lifted and every lamb gathered in.

What if love is possible?

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

God, as we await your coming,

give light, give love.

Processional Carol | “Once in Royal David’s City” | IRBY | arr. David Willcocks

Stanza 1 | Clara Curry, soloist

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed. Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

+Stanza 2 | Choir | **Please stand as the choir passes your pew.**

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

+Stanza 3-6 | All

And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey, love, and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay; Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood’s pattern, day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew, and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God’s right hand on high; when like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Anthem | “Gloria” from *Communion Service in a minor* | Harold Darke

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for all thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly king, God the father almighty. O Lord, the only begotten son Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, son of the father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord. Thou, only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the father. Amen.

Lesson | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 | Ben Oliva

The people who walked in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

Carol | “Great Joy A-Comin’” | David Angerman and Joseph Graham | Lauren Russell, soloist

Come, ye people. Listen, children. Hear the word of the Lord. Children, gather closer. Claim the promise. Soon a Savior will be born. Oh, there’s a great joy a-comin’ soon, I know! Sing hallelu! There’s a great joy a-comin’ to the world! Sing hallelujah! The Lord is coming soon! Oh, there’s a great hope a-comin’ soon. There’s a great love a-comin’ soon. There’s a great hope a-comin’! There’s a great love a-comin’! There’s a great joy a-comin’ to the world! Great joy!

Lesson | Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 | Katie Caldwell

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

+Congregational Carol 378 | “We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom” | MERLE’S TUNE

(Children may leave for childcare through the rear doors. Parents will pick up in room P307.)

Lesson | Luke 1:26-35, 38 | Cooper Bradley

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

Carol | “The Holly and the Ivy” | arr. Stephen Paulus

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown, of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. O, the rising of the sun and running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir. The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our savior. The holly bears a berry as red as any blood, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas day in the morn. The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.

Lesson | Luke 2:1-7 | Knox and William Gustafson

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem where Mary gives birth to her child.

Carol | “Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella” | arr. Barlow Bradford

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella; bring a torch, to the cradle run! It is Jesus, good folk of the village; Christ is born and Mary’s calling. Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother. Ah! Ah! Beautiful is her son! It is wrong when the child is sleeping; it is wrong to talk so loud. Silence, all, as you gather around, lest your noise should waken Jesus. Hush! Hush! See how fast he slumbers! Hush! Hush! See how fast he sleeps! Hasten now, good folk of the village; hasten now the Christ child to see. You will find him asleep in the manger; quietly come and whisper softly. Hush! Hush! Peacefully now he slumbers. Hush! Hush! Peacefully now he sleeps. Softly to the little stable; softly for a moment come. Look and see how charming is Jesus, how he is warm, his cheeks are rosy! Hush! Hush! See how the child is sleeping. Hush! Hush! See how he smiles in his dreams.

Lesson | Luke 2:8-16 | Don Thorpe

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

+Congregational Carol 113 | “Angels We Have Heard on High” | GLORIA | descant: Neswick**Lesson** | Matthew 2:1-11 | Barbara Esposito

Magi from the east come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.

Carol | “Pat-a-Pan” | arr. David Conte

Willie, bring your little drum; Robin, bring your flute and come; and be merry while you play, tu-re-lu-re-lu, pat-a-pat-a-pan, come be merry while you play on this joyful Christmas day! When the men of olden days to the King of Kings gave praise, on the fife and drum did play, tu-re-lu-re-lu, pat-a-pat-a-pan, on the fife and drum did play on this joyful Christmas day! God and man today become more in tune than fife and drum, so be merry while you play, tu-re-lu-re-lu, pat-a-pat-a-pan, so be merry while you play, sing and dance this Christmas day!

Lesson | John 1:1-14 | Tom Bunn

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.

+Congregational Carol 133 | “O Come, All Ye Faithful” | ADESTE FIDELES | arr. Willcocks

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer | Lucy Crain

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.

PRAYER
REQUESTS**Stewardship of Life** | Christmas Joy Offering | Presentation of Tithes and Offering**Offertory Anthem** | "We Sing with Choirs of Angels" | Tom Trenney

Be not afraid. Joy to the world! Hark! The angels sing. For unto us a child is born; behold the newborn king. We sing with choirs of angels: "Glory to the Lord above whom angels greet with anthems sweet." We sing the wonders of Christ's love. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong. And we, entrenched in war, hear not the love song that they bring. Oh, hush the noise and end the strife, and with the angels sing! We sing with choirs of angels: "Glory to the Lord above whom angels greet with anthems sweet." We sing the wonders of Christ's love! We sing with choirs of angels: "Glory to the Lord above."

GIVE
ONLINETEXT
TO GIVE**+CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING:**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

+Benediction**Postlude** | Grand Fantasia on "Joy to the World" | Marc Cheban**IN LOVING MEMORY**

Betsy Lee Griffin, October 10, 1925 - December 13, 2024

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Today we will collect the Christmas Joy offering. Offerings placed in the Christmas Joy Gift envelopes provide support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Today's Worship Leaders:

The Reverend Pendleton B. Peery, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Anna 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

The Sanctuary Choir
Will Young, director

Soprano

Scott Bryan
Nan Cherry
Melissa Childers
Julie Cramerson
Loretta Giles
Beryl Ierardi
Elizabeth Ignasher
Sara Kidd
Anne Lafferty
Fran Landess
Mary Ann Langston
Christina Pier
Beth Rickenbaugh
Susan Shimp
Jylian Taylor
Martha Thorpe
Lauren Russell

Alto

Carla Faust Bare
Suzie Black
Kacie Coughlin
Pam Dennis
Barb Frith
Tonda Gridley
Kelly Harder
DiAn Kempf Jones
Carolyn Jones
Janet Lyman
Karen MacKenzie
Meg McReynolds
Caryn Overbey
Gwen Scott
Blair Shiff
Angelica Stanley
Libby Tilson
Melanie Twyne
Jane Whitley

Tenor

Hank Griffin
Skipper Johnson
Eric Langer
Kent Main
Warren Overbey
Alan Turner
David Wells
David Williamson Wells

Bass

David Dennis
Bill Fleet
Jeff Hollowell
Richard Lafferty
Bill Lynch
Billy Mancini
Andy Parse
Jim Twyne
Marty Walker
David Williamson

Instrumentalists

Violin 1

Jane Brendle
Emily Chatham
Lenora Leggatt

Violin 2

Kathy Jarrell
Leigh Marsh
Jenny Jones

Viola

Matthew Darsey
Shawn Snider

Cello

Sarah Markle
John Mooney

Bass

Taddes Korris

Oboe

Teil Taleisin

Flute

Amy Orsinger-Whitehead

Clarinet

Sam Sparrow

Trumpet

Eric Millard
Stacey Mills

Horn

Judy Thompson

Trombone

Justin Isenhour

Bass Trombone

Scott Hartman

Percussion

Trevor Cook

Harp

Amber Joy Koeppen

Organ

Kaitlyn Davros

The 2024 Christmas Poinsettias

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory or honor of

(Honoraria in italics)

Belle Ward and Sid Abernethy	<i>Knox and William Gustafson</i>	Margaret and Joe Neil
Bev and Joan Barksdale	Dr. and Mrs. Edward H. Hagerty	Kirk Raymond Orell
Jewell Barton	Cornelia and Dick Harbison	Joe and Joy Padgett
John and Jean Born	Taylor Harbison	The Parents of DiAn Kempf Jones and
Kent Brock	Will Harbison	Joseph Jones
Robert (Bob) Buck	<i>Pat Hardison</i>	Charles Patterson
Gail Weaver Bunn	Ann Hecker	<i>The People of Western North Carolina</i>
Jane and Lawrence Burton	Bill and Tet Henley	<i>Birshal Poole and Bob Poole</i>
Henry Gray Caldwell	Barbara and Pressley Hoover	Robert Potts
JoAnn Caldwell	Elizabeth Hosbach	Amelie Pressly
Kenneth Campbell	Sara and Nevin Hoy	Dr. and Mrs. Henry E. Pressly
Kenneth Carroll	Dorothy and Tom Hunter	Thomas Baker Price
Russell and Sue Carroll	Eugenia Hunter	Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Ridenhour, Jr.
Charles L. Cauthen	Gordon Hunter	Margaret Sauerwald
Marilyn Chester	Gerry King	Virginia and Fontaine Scott
Eugene W. and Mary T. Cochrane	Royal and Evelyn Kinner	Kenneth G. Smith
C. Penry "Penn" Craver, Jr.	Mike and June Leonard	Carrie and Ed Suits
Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Emberson	Rev. Richard H. Lindsey	Helen Tallent
Dr. and Mrs. Ed Ferro	Walter S. Lockhart	Carolyn and Fredrick Temple
Carlton Fleming	John and Mitchell Lyman	Donald and Nancy Thorpe
<i>Jean Gilcrest</i>	Arlene Main	Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Wallace
Jimmy Glover	Martha Mallory	Lt. Col. and Mrs. Richard C. Ward
Mabel and James Glover	Paul H. and Margaret C. Mann	Donna Welch
Eugene B. Graham, III	Jim Martin	Cathy Wiggins
Melle and Berrien Graham, Jr.	Bill and Elise McClung	
Roderick A. Groetzingar	Dr. and Mrs. Forrest Mingo and Pam	

The 2024 Chancel Décor Contributions

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory or honor of

George and Blanche Bondrando by Ken and Georgia Johnson	Mrs. Nancy Johnson by Ken and Georgia Johnson
Kenneth Campbell by Jaret Wayman	Betty and John Kinnett by Claire and John Tate
Caroline and John Carriker by Blair, Alexander and Marion Donald	Paul H. and Margaret C. Mann by Gene and Jean Cochrane
Eugene W. and Mary T. Cochrane by Gene and Jean Cochrane	The Parents of Gibbs and Bryan Ives and The Parents of Frasier and Jane Ives
Robert A. Eubank by his family	<i>Birshal Poole and Bob Poole</i> by Beth Poole
Dorothy and William Halligan by Katie and Mike James	Dolly and Jack Tate by Claire and John Tate
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse B. Hite, Sr. by Jesse and Dianne Hite	Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Wallace by Scott Wallace
Nancy and Robert James by Katie and Mike James	Mr. and Mrs. William B. Wingfield by Jesse and Dianne Hite

The 2024 Christmas Wreaths

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory or honor of

(Honoraria in italics)

Pat and Randy Ayer
by their children and their families

Conrad and Carolyn Bare
by Dave and Carla Faust Bare

Paul Brackbill
by Carrie Tucker

Mark Burud
by Gretchen Burud Botrill, Alec Burud and Grace Burud

JoAnn Caldwell
by Mark, Katie, Carson and Harris Caldwell

Boyd Campbell
by Frances K. Campbell

Kenneth Campbell
by Jaret Wayman

Caroline and John Carriker
by Blair, Alexander and Marion Donald

CDC Staff and Teachers
by Laura and Will Potts

Jean and Gene Cochrane
by Fritz, Mary Margaret, Hill and Mason Porter

Carl and Anna Faust
by Dave and Carla Faust Bare

First Presbyterian Church's Ministers and Staff
by Vicki Sutton

Davis Christian Flohr
by his family

Timothy Williams Flohr
by his family

Roderick A. Groetzinger
by Vickie Groetzinger

Jack Lomax
by Jane and John Lomax

Larry and Dowd Maye
by Diane Maye

Phyllis Melton and Rex McGuinn
by Pat and Burt Melton

The Parents of Bill and Norene Hart

Birshal Poole and Bob Poole
by Beth Poole

Nancy Porter
by Fritz, Mary Margaret, Hill and Mason Porter

Margaret and Lowry Pressly
by Sara Pressly

Bertha Moore Rankin
by the Schwappe family

Margaret Sauerwald
by Kelly Potts Harder

Martha Rankin Schwappe
by the Schwappe family

David Sidbury
by Debbie Sidbury

Belle and Douglas Sutton
by Vicki Sutton

Kathy Wagstaff
by Olivia Hurd

Welcome!

We're so glad you decided to join us for worship today! Whether you are a member, a frequent visitor, or it's your first time here, keep reading for details about today's worship.

New here? Please fill out a Connect Card, which can be found in the seatback of the pew in front of you, or scan the "Virtual Connect Card" QR code in the front of your bulletin.



Have children with you today?

9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Services: A nursery is available for children ages birth through two years old in P311.

11 a.m. Service Only: First Church will be open the entire hour in P307, or children can begin in worship with their families and then, at an appointed time in the service, may follow leaders upstairs to First Church. All children will need to be picked up after worship — they will not return to their seats during the service.



Our church is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which seeks equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church.

Do you need support? We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation. Stephen Ministers are trained to engage in confidential, structured, and caring relationships with people who are going through a difficult period. If you are in a tough season and need extra support, email Anna Dickson (adickson@firstpres-charlotte.org).

If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

Please help us keep our church clean by taking your bulletin with you when you leave.

CONNECT WITH US!



@firstprescharlotte

Announcements

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

11 a.m. Children and Family Service

December 24, 11 a.m., Sanctuary or livestream

A children's service for families of all shapes and sizes. Adults with or without children are invited to attend. There is no nursery or First Church for Christmas Eve services.

8 p.m. Candlelight Service

December 24, 8 p.m., Sanctuary or livestream

11 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Service

December 24, 11 p.m., Sanctuary or livestream

The 8 p.m. service will be broadcast at 11 p.m. on WSOC-Channel 9 and WAXN-Channel 64.

Christmas Eve Offering for Roof Above

All proceeds from our Christmas Eve offering will go towards bringing unsheltered neighbors home for the holidays. The funds collected will go to our mission partner, Roof Above, to support their housing program for the most vulnerable in our community.

There will be no services on Christmas Day.



A note about First Church today and next week:

Today, First Church will be open the entire hour in P307, or children can begin in worship with their families and then, at an appointed time in the service, may follow leaders upstairs to First Church. All children will need to be picked up after worship — they will not return to their seats during the service.

There will be no First Church on December 29.

Alternative Gift Market

Sundays in December following worship

Honor friends and family with gifts that support our community partners and neighbors around the world. Scan the QR code below to purchase online or stop by the welcome center after worship.

Children's Choirs

Choirs for ages 4 1/2 to fifth grade resume on January 8. Scan the QR code to register.

Habitat for Humanity

January 3

Painters are needed for Friday, January 3, as we work to complete our 37th home!



SCAN HERE TO ACCESS ALL LINKS
FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS
[FPC.TINY.US/LINKS](https://fpc.tiny.us/links)