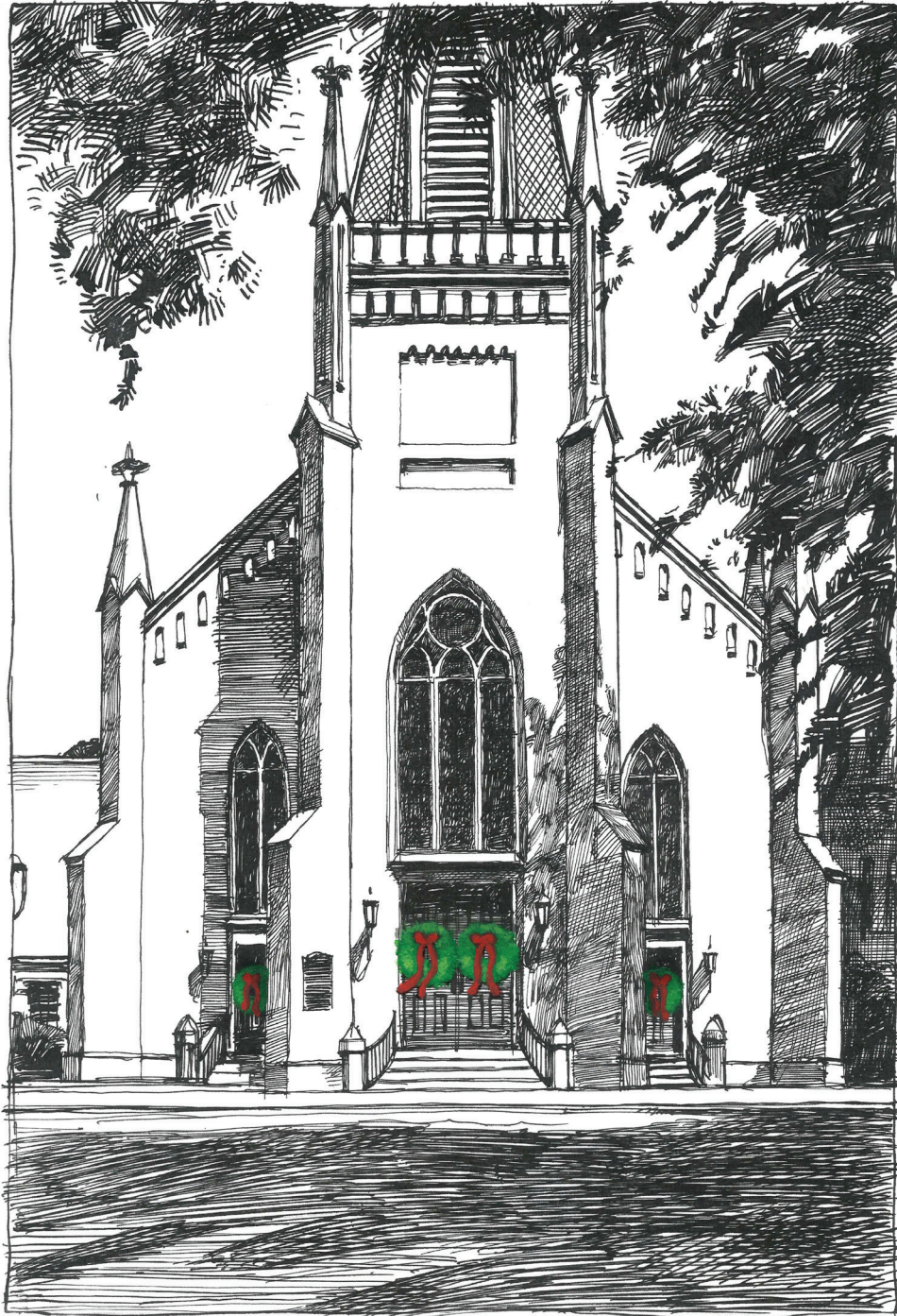


# First Presbyterian Church

8 PM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 24, 2024 | CHRISTMAS EVE



*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).

**Prelude** | Variations on *Adeste Fideles* | Marcel Dupré

## Chiming of the Hour

+**Lighting of the Christ Candle** | Georgia and Ken Johnson

We are heavy with sorrow,

**but joy interrupts.**

We are deep in the night,

**but a star has appeared.**

We are hardened by conflict,

**but grace intervenes.**

God, your good news of great joy is beyond our words.

**Love outmatches our ability to articulate.**

So let us sing!

+**Processional Carol 133** | “O Come, All Ye Faithful” | ADESTE FIDELES

**Opening Prayer** | Lucy Crain

**We wait impatiently, as only the stars can muster a hush as they bend toward the coming light.**

**Help us hold our collective breath with the angelic host as they clutch their restless alleluias.**

**For God is on the way: the mother is laboring, the father pacing, the stable preparing, the Word waiting, the light breaking forth, and the promise shining through.**

**Ready us, we pray. Amen.**

**Anthem** | “On Christmas Night” (Sussex Carol) | arr. Philip Ledger

*On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring: news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful king's birth. Then why should all on earth be so sad since our redeemer made us glad? When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty. When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place; angels and all with joy may sing all for to see the king. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: Glory to God and peace to all, now and forever more. Amen.*

## Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture** | Luke 2:1-7 | pew Bible p. 58

+**Carol 119** | “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” | MENDELSSOHN

**Scripture** | Luke 2:8-20 | pew Bible p. 58

**Sermon** | “Christmas at Luke's House” | Pen Peery

+**Carol 121** | “O Little Town of Bethlehem” | ST. LOUIS

**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.**

PRAYER  
REQUESTS

## Christmas Offering

### Offertory Anthem | “O Holy Night” | Adolphe Adam, arr. Hugh Thomas | Anne Lafferty, soloist

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; it is the night of our dear savior’s birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices. O night divine when Christ was born; O night divine! Truly he taught us to love one another; his law and his gospel is peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise his holy name. Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices. O night divine when Christ was born; O night divine!*

### Sharing the Light of Christ

#### +Carol | “Silent Night, Holy Night” | STILLE NACHT

During the final stanza, please lift your candle.

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, ’round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing “Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!”**

#### +Benediction

*As the lights come on, please extinguish your candle, place it in the receptacle, and exit the sanctuary in peace.*

GIVE  
ONLINE



TEXT  
TO GIVE



## Merry Christmas!

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

**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.



**There is no nursery or First Church for today's services. Your children are welcome in all services! The nursery for ages birth through two years old will resume on December 29. First Church will resume on January 5, 2025.**



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

## Announcements

**Please note that the church offices will be closed December 25 –27, 2024. There will be no worship services on Christmas Day.**

### 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 the QR code for more information and to register.

### Communion Sunday Food Drive

January 5

As we come to God's table to be nourished spiritually by the sacrament of communion, please consider bringing non-perishable donations to church on January 5 to feed those of God's children who suffer from physical hunger.



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

### ABOUT THIS SERVICE

All proceeds from our Christmas Eve offering will go towards bringing unsheltered neighbors home for the holidays in cooperation with our mission partner, Roof Above. You can give to the offering plate during the service or give online by scanning the QR code or going to [fpc.tiny.us/home](https://fpc.tiny.us/home).

*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**, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

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

**Kaitlyn Davros**, Assistant Director of Music Ministries

TEXT  
TO GIVE



GIVE  
ONLINE

