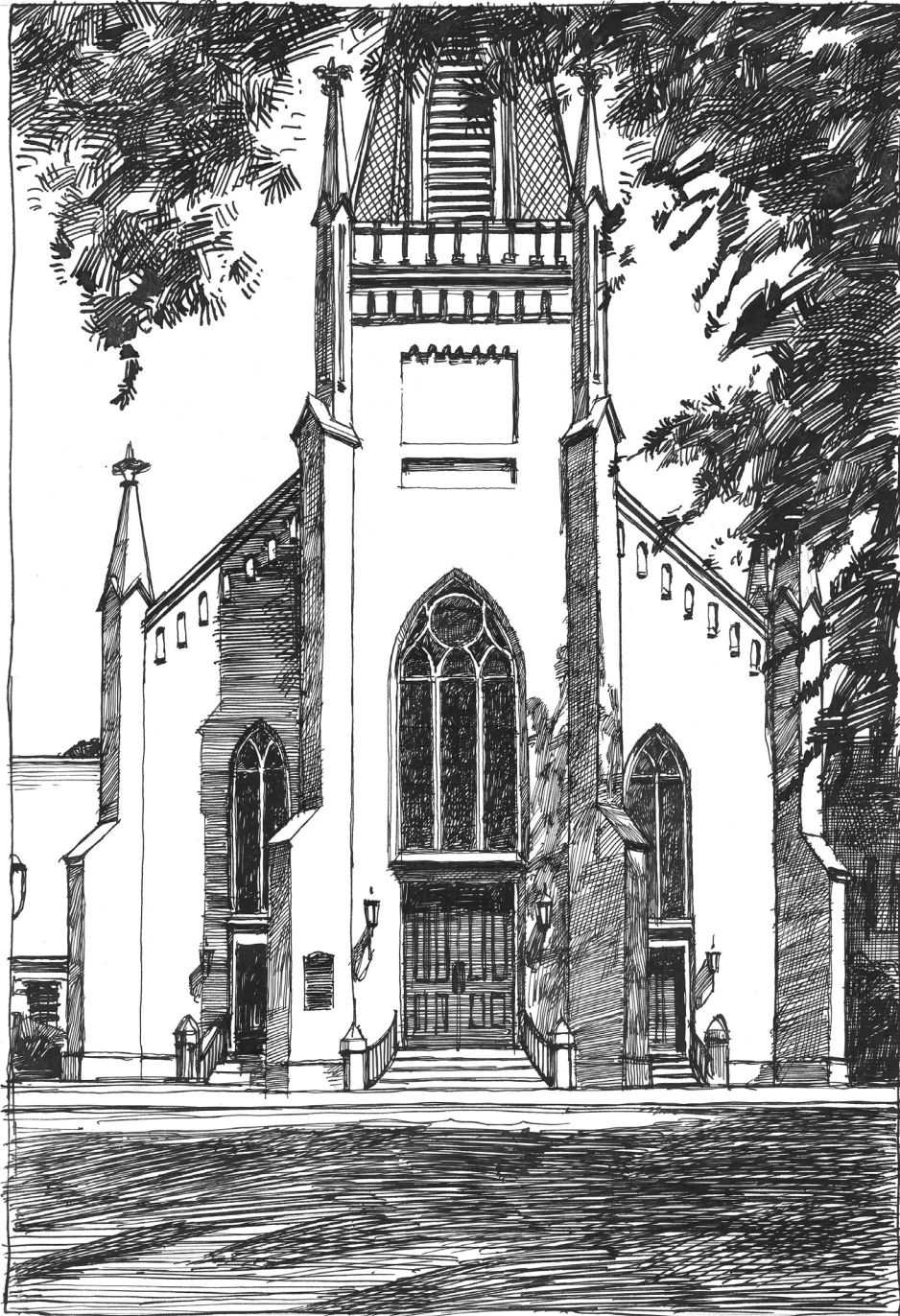


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 29, 2024 | FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



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 | Christmas Cradle Song | Alfred Hollins

Words of Welcome | Lucy Crain

Chiming of the Trinity

ADORATION**+Call to Worship**

We have welcomed the Christ child and declared God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

We anticipate a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past and anxious to discover what the future will bring.

We watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, and who calls us to share that love with others.

Come, let us worship as we watch and work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

+Hymn No. 147 | "The First Nowell" | THE FIRST NOWELL

CONFESSION

Call to Confession | Anna Dickson

Prayer of Confession | Adapted from Rev. Beth Merrill Neel

God of stars and angels, God of shepherds and lambs, God of abundance and grace: You know us well, better than we know ourselves.

You hear us cry "Gloria" and "Hallelujah", and yet you watch us drift away from you as soon as the lights go dim. You hear us say "Thy will be done" and "Use me, O God", and you watch us do nothing in response to your children in great need. You know us, and you love us, and you forgive. Hear us now say, "Change us through your coming; turn us around, and make us more loving and courageous and hopeful."

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

+Response to Pardon | GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism of Jack Haywood Pritchett

+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.

There is no First Church today. Children are encouraged to stay and worship with their families.

+ Please stand if you are able

The Elder assisting with the baptism today is Minna Elliott.

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination**Scripture** | Galatians 4:1-7 | pew Bible p. 189

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Music** | “The Work of Christmas” | Dan Forrest | Loretta Giles, soloist*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, to make music from the heart.***Sermon** | “Freedom FOR” | Lucy Crain+**Hymn No. 145** | “What Child Is This” | GREENSLEEVES**RESPONSE**

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer | Mary Bowman**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** | “There’s a Song in the Air” | Wilbur Held+**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****SENDING FORTH**

+**Hymn No. 136** | “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” | GO TELL IT+**Benediction**+**Benediction Response** | “Amen” | DANISH**Postlude** | Organ Flourish on “Joy to the World” | Michael DellPRAYER
REQUESTSGIVE
ONLINETEXT
TO GIVE

IN LOVING MEMORY

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Ann Barnes Robertson upon the death of her father, Charles Harriss Simmons.

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to the family of Kathryn (Kathy) Dunlavy McElroy (July 16, 1946 - December 19, 2024).

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Jack is the son of Letra and Jack Pritchett.

The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of Russell Charles Moore son of Maggie and Alex Moore.

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

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

The Reverend Mary Bowman, *Parish Associate*

Lee Northcutt, *Guest Organist*

David Dennis, *Guest Choir Director*