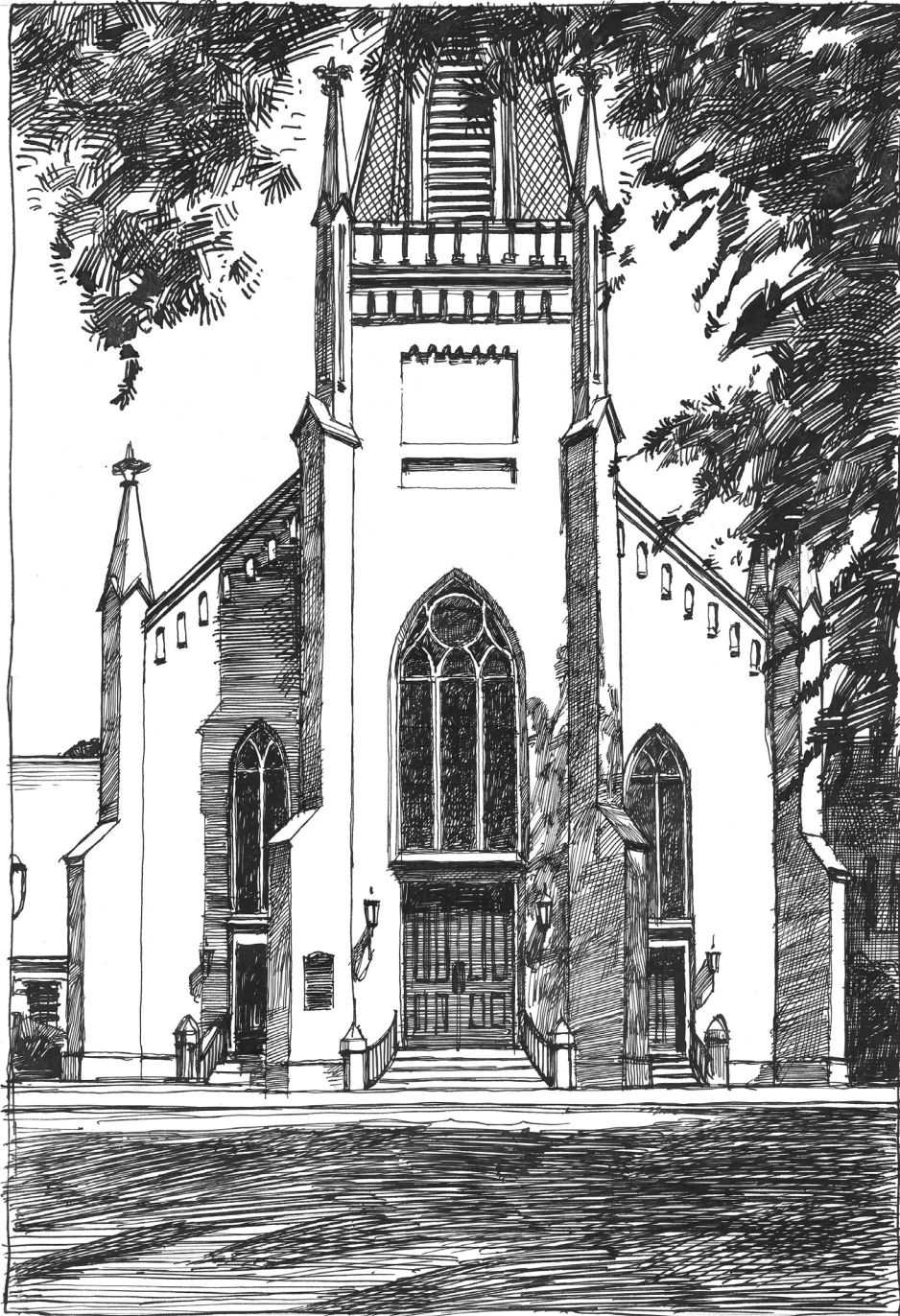


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 8, 2024 | SECOND 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

PREPARATION

Prelude | Savior of the Nations, Come | J. S. Bach
 “Advent Carol” | Beth Kenreich | Carol Choir

Hope, hope! Hear the good news: Jesus our savior brings hope to you. Peace, peace! Hear the good news: Jesus our savior brings peace to you. Joy, joy! Hear the good news: Jesus our savior brings joy to you. Love, love! Hear the good news: Jesus our savior brings love to you.

Words of Welcome | Anna Dickson

Chiming of the Trinity

ADORATION

+Lighting of the Candle of Hope | Rick Griggs & John Hopkins

What if what the prophet says is true?

Swords will one day be shovels; and war a lost cause.

What if peace is possible?

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

God, as we await your coming,

give light, give peace.

+Opening Hymn No. 88 | “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” | VENI EMMANUEL
Stanzas 1, 2 6, 7

CONFESSION

Call to Confession | Lucy Crain

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, into the darkness of this world, you send prophets of your light, but we choose to keep our eyes closed. We prefer the familiarity of darkness to the truth of your light. In so many ways, we live diminished lives that are but shadows of the lives you intend for us. Forgive us, Lord. Awaken in us a sincere repentance, that we may shine with the bright joy of your saving grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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!

VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD



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

FIRST
CHURCH
MOBILE
CHECK IN



+ Please stand if you are able

Time with Children

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 | “Light of Hope” | Mark Patterson | Kirk Choir | Emmie Cronin, soloist

*Light of hope, light of peace, you are just the light we need. Shine for all the world to see: Christ is coming soon.
Light of hope, light of peace, promise of the love he brings, shine for all the world to see: Christ is coming soon.
Light of hope, light of peace, gift of joy that gladly rings, shine for all the world to see: Christ is coming soon.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture | John 1:1-14 | pew Bible p. 91

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon | “Christmas at John’s House” | Anna Dickson

Anthem | “The Glory of the Father” | Egil Hovland | Ed. Pooler

The word was made flesh and dwelt among us. We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the beginning was the word. The word was with God. In him was life, and the life was the light of all. He came to his own, and his own received him not. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us. We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.

RESPONSE

+Affirmation of Faith | Apostles’ Creed | Pen Peery

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.

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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 | “Keep Your Lamps” | André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning. The time is drawing nigh. Children don’t get weary ‘til your work is done. Christian journey soon be over. The time is drawing nigh. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning. The time is drawing nigh.

FIRST
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PRAYER
REQUESTS



GIVE
ONLINE



TEXT
TO GIVE



+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. 106 | "Prepare the Way, O Zion" | BEREDEN VÄG HERRAN**+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 | "Toccata on Veni Emmanuel" | Adolphus Hailstork**IN LOVING MEMORY**

They sympathy of the congregation is expressed to the family of Martha W. Mallory (August 31, 1940 - December 2, 2024).

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Hal Clarke upon the death of his mother, Mary Louise Clarke; and to Laura Short upon the death of her mother, Barbara Mann Hart.

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Martha Woods Mallory by her children and grandchildren.

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

Trevor Cook, Carol Choir director

Kelly Harder, Kirk Choir director

Matthew Carpenter and Melanie Twyne, Accompanists