

First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | JANUARY 5, 2025 | SECOND 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 | “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” | Dietrich Buxtehude**Words of Welcome** | Pen Peery**Chiming of the Trinity****ADORATION**

Choral Introit | Gordon Young

Now let us all praise God and sing our great redeemer's praise, that we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing Alleluia!

+**Hymn No. 156** | “Sing of God Made Manifest” | SALZBURG**CONFESSION**

Call to Confession | Lucy Crain**Prayer of Confession**

God of grace and God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world to reveal your love for all people. We have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor and pointing us to Christ in all his beauty and radiance. May his brightness illumine our lives and guide us, and all who belong to Christ to walk as one in your light. We confess that our sin and pride try to hide and cover up the brightness of your light. We overlook the poor; we ignore opportunities to work for justice; we do not strive for peace; we selfishly try to hoard your light and your gifts. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

+**Response to Pardon** | GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Time with Children

Children ages three through first grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the second hymn. Older children are encouraged to stay and worship with their families.

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination**Scripture** | Matthew 2:1-12 | pew Bible p. 2

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

Sermon | “Follow Me: Recognition” | Pen Peery+**Hymn No. 151** | “We Three Kings of Orient Are” | KINGS OF ORIENT

Stanza 1 – **All**, Stanza 2 – **Higher Voices**, Stanza 3 – **All**, Stanza 4 – **Lower Voices**, Stanza 5 – **All**

+ Please stand if you are able

FIRST
CHURCH
MOBILE
CHECK IN

RESPONSE**+Affirmation of Faith** | Apostles' Creed | Anna Dickson

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.

Stewardship of Life | Presentation of Tithes and Offering**Offertory Anthem** | "Behold a Star from Jacob Shining" | Felix Mendelssohn

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising to reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is he, the promise of the coming day, beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, hail the brightness of thy rising.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**Invitation to the Table****The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Sanctus | LAND OF REST

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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.

Words of Institution**The Bread and the Cup****Music During Communion** (sung by the choir)

Hymn No. 509 | "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" | HOLY MANNA

Hymn No. 527 | "Eat This Bread" | BERTHIER

Prayer After CommunionGIVE
ONLINETEXT
TO GIVEPRAYER
REQUESTS

Today we will take communion by intinction. All are invited to come down the center aisle to one of four communion stations. Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake of communion. You may return to your seat by the side aisle. Those unable to come forward will be served communion at their seats.

SENDING FORTH

+**Hymn No. 150** | “As with Gladness Men of Old” | DIX

+**Benediction**

+**Benediction Response** | “Amen” | John Stainer

Postlude | Epilogue on *Dix* | William H. Harris

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Every Communion Sunday, we ask the congregation to participate in a food drive to collect items for our onsite Nourish Up Food Pantry. When we come to the communion table to be spiritually nourished, we bring food donations to nourish those of God’s children who suffer from physical hunger.

The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of Frances Katherine James, daughter of Abigail and Chris James, on December 29, 2024.

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 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*