Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 27, 2026



First Presbyterian Church
508 West Davis Street
Burlington, North Carolina 27215
www.fpcburlington.org
336-228-1703

Gathering Around the Word

Gathering Music Nan Wooten

Prelude: Festival Suite Robert D. Vandall (1944-2017)

Rebecca McClain, piano

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Listen, people of God!
Hear the wonders of our Creator!
God split the sea;
walls of water towered above.
God guided our ancestors in faith:
clouds by day, lightning by night.
God split open the rock;
water flowed like rivers.
God split open the heavens and met earth.
God meets us still.

***Processional Hymn — No. 39:** Great Is Thy Faithfulness FAITHFULNESS

*Call to Confession

*Corporate Prayer of Confession

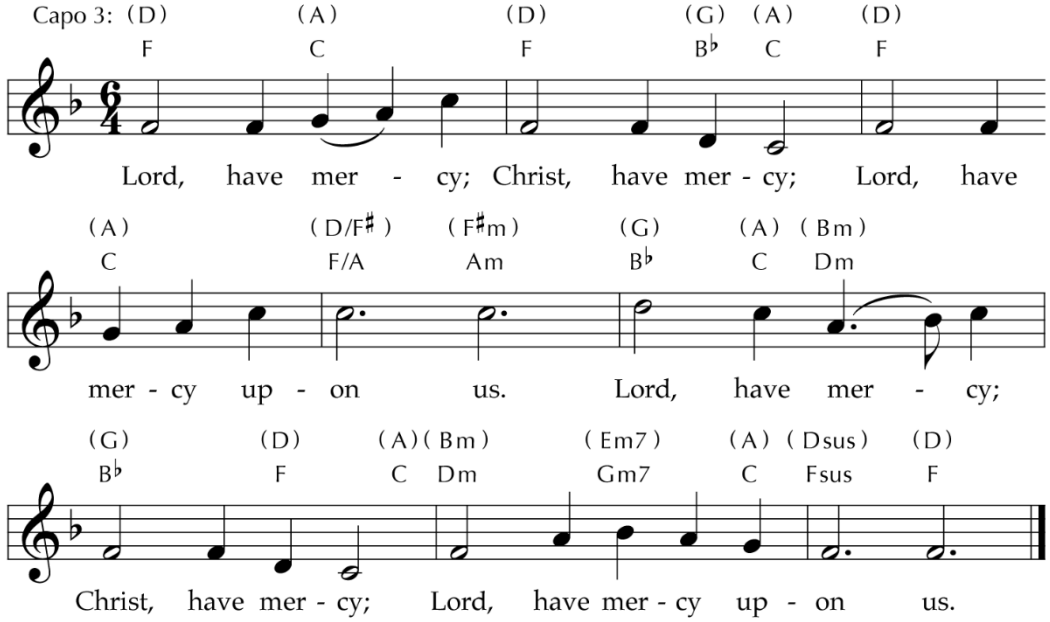
Holy God,
we confess to you:
We are not of the same mind.
We do not share the same love.
We act in selfish ambition
and do not regard others as better than ourselves.
We have not looked to the interests of others instead of ourselves.
We do not embrace the humility of Jesus Christ.
Forgive us. Continue to be at work in us,
that we might serve each other as you served us,
and reflect your glory in this world.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

When this symbol (*) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

***Congregational Response:** Lord, Have Mercy (*Kyrie eleison*)

LAND OF REST



***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response:** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD



***Passing the Peace, Love and Joy of Christ to Others**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Listening for the Word

Story Telling

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Let this Mind Be in You, Op. 105 — Amy Marcy Beach (1867-1944)

Chancel Choir
Meredith Howard, soprano
Dr. Kenneth Lee, baritone

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
-Philippians 2:5-11

Second Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Kingdom Authority and Faithfulness — Dr. Jim Lunde

Responding to the Word

***Hymn of Response — No. 697:** Take My Life — HENDON

***Affirmation of Faith** — Adapted from *The Confession of 1967, 9.32–33*

In the power of the risen Christ
and the hope of his coming,
the church sees the promise
of God's renewal of human life in society
and of God's victory over all wrong.
The church follows this pattern
in the form of its life
and in the method of its action.
So to live and serve
is to confess Christ as Lord.

Prayers of the People

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.

Moment for Mission: CrossRoads — Meredith Peffley

Moment for Stewardship — Sara Beth Hardy

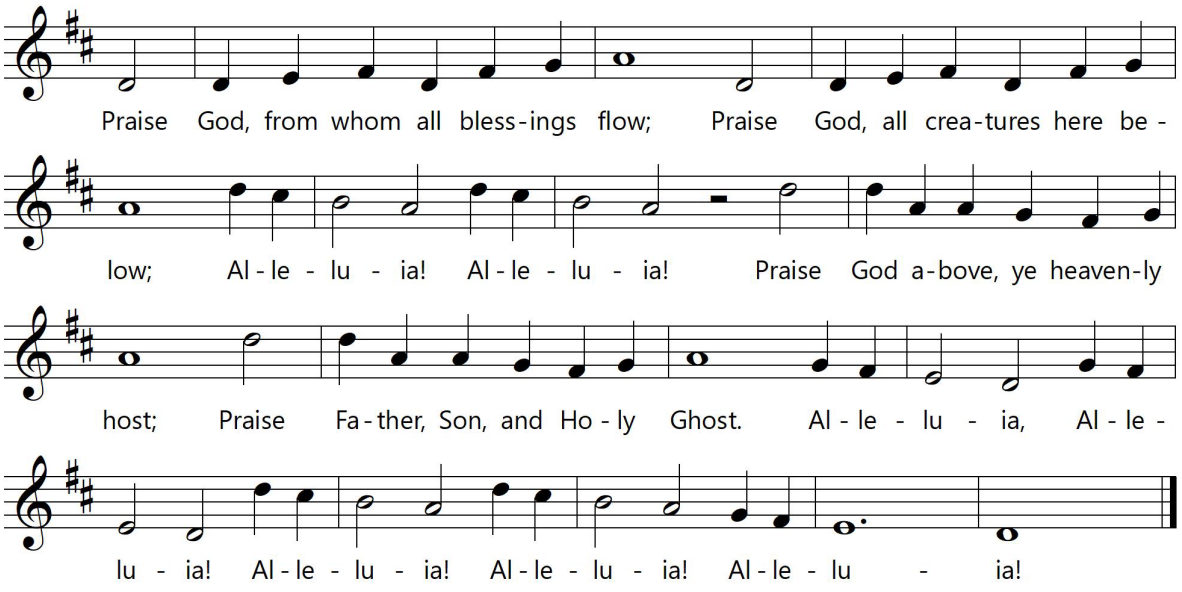
Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Music at the Offertory: Beach Spring — arr. Kiyo Watanabe (b. 1966)

Carillon Choir

Scan this QR code (using your phone's camera) to make a secure online donation.
Thank you for your generosity.

***Congregational Response:** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow — LASST UNS ERFREUEN



***Prayer of Dedication**

Bearing the Word into the World

***Closing Hymn — No. 36:** For the Fruit of All Creation AR HYD Y NOS

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude following the Congregational Meeting:
For the Fruit of All Creation Frank Stoldt (b. 1958)

James Lunde, D. Min., Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Dari Rowen, D. Min., Associate Pastor
W. Matt Brittain, D.M.A., Director of Music and Organist
Charlotte Nance-Allbright, M.A, C.C.E., Director of Faith Formation

IN MEMORIAM

CHRISTINE "CHRISSIE" BROSIUS BEH

November 25, 1931 - September 13, 2026

"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord."
John 11:25

Moment's Meditation

The decisions you make determine the schedule you keep.
The schedule you keep determines the life you live.
And how you live your life determines how you spend your soul.
Lysa TerKeurst

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all who worship with us this Sunday. We hope in this service you will encounter the living Christ and experience the warmth of our caring family of faith. If you are visiting with us and in search of a church home, we invite you to become a part of our church family here at First Presbyterian Church. Please let us know of your interest by speaking to one of our ministers. If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter, please feel free to contact the church office at 336-228-1703 to be added to the weekly email list.

A PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD

In the warm embrace of our church community, there should be a place for every soul, a seat for every heart, and a space for every child to flourish. In the eyes of our Creator, every child is a masterpiece — deserving of love, acceptance, and a place to call home.

In a world that often measures success by achievements and milestones, it's easy to overlook the quiet strength and resilience that children with special needs bring into our lives. In their own way, they teach us the deeper meaning of unconditional love, patience, and simplicity. As a church family, it is our privilege to offer these children — and their families — a haven of love and understanding where they can truly flourish.

Please know that we are here for you. In your concerns, prayers, or needs, reach out to a pastor or the Director of Faith Formation in whatever way feels comfortable.

LITURGY TODAY IS from *Call to Worshi*p, PCUSA.

FISHIN (FAITH IN SMALL HEARTS): After Story Telling, children who are 1st grade and younger have an opportunity to go to a special time for faith formation and friendship building. They will return to the worship space during "Responding to the Word" to continue learning the how-to and why of worship alongside their church family.

PASTOR ON-CALL INFORMATION: If you have a personal emergency, hospitalization, or pastoral care need, please call the church office. If it is after office hours or on the weekend, you may contact the pastor on call by calling the church at 336-228-1703 and pressing 9. You will then be connected to the pastor on call.

JOHN KNOX FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Fall/Winter 2026

9:00 a.m. each Sunday in the John Knox Room

Roots of Wisdom: Our faith is rooted in Christ's words of wisdom, from which we hope to grow in understanding God's will for our lives.

September 27 - Mustard Seed and Yeast (Matt. 13:31-33) with teacher, Bruce Shields

October

4 The Hidden Treasure and Pearl of Great Price (Matt. 13:44-46) with teacher, Gail McGowen

11 The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) with teacher, Don Grady

18 The Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24) with teacher, Bruce Shields

25 Lost Sheep, Coin and Son (Luke 15) with teacher, Nan Perkins

ENRICHMENT CLASS meets in Room 228 each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for lively discussions that are the hallmark of the Enrichment class as we strengthen our spiritual journeys. October 4, 11 & 18 the focus is "Mostly What God Does: Reflections on Seeking and Finding His Love Everywhere" by Savannah Guthrie.

TAKE ROOT meets in Room 227 each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. This fall, the focus will be on "Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit" by Eugenia Anne Gamble. Drop off children and youth in their classes, grab a cup of coffee, and join the conversation. PreK in Room 223, K-2 in Room 224, and Jr. Youth (3rd-6th grade) in Room 229.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CALLED: The Session has called a congregational meeting immediately following 10:00 a.m. worship today. The purpose of the meeting is to receive and vote upon a slate of proposed Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2029. The slate of nominees for Elder include: Jin-Jin Blackburn, Patty Blaetz, Loy Campbell, Carolyn Ent, Eddie Gant, Erin Pluer, Hal Vincent, John Walton.

The slate of nominees for Deacon include: Jill Fisher, Ben Hardy, Jane Kolarich, Carolyn Langley, Maggie Lowe, Allie Moffitt, Will Pluer, Stephanie Wisner.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDIES: These three Bible studies meet in the Witherspoon Room and are led by Rev. Dr. Jim Lunde. The focus will be on the parables of Jesus.

Men's Study begins each Tuesday at 6:45 a.m.
Wednesday Study begins each week at 10:00 a.m.
Women's Study begins each Thursday at 6:45 a.m.

ALL ARE INVITED to attend the organ and piano recital this afternoon here in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. Grand Dialogues: The Organ and Piano features Rebecca McClain and Matt Brittain, organ and piano. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - The Gratitude and Generosity Team is happy to introduce the 2027 Stewardship Campaign - ***Together We Love, Together We Serve*** (inspired by Galatians 6: 9-10) beginning on Sunday, September 27 and continuing through Dedication Sunday, October 25, 2027. During this time, each member (or member family) will receive a campaign letter along with a 2027 pledge card. You will also hear a weekly ***"Moment for Stewardship"*** featuring a diverse group of speakers.

As an essential element of the success of FPC-Burlington, the annual Stewardship Campaign provides the budgetary basis for supporting our many and varied mission commitments, while simultaneously funding our ongoing, day-to-day church operations (staff salaries / benefits, spiritual development, supplies, utilities, cleaning & security services, and congregational gatherings, etc.).

Our 2027 pledge goal is $1,250,000. Confidential pledges may be submitted by mail to FPC-B's Financial Administrator, Tori Stadler, or electronically through the "Pledge Online" application of the church website's home page, or by utilizing the QR code below. Those who wish may also pledge in person during worship on Dedication Sunday (October 27). Additional pledge cards are available in the narthex. We sincerely appreciate for your generous commitment to the continuation of God's work.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE: There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive at First Presbyterian Church on **Tuesday, September 29, 2026 from 2:30-7:00 p.m. in Shive Hall.** Please plan to schedule an appointment by going to redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code "FPC Burlington" or contact Lucy Kernodle at lkernodle@bellsouth.net. There is a need for blood more than usual because of all the natural disasters that have occurred recently. Please help maintain the blood supply and plan to give now!!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR: To access the activities calendar, please visit the website at www.fpcburlington.org or scan this QR