Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

November 22, 2026



Christ the King, Janusz Antosz (Polish, 21st)

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: Praeludium in F Major Franz Tunder (1614-1667)

Welcome

Please take a moment to register your attendance by signing the friendship register.

*Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!
Know this! The Lord is God!
We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.
So, enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and come into the sanctuary with praise.
Let us give thanks to God and bless God's holy name.
For the Lord is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever! God's faithfulness is for all generations!
Come, let us worship God!

***Processional Hymn — No. 268:** Crown Him with Many Crowns DIADEMATA

*Call to Confession

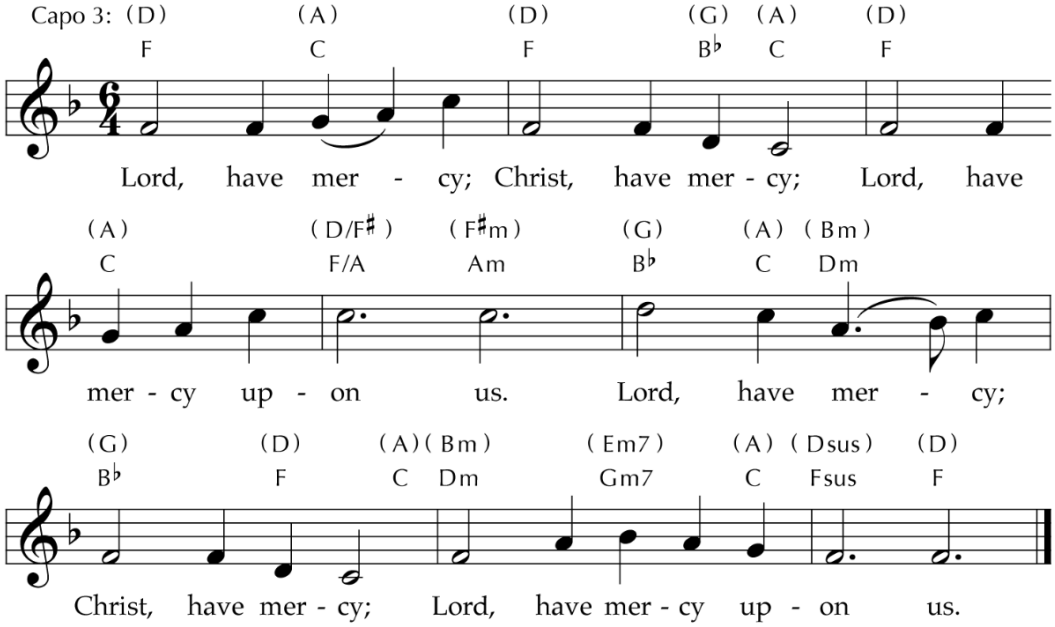
*Corporate Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you are God of all creation, from beginning to end.
All authority and power to direct the ways of the world are in your hands.
Yet you saw fit to outfit humankind with the same freedom to choose and act that you have.
We thank you for this power, but confess we often misuse it.
We choose to do the things we know not to do.
We take advantage, even as we sense our conscience pulling us away from what is wrong.
We deny our own agency and claim "it is what it is" about the sufferings
and injustices of the world when we should be working to make a change.
Forgive us, Merciful God, of our shallowness of heart and slowness of action.
Fill us with the Spirit of Christ, the advocate for the least among us,
that we be empowered to do justly, love kindness and walk humbly before you.
Through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

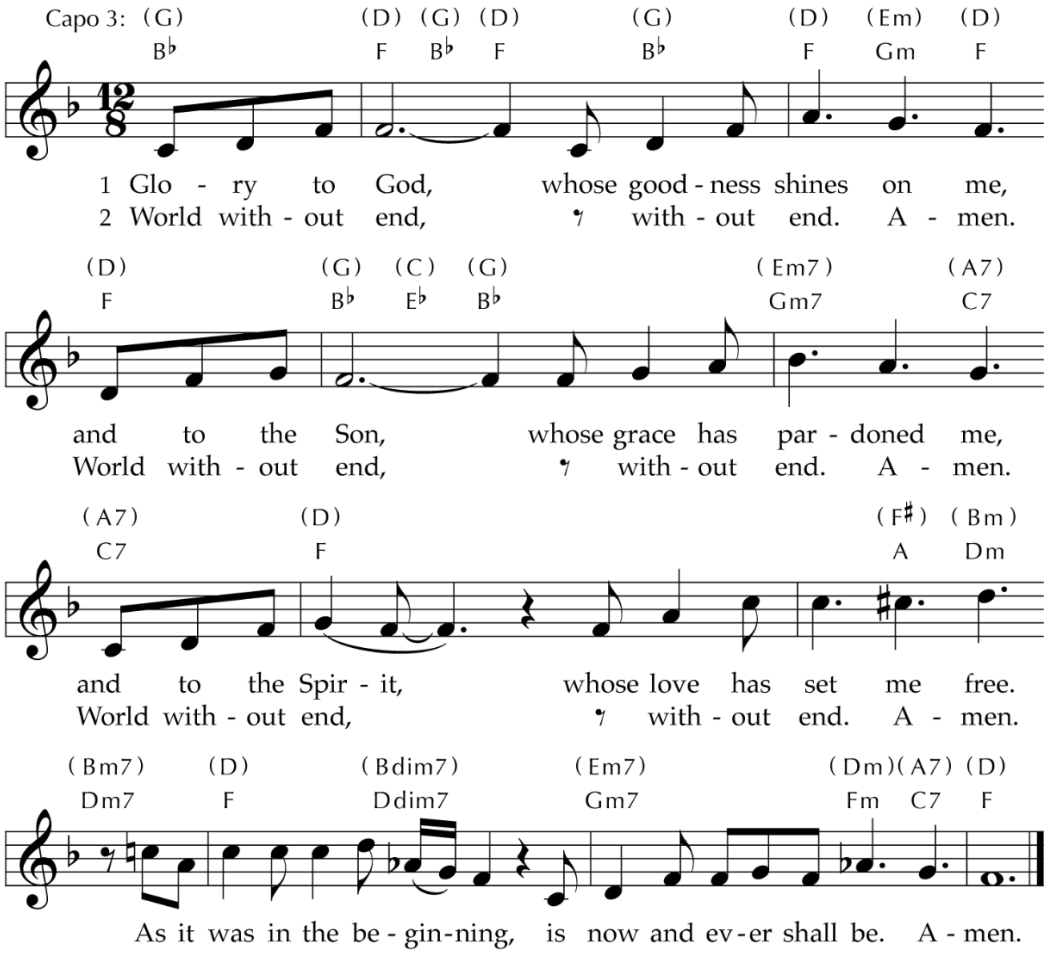
When this symbol (*) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

***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: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem: King of Glory, King of Peace, Op. 1030 — Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

Chancel Choir

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
And that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
And alone when they replied, thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
In my heart, though not in heaven I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll thee:
E'en eternity's too short to extol thee.
-George Herbert (1593-1633)

Second Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Entrusted With One Another — Dr. Dari Rowen

Responding to the Word

***Hymn of Response — No. 44:** Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us — AUSTIN

***Affirmation of Faith** - from the *Theological Declaration of Barmen*

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures.
Therefore we reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords — areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him. Amen.

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 Stewardship

Ron Joyce

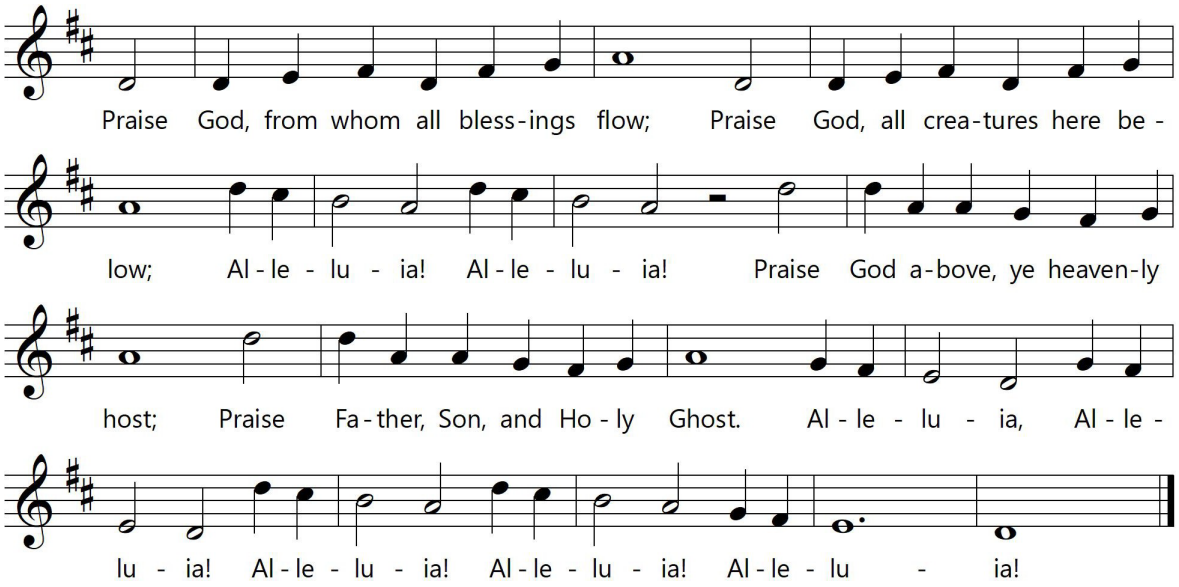
Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Music at the Offertory: The King of Love My Shepherd Is — Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

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

***Charge and Benediction**

***Recessional Hymn — No. 187:** Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us BRADBURY

Postlude: Now Thank We All Our God David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

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

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.

***CHRIST THE KING* (ALSO REFERRED TO AS *REIGN OF CHRIST*) SUNDAY** marks the end of Ordinary Time. Next week will be the first Sunday of Advent. Christ the King Sunday centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends every earthly claim on the human heart.

THE CORNUCOPIA ARRANGEMENT in the chancel is given by R. Keith Phillips to the glory of God and in loving memory of his father Carey H. Phillips, and of his grandparents Claude H. and Ruby Barrow Brammer, and George M. Sr., and Eva Pennington Phillips.

LITURGY TODAY IS by The Rev. Dr. Aaron Pratt Shepherd via the *Presbyterian Outlook.*

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.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING runs through December 18th. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Specific details will be shared in the weekly E-blast. Alternative Giving forms will be available in the welcome centers, the narthex, and the adult Sunday school classrooms. Someone will be in the narthex on Sundays to take orders and deliver completed cards.

ENRICHMENT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Join the Enrichment Class on 12/6 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 228 as we kick off conversations using "If the Church Were Christian: Rediscovering the Values of Jesus" by Philip Gulley, a Quaker pastor and author.

POSADA NAVIDEÑA (A MEXICAN CHRISTMAS TRADITION) honoring Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem before Jesus' birth will take place in Shive Hall at 4:30 p.m. tonight. All are invited for festive food, fellowship and holiday cheer.

ANNUAL FRUIT BASKET DELIVERY TO HOMEBOUND MEMBERS will take place on Saturday, December 19. Please call the church office at 336-228-1703 or mark your Friendship Register today if you are able to deliver a basket to 3 or 4 church members.

BLUE CHRISTMAS/LONGEST NIGHT: For the most part, Christmas is a time of celebration and joy. For many, however, this is a difficult time of year. Many people carry significant weight: grief, loss, depression, anxiety, stress, uncertainty. The public tone of the season does not resonate with many people's private experience.
Please join us on Wednesday, December 16 at 12:00 noon in Williams Chapel for a short service for reflection, prayer, and music that gives space for all the different experiences we might have in the season.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FPCB: This year, due to the closure of the balcony, there will be two services of worship on Christmas Eve at 3pm and 5pm—both in the sanctuary. Both services will include the celebration of communion, the singing of carols, and hearing the incredible story of Jesus' birth.
The 3 pm service will be a slightly shorter and more relaxed service with a soloist, while the 5pm service will include the leadership of our Chancel Choir and the candlelight liturgy.
We hope you will join us for one of these wonderful services as we welcome the Christ into our lives yet again, joining in the song of the angels—glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all!

NATIVITY TABLEAU - It is time to sign up your children and grandchildren to be part of this special Advent tradition. Parents/Guardians received the link to sign up via email. If you have not received the link or if you will have children visiting you for the holidays, and they would like to join in, please contact Charlotte Nance-Allbright callbright@fpcburlington.org. The tableau will take place during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 20.

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY (NOTE – NEW DATES ADDED): The church will be creating the pictorial directory in-house using the photographic talents of Rev. John W. Johnson and our new Realm database. This will be an opportunity to get your photo taken and update your personal information in the Realm database. This will allow us to have an updated printed directory as well as an updated online directory with only having to have one photo taken! Rev. Johnson will be taking photos on Sundays November 22- December 13 before and after worship. He will be set up in the Witherspoon Room.
Thank you to those who have made appointments. Experience has shown that the time needed for each appointment is less than anticipated, so **walk-ins are welcome.** John will be in the Witherspoon Room from 9:00-9:40 and after worship from 11:15-12:00 for the next few Sundays.

2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN – Through November 18, 2026, we have received 162 pledges totaling $875957.12 toward a goal of $1,250,000 in support of our 2027 operating budget. Although the formal campaign has concluded, your Gratitude and Generosity Team will pursue and accept 2027 pledges throughout the remainder of 2026 while we continue to approach our goal. 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. Additional pledge cards are available in the narthex.

NOTE: As you begin to consider your calendar year-end giving, keep in mind that you may make gifts through donations of appreciated stock, and for those who qualify, you may utilize your IRA assets to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), which might also help satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). You are encouraged to seek advice from your financial planner as you ponder these decisions. We sincerely appreciate your generous commitment to the continuation of God's work.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 in observation of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

CONTEMPLATIVE MINISTRY
FPC BURLINGTON

Moment's Meditation

We thank Thee, Heavenly Father,
For all things bright and good;
The seedtime and the harvest
Our life, our health, our food.

-From the German of Matthias Claudius