



OCTOBER 19, 2025 | 11:00 AM
Traditional Worship



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**
CHURCH OF FORT LAUDERDALE

OUR MISSION **CREATES SPACES**
OF CHRIST-CENTERED CONNECTION
AND INSPIRES PEOPLE OF ALL AGES
TO EXPLORE FAITH IN OPEN AND HONEST WAYS,
CULTIVATING POSSIBILITIES
FOR GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

401 Southeast 15th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.firstpres.cc | (954) 462-6200

PRAYER FOR THE PREPARATION OF WORSHIP

Gracious God,
you're the one who invites us,
asking what fills our tables and our hearts.
Teach us to bring what we have
and trust what you will do.
Shape us to love generously and live joyfully,
that our lives may reflect your grace
and your welcome to all.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mona Petersen

PRELUDE

Yianni Iliadis, piano

Panis Angelicus C. Franck

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant

***OPENING HYMN #41**

LYONS

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Petersen

Merciful God,
you fill our lives with good things,
yet we confess that we are rarely content.
We chase after more:
more comfort, more success, more control,
hoping it will satisfy our restless hearts.
Our tables are crowded, but our souls are hungry.
We trust our possessions more than your promise.

Forgive us, Lord.
Loosen our grip on what cannot last.
Teach us to live with gratitude and grace,
so that our lives may be rich toward you.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***JOYFUL RESPONSE • *The Gloria Patri* #581**

GREATOREX

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Petersen

[Ecclesiastes 2:1-11](#)

ANTHEM

Kirk Singers

Come to the Table - David Angerman

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Petersen

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.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Rev. Merchant, Amy Merchant, Petersen

OFFERTORY

Cathedral Choir

Gifts of Bread and Wine - Ruth Elaine Schram

***THE DOXOLOGY • Hymnal #606**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & ILLUMINATION**

Rev. Merchant

PREACHING TEXT

[Luke 12:13-21](#)

MESSAGE

"Crowded Tables, Empty Lives"

***CLOSING HYMN #716**

BEACH SPRING

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Merchant

POSTLUDE

Susan Dodd, organ

Toccata on "O Worship the King" - Michael Burkhardt

Giving Online is easy, [Click Here](#)

Those participating in worship today are:

*Sophia Beharrie, Interim Director of Traditional Worship;
Gretchen Fasulo, Music Associate & Interim Director of the Kirk Singer Choir,
Kirk Singers; Cathedral Choir; Yianni Iliadis and Bob Dresch, Piano;
Susan Dodd, Organist; Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant, Pastor;
Mona Petersen, Director of Adult Ministry & Small Groups*

AV Team:

Teo Constantinescu, Frantz Cyriac, Mario Rodriguez, Travis Fickinger

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Congratulations to Christy and Tony Mullins on the baptism of their son, Donovan, at the 9:30 Contemporary Worship Service.

The Flowers are Dedicated in celebration of Bob Sadowski's 78th birthday, given by Arlette Steinberger..

Flower Availability: November 2 and December 21 & 28. If you would like to dedicate flowers for the Communion table or a rose-bud in celebration of a newborn, please contact Michelle Shev at michelles@firstpres.cc.

UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST PRES

Third Serve Sunday - TODAY!

Sunday, October 19th, 10:45 am, Family Campus

Join us today at 10:45 am at the Family Campus for round two of Third Serve Sunday! Come hang with our Young Adult Ministry for brunch, pickleball, and connection after the 9:30 am service. It's a great way to relax, recharge, and build community. All are welcome! For more info contact Jon Bock at jonb@firstpres.cc.

Habitat For Humanity - Grand Opening Celebration

Saturday, October 25th, 10:00 am, Founders Park

Join us for the grand opening of the Rick Case Habitat Community, Broward County's largest workforce housing neighborhood. Many of our volunteers helped make this dream a reality, and we're proud to celebrate this major milestone with them. All are invited! For info contact Kathy Craven at wrcrv@aol.com.

Christmas Wreath Sale

Preorder Deadline: October 27 | Pick-up: November 30th

Get your Christmas door décor and support our Kirk Singers! Celebrate the season with a beautiful, handcrafted evergreen wreath. All proceeds help fund their June 2026 Tour, providing life-changing opportunities to share the gift of music near and far. [CLICK HERE](#) to preorder. Wreath pick-up will be on Sunday, November 30th, after each service. Quantities are limited, so order early!

Socktober

October 12th - November 9th

Help Us SOCK It to Poverty! Donate new socks to support our neighbors experiencing homelessness in Broward County. Drop socks in donation boxes across campus—or ship them directly to the church! For more info contact Jake DelNegri at jakedelnegri@gmail.com.

Adult Activity Center (AAC) for Seniors

Thursday, October 23rd, 11:00 am, Fellowship Hall

This Thursday at AAC First Pres member Kelley Jackson will be teaching us about Brain Health. Wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month! Menu offering is Spaghetti and Meatballs. RSVP by 10:00 am on Monday to Ellen Whiteman at 954-598-9312 or ellenw@firstpres.cc.

Adult Activity Center (AAC) for Seniors - November Day Outing

Tuesday, November 11th, 11:30 am, Stranahan House

Join us at AAC for our November Day Outing to the Stranahan House on the New River! We'll enjoy a private home tour and a gourmet box lunch from New River Bakery & Cafe on the covered patio of this beautiful and historic home. Contact Ellen Whiteman for more details and to sign up at ellenw@firstpres.cc or 954-598-9312. RSVP by October 31st.

Congregational Nominating Committee

Help us fill upcoming elder and deacon roles by making your nominations to the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) today. Make your nominations today by [CLICKING HERE](#).

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Contemporary Worship - Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Traditional Worship - Sanctuary

Livestream Sunday Worship - Online

Both services are streamed live, so you can worship with us from wherever you are! Visit firstpres.cc/worship to join our livestreams.

Children's Sunday School - Neumann Center

The Children's Ministry at First Pres provides a place where children can go while their parents are at our Sunday Worship services. Our Sunday childcare services are offered to infants - Prek4. For more info please stop by our Connection Counter!



2026 Estimate of Giving Campaign

This fall, our stewardship series is called “**The Shared Table**.” We ask that you prayerfully consider making an Estimate of Giving for the coming year. Your commitment helps us plan well and continue to create space for others at the table. Please return your EOG commitment card by November 2 or submit your estimate through the church app or website. Your estimate can be adjusted at any time if your circumstances change.

“On our giving journey, we have discovered that when we give out of gratitude rather than out of a sense of obligation, it is joy-filled. It is actually something we look forward to.” - Amy Merchant

[CLICK HERE](#) to fill out your 2026 Estimate of Giving today.



Estimate of Giving/Celebration Potluck

Sunday, November 2nd, Fellowship Hall, 11:00 am

Come join us at “**The Shared Table**” as we celebrate our Estimate of Giving campaign by breaking bread together.

We'll be meeting in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck after our single, combined service on Sunday, November 2nd. The church will be providing chicken as a main dish, with chicken fingers and other kid friendly items for the kids!

Please bring a dish to share. Here is a list of what to bring by last name:
A–G: Salad, H–M: Side dish, N–Z: Dessert

Please note: Your dish does not have to be homemade, we just hope you'll join us! Bring your recipe on a card to share if you wish!

Happening This Week!

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Grow in faith by connecting with one of our ministry groups at First Pres, there is something for all ages throughout the week - every week! Learn more at firstpres.cc or contact us at 954-462-6200 / info@firstpres.cc

MONDAYS

Young Adults Virtual Bible Study

7:30 - 8:30 pm / Via Zoom
(Meeting ID: 871 3336 6461)
Passcode: 177983

TUESDAYS

Men's Morning Bible Study

8:00 am / Via Zoom
(Meeting ID: 483 553 8166)
Starting Book of Proverbs

Young Adults A Step Further Study

6:30 - 7:45 pm
Spanish Room

WEDNESDAYS

Cherub Choir Rehearsals

5:00 - 5:30 pm
Happyland

Good Game Wednesday

5:30-7:30 pm
Family Campus

Wednesday Night Live!

5:30-6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall
[CLICK HERE](#) to
RSVP by Monday.
Adults: \$12 / Students: \$8
Kids Under 5: Free
This Weeks Menu:
Spaghetti & Meatballs

Bible History Class

6:30-7:30 pm
Chapel In The Sky

A Step Further

6:30-7:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

ALPHA

6:00-7:30 pm
Study & Renewal Center

Happening This Week Continued:

THURSDAYS

Women's Bible Study

10:00 - 11:00 am

Study & Renewal Center

Adult Activity Center (AAC)

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Men's Bible Study & Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Neumann Center Library

Cathedral Choir (Adults)

Rehearsal 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Choir Room

FRIDAYS

Middle School Youth Group

4:00 - 6:30 pm

The Harbor

SATURDAYS

BetterMan

8:00 - 9:30 am

Study & Renewal Center

SUNDAYS

Children's Choir Rehearsals

9:00 - 9:30 am

Choir Room

New Testament Bible Study

9:45 am

Bininger Conference Room

Children's Sunday School

PreK3 & PreK4

9:30 & 11:00 am:

Neumann Center, 1st floor

K-5th Grade

9:30 am: Neumann Center, 2nd floor

11:00 am: Watts Chapel

Childcare

Newborns-PreK 4

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Neumann Center 1st Floor

Kirk Singer Rehearsal

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Choir Room

High School Youth Group

4:30 - 6:00 pm

The Harbor