Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. You are invited to join us for study, service, education, and fellowship in addition to worship. If you have questions or would like to learn more about this community, please speak with one of the pastors following worship.

Sanctuary Safety—In our ongoing efforts to care for all who work, play, and worship on our campus, we are being intentional about access to buildings throughout the week and on Sundays. All sanctuary doors are locked after worship begins on Sunday mornings, with the exception of the main doors leading to the narthex. Worshipers are free to exit by any of the doors at any time. To re-enter, please come through the doors to the narthex.

Children are always welcome here. We have a wonderful nursery and childcare for infants through preschool each Sunday in the Will Young Building. Worship bags for young children are available in the narthex near the front doors. Please speak with an usher for assistance. In order to comply with our Child Protection policy, we ask that a parent/caregiver accompany children under 12 to the sanctuary restroom.

Offering our Talents, Time, and Treasure: In response to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ, we are invited to give of ourselves and our resources. If you are seeking ways to share your time and your talents, please speak to one of the pastors. Financial contributions may be placed in the offering plate or donated by texting 704-288-7459 or by using the "Give" button on the church's website (firstpresconcord.org).

Large Print Hymnals, printed copies of the sermon, and a hearing assistance system are available. We have an AED Machine in the Narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance with any of these items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome flutist Jeffrey Wang as our guest instrumentalist. Jeffrey is a second year double major in music and computer science at UNC-Charlotte.

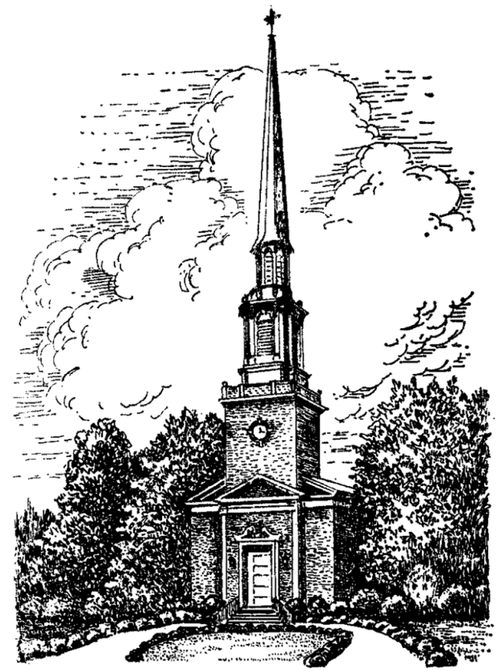
The Sacrament of Baptism will be offered this morning to Violet Sofia Smith, daughter of Hanna Lynn and Corey Palmer Smith. We welcome Violet into our fellowship and pray for God's blessings on this family.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Later Today	
12:00 PM	Middle School Teacher Mtg (Journey Classroom)
12:15 PM	PW Spring Nurture Lunch (Davis Hall)
4:30 PM	Combined Youth (Davis Hall)
5:30 PM	Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)
Monday, March 31	
9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Tuesday, April 1	
9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
6:00 PM	Cub Scouts (Davis Hall)
6:00 PM	Hospitality Team (Library Conference Room)
6:15 PM	Mission Team (Journey Classroom)
7:00 PM	Board of Deacons (Library Conference Room)
7:00 PM	Al Anon (Commons)
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts (Will Young Senior High Room)
Wednesday, April 2	
9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
10:30 AM	Bible Study (Library Conference Room)
2:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Fellowship House Sunroom)
6:00 PM	Building & Grounds (Library Conference Room)
6:30 PM	Officer training (Davis Hall)
7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, April 3	
9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
6:00 PM	Girl Scouts (Davis Hall)
Friday, April 4	
9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Saturday, April 5	
9:00 AM	Mint to Be Shower (Davis Hall)
Sunday, April 6	
9:45 AM	Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms)
9:50 AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal (Children's Music Room)
10:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)
11:00 AM	Worship (in person and live streamed)
4:30 PM	Combined Youth (Davis Hall)
5:30 PM	Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)

Rev. Ellen Crawford True, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Casey Aldridge, *Associate Pastor*
René Prager, *Director of Christian Education*
Rev. Bryan Hovey, *Parish Associate*
Dr. Jacqueline Yost, *Director of Music and Organist*
Dr. Jeffrey W. Price, *Choirmaster*
Amy Woolwine, *Clerk of Session*
Elizabeth Anne Dover Bishop, *Moderator, Board of Deacons*
For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website:
www.firstpresconcord.org

Fourth Sunday of Lent



First Presbyterian Church
70 Union Street North
Concord, North Carolina

Sunday, March 30, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CONCORD

www.firstpresconcord.org
(704) 788-2100

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

As the music plays, you are invited to pause, reflect, and pray silently as we prepare for worship.

Place your whole human heart before the reality of a crucified world, and ask yourselves the three questions that Ignatius of Loyola put to himself as he stood before… the representative of all those who are crucified: What have I done for this world? What am I doing for it now? And above all, what should I do? — Ignacio Ellacuría

PRELUDE

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please sign the Friendship Pad found on the center aisle of each pew and pass it to your neighbor.

MINUTE FOR MISSION CVAN

VOLUNTARY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Jesus calls us to journey, this and every day,
following him wherever he leads us.
People: Jesus calls us to journey to the place where we see the poor and the hungry.
Leader: Jesus calls us to worship together,
to tell future generations the good news.
People: Jesus invites us to a way of celebration, meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.
Leader: Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross,
where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.
All: Jesus calls us to journey with him. Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

***HYMN 370** *This Is My Father's World* TERRA BEATA

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Maker of heaven and earth and everyone within them, we confess that we carve out and claim our own private corners of your creation. We build up gates to keep others out, and clothe ourselves in colors that separate us from our neighbors. We know that when we pass by the person in need, we cause you to weep; yet we continue to neglect the poor, concerned more for our comfort and pleasure than for your demand for justice and mercy. Forgive us Lord, and overcome the gaps that we create between ourselves and our neighbor, between ourselves and your crucified Son. Amen. [*Time for silent confession follows.*]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***HYMN OF PRAISE 581** *Glory Be to the Father* 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.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION lay reader, Valerie Thomas

FIRST LESSON John 11: 32-44 pew bible, page 105
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Vows of the Parents and Congregation
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing
Baptism and Welcome
Congregational Response ST. CLEMENT

Accept, O Lord, our dedication
To fill with love the growing mind,
That in this church and congregation
The young a faith for life may find.

ANTHEM *Flying Free* Don Besig
(Sanctuary Choir, Jeffrey Wang-flute)

(1.) There is a place I call my own where I can stand by the sea, and look beyond the things I've known, and dream that I might be free. Like the bird above the trees gliding gently on the breeze, I wish that all my life I'd be without a care, and flying free. (2.) But life is not a distant sky without a cloud, without rain, and I can never hope that I can travel on without pain. Time goes swiftly on its way. All too soon we've lost today. I cannot wait for skies of blue or dream so long that life is through. (3.) So life's a song that I must sing, a gift of love I must share. And when I see the joy it brings, my spirits soar through the air. Like that bird up in the sky, life has taught me how to fly. For now I know what I can be and now my heart is flying free! Oo…….

SECOND LESSON Luke 16:19-31 pew bible, page 79
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Casey Aldridge

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 320** *The Church of Christ in Every Age* WAREHAM

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostles' Creed

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

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Largo e dolce *from Flute Sonata in B minor, BWV. 1030* J.S. Bach
(Jeffrey Wang - flute)

***DOXOLOGY 606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**
Merciful God, accept these gifts and those who give them, we pray, that our offerings might lighten the load of the Lazarus at our gates, and in reconnecting us to the hungry and poor among us might also reconnect us to ourselves, and the truth of who you have created us to be. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 661** *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* SPARROW

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Peace I Leave with You* Walter Pelz
(Sanctuary Choir)
Peace, peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you; my peace I give to you.

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able, please stand.*

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Worship Notes: **The Apostles' Creed**: "Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed reflects the theological formulations of the first century church…In a time when most Christians were illiterate, oral repetition of the Apostles' Creed, along with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, helped preserve and transmit the faith of the [church]…By the eighth century, the creed had attained its current form." --from the preface to the Apostles' Creed in the PC(USA) *Book of Confessions*.