



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA  
TRANSGURATION OF THE LORD  
MARCH 2, 2025

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
And also with you.

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION

Prelude on *Picardy*

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

*Text found at the anthem.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Do you see it? In fire and cloud our God appears:

***the glory of the Lord settles over us.***

Do you hear it? A voice thunders from heaven:

***"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him."***

Open your eyes; unstop your ears. We are gathered on holy ground.

***Let us magnify the Lord!***

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN – NO. 263

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

CORONATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Lord, we confess that like Peter, we often misunderstand your purpose and seek to construct our own solutions and shelters rather than resting in your divine presence and plan. Forgive us for the times we have sought our own comfort over your calling.***

***We confess that we have not always listened attentively to the voice of Jesus. Forgive us for our disobedience and for the times we have ignored your guidance.***

***Lord, have mercy on us. Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus, to listen to him as your chosen one, and to be transformed by the vision of his grace and truth in our lives. May we embrace the path you have set before us, echoing the heavenly affirmation, "This is my son, my chosen; listen to him!"***

\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Please join in reading aloud those parts of the service printed in bold.*

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

*The Prayer of Confession was adapted and edited from a prayer created through the AI platform ChatGPT.*

*We lay before God our own sins, the sins and brokenness of our fellow worshipers, the church universal, and the world.*

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Forgive Our Sins

DETROIT

"For - give our sins as we for - give," You taught us Lord, to pray,  
But You a - lone can grant us grace To live the words we say.

*Text: Rosamond E. Herklots,  
as found at Hymn No. 444*

*The astoundingly  
good news of our  
reconciliation to  
God through Jesus  
Christ frees our  
tongues to sing  
mighty praise to  
God.*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Hear the Good News of Salvation

NETTLETON

Hear the good news of sal - va - tion: Je - sus died to show God's love.  
Such great kind - ness! Such great mer - cy! Come to us from heaven a - bove.  
Je - sus Christ, how much I love you! Je - sus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look u - pon me. Love me still and cleanse with - in.

*Text: Native American, version by Jane Parker Huber, 1989  
As found at Hymn No. 441*

*We exchange  
reconciling words  
and gestures  
among the people  
of 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

Allie Moffitt

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST READING:** Exodus 34:29-35

*Large Print Pew Bible, pages 101-102  
Pew Bible, page 81*

Holy wisdom, holy word.  
Thanks be to God.

*We listen for what  
God is saying to  
God's people  
through scripture,  
song, and sermon.*

## **ANTHEM**

Christus Paradox

Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

*Chancel Choir*

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.  
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer of the way you took and gave.  
You, the everlasting instant; You, whom we both scorn and crave.  
Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross,  
Shining in eternal glory, beggared by a soldier's toss.  
You, the everlasting instant; You, who are both gift and cost.  
You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side.  
You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide.  
You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our pilgrim guide.  
Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!  
Worthy your defeat and victory. Worthy still your peace and strife.  
You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our death and life.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

*-Sylvia Dunstan (1991)*

**SECOND READING:** Luke 9:28-36

*Large Print Pew Bible, page 85  
Pew Bible, pages 69-70*

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**SERMON:** Let it Shine...From the Mountaintop

Rev. John W. Johnson

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE – NO. 190**

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

GENEVA

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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;

*Apostles' Creed*

*Our response to  
hearing God's  
Word includes  
singing and saying  
what we believe.*

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.

## OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

### MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

Christ Upon the Mountain Peak

Paul Bouman (1918-2018)

*Chancel Choir*

Christ upon the mountain peak stands alone in glory blazing.  
 Let us, if we dare to speak, with the saints and angels praise him—  
 Alleluia!  
 Trembling at his feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking.  
 All the prophets and the Law shout through them their joyful greeting—  
 Alleluia!  
 Swift the cloud of glory came, God, proclaiming in its thunder  
 Jesus as his Son by name! nations, cry aloud in wonder!—  
 Alleluia!  
 This is God's beloved Son. Law and prophets fade before him,  
 First and last and only One. Let creation now adore him!  
 Alleluia!

*-Brian A. Wren, 1977*

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be -  
 low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly  
 host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -  
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

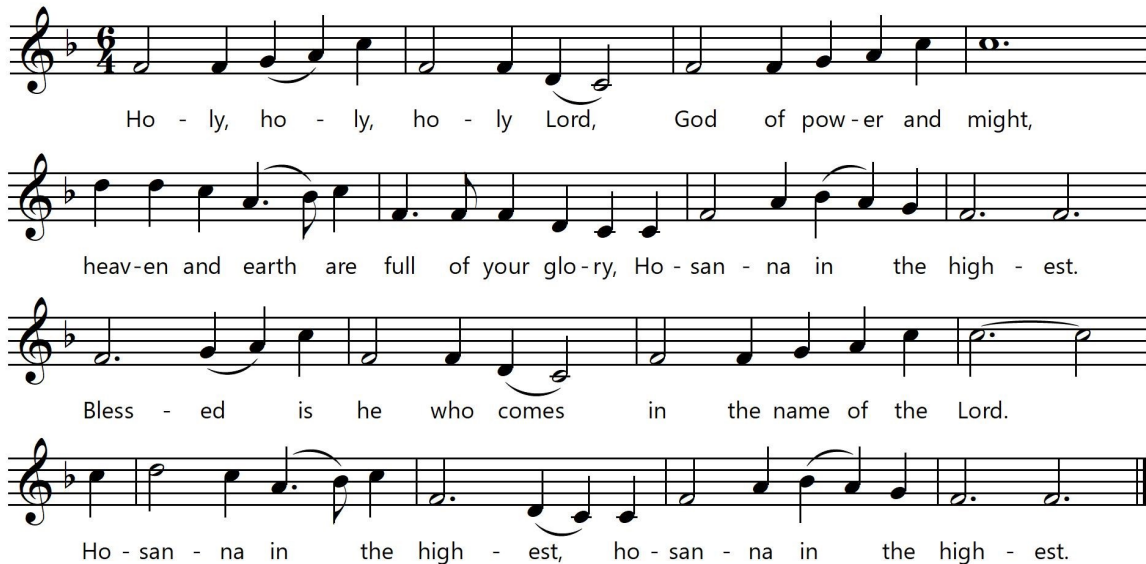
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy... Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every  
time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: Richard Proulx, Land of Rest

### 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.**

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

*The sacrament of The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with our crucified and risen Lord. In the Lord's Supper, the Church gives thanks to God for all God's gifts, is renewed and sustained by the power of Jesus Christ, and is in communion with Christ and with all who belong to Christ. Today's celebration is by intinction. Come forward to receive the communion elements. All bread is gluten free.*

## BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*God blesses and  
sends us in mission  
to the world.*

### \*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN – NO. 193

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

UNSER HERRSCHER

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### VOLUNTARY

Tuba Tune in D Major

Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)

*John W. Johnson, M. Div., Parish Associate for Communications  
J. Patrick Murphy, M. Mus., Organist-Choirmaster*

### IN MEMORIAM

**JOHNSIE RUTH ELLIS BRANNON**

**August 7, 1939– February 25, 2025**

*“I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.”  
John 11:25*



### Moment's Meditation

What a caterpillar calls the end of the world, we call a butterfly.

*Eckhart Tolle*

## 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. Please take a moment to sign our friendship register when it is passed to you. 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 way of the friendship register, or by speaking to one of our ministers. If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter, please feel free to pick up a copy today in the narthex and then contact the church office at 336-228-1703 to be added to the weekly email list.

**LIVE VIDEO STREAMING SERVICE:** *Boxcast* will stream to our website and Facebook page each Sunday morning. Click here to view: [on our website](#) and on [the FPC Facebook page](#).

**COVER ART:** The photo was taken in October, 2019 in the Canadian Rockies by John W. Johnson.

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Hubert Green by Catherine Green.

**RED ROSE** is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth of Walker James Riley who was born on February 21 to Brandon and Caroline Riley. Proud grandparents include Randy and Happy Kerns.

**RED ROSE** is given to the glory of God and in honor of the birth of Wesley Renee McGowen who was born on February 10 to Sam and Erin McGowen. Joining in the celebration is big sister Lanie. Proud grandparents include Tom and Gail McGowen.

**LARGE PRINT HYMNS:** Copies of today's hymns are available in the Narthex.

**OFFERING RITUAL:** In the pew racks you will find "Offering Ritual" cards. The giving of our offerings and ourselves is vital part of worship in which we express our gratitude for God's blessings. The passing of the offering plate is a visible demonstration of our commitment to devote our time and treasures to Christ's ministry. If you give monthly, quarterly, annually; or through stocks, credit cards, or e-giving, you may still participate in the offering ritual by placing this card in the offering plate. If you are interested in giving electronically through our secure e-giving process, you will find instructions on the back side of this card. Scan this QR code to access FPC's online Giving with your Smartphone. It's easy to download a QR Code reader from the App Store!



**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.

**MARCH MISSION FOCUS** is NCASC.

**ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES** will take place on Wednesday, March 5th in Williams Chapel. Imposition of Ashes will take place at 7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

### 508 PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

You are invited to the POETRY CAFE that the "Poetry In Motion" Ministry of First Baptist Church (508 Apple St, Burlington 27217) will have on Saturday, March 8, 2025, from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. in the Annex Building. What a wonderful way to celebrate our 508 Partnership!

**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT** is March 9. On this day, our worship service will focus upon how *God Moves Us through Song*. The Chancel Choir, accompanied by organ, violin, and harp will sing anthems based on the psalms and will assist the congregation as we explore how music serves as a handmaid to the Word. An offering to support the Music Fund will be received. And the sacrament of baptism will be observed.

### DAYS FOR GIRLS WORKSHOP

There will be a Days for Girls Workshop on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in Room 122. There are items to sew, cut, and label to prepare for the summer shipment.

## REFUGEE ASSISTANCE INTEREST MEETING - AN INVITATION

For several years now, our church has been helping refugee families from around the world find new homes, life and hope in Alamance County. We have seen our newest neighbors join the community, attend schools, gain their US citizenship, gain employment, and become contributing members of our society. Right now, however, some of them need our assistance. The agencies, with which we have worked to help these families become self-sufficient, have lost their funding and are looking to faith-based groups like ours to help. If you would like to learn more and how you might be able to help, please consider attending an Interest Meeting on Sunday, March 9, at 4:00 p.m. in the Witherspoon Room. Staff from the North Carolina African Services Coalition will be there to brief us and discuss areas in which we may be able to provide assistance. We hope to see you there.

**LUNCH BUNCH BOOK CLUB:** The FPC Lunch Bunch Group will meet on Tuesday, March 11 at 12 noon in Room 122 to discuss Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray's book *The First Ladies*. A fictional account about the relationship between two quiet revolutionaries, this novel explores the friendship between civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Together, they were out to change the world and offer a message of reconciliation and hope, and in the process, they demonstrated a testament to female strength and triumph of the human spirit. Join us for a thoughtful discussion of the work of these two amazing women.

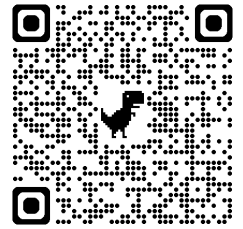
**ON SUNDAY, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>** we will begin two new celebrations at FPC during worship:

***CDC Celebration Sunday*** where we will highlight the wonderful ministry of our Child Development Center at FPC. The students and their families will receive a special invitation to attend service and the students will sing during worship.

***Mr. Rogers Day (Neighboring Sunday)*** wear your favorite sweater and join us as we celebrate the ministry of Fred Rogers (who was a Presbyterian minister) and reflect on how we might be better neighbors today!

## LENTEN STUDY: What Lies Between Us: Fostering First Steps Toward Racial Healing

Join Beth Hooten, Brownicity Certified Instructor, for a five session conversation about the social construct of race/ism. We will investigate history, examine common beliefs and identify consequences as we explore our society's challenges surrounding race and how faith may inform our individual and collective response. The guide, *What Lies Between Us: Fostering First Steps Toward Racial Healing*, prepared by Lucretia Carter Berry, PhD, will be provided to participants. Class will be held on Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. (March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, 2025). Sign up by March 9th using this QR code:



## CATERPILLAR ORDERING TIME!

A FPCB Lenten and Easter tradition is to get caterpillars from church, watch them grow and form a chrysalis, then experience the wonder of the emerged butterfly. You'll take care of your butterflies until Easter when you will bring them to church, and we will release them after worship on the front lawn by the flowering cross. Would you like caterpillars? Contact Charlotte Nance-Allbright ([callbright@fpcburlington.org](mailto:callbright@fpcburlington.org) or 336-228-1703 x 223) with the number that you want. Pick up March 23. Help separate them at 9:00 a.m. if you'd like! Caterpillars come with instructions for care. Great fun for all!

**LENTEN CALENDARS AND DEVOTIONAL:** Available in the Welcome Center and on the table outside the Church Office. Digital copy of the calendars available upon request ([callbright@fpcburlington.org](mailto:callbright@fpcburlington.org)).

**2025 PRITCHETT SYMPOSIUM** at The First Presbyterian Church, Burlington, NC welcomes the Rev. Dr. Samuel L. Adams, Mary Jane and John F. McNair Chair in Biblical Studies at Union Presbyterian Seminary on Sunday, March 30, 2025. 9:00 a.m. faith formation; 10:00 a.m. worship; 11:00 a.m. lunch and faith formation. Your RSVP for lunch will help with catering arrangements ([reception@fpcburlington.org](mailto:reception@fpcburlington.org)) The class theme: Wealth and Poverty in the Biblical World and Today.