

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 23, 2025

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION

Variations on ADORO TE

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

*Text and tune found at Hymn No. 495*

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, you are our God;  
**our souls thirst for you,**  
**as in a dry and weary land**  
**where there is no water.**

We have looked upon you in the sanctuary;  
**we have seen your power and glory.**

Our lips will praise you as long as we live;  
**we lift up our hearts and call on your name.**

**Let us worship God!**

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

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O God, My God, with Eagerness (*Psalm 63*)

LAND OF REST



1. O God, my God, with ea - ger - ness I long to see Your face;  
2. Your end - less mer - cies, Lord, are mine As Your ap - point - ed heir;  
3. My soul has feast - ed at Your board, Your glo - ries fill my sight;  
4. Through - out my life You are my help, My soul is bold to sing;



Lost in a dry and bar - ren land, I thirst to taste Your grace.  
Your stead - fast love through - out my life Is joy be - yond com - pare.  
I spend my wak - ing hours in praise, And pray my thoughts at night.  
And af - ter death, I'll rest be - neath The shad - ow of your wing.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

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

### \*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God,  
though you lovingly tend us,  
we have not put forth the good fruits  
of your Spirit.  
Our consumption poisons the earth.  
Our violence threatens our neighbors.  
Our greed exploits the poor.  
We must seem a waste of time,  
but don't give up on us yet, O God.  
In your power to abundantly pardon,  
forgive us for the sake of Christ,  
and imbue us with love, peace,  
goodness, and faithfulness.

### \*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life (Psalm 51)

IRISH

Have mer - cy, God, up - pon my life, and  
make me clean with - in: pour out your ev - er -  
faith - ful love and wash a - way my sin.

Text: David Gambrell, Psalm 51  
As found at Hymn No. 421

*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

How Blest, Those Whose Transgression

AURELIA

How blest, those whose trans - gres - sions have free - ly been for - given;  
whose guilt is whol - ly cov - ered be - fore the sight of heaven.  
Blest, those to whom our Lord God will not im - pute their sin:  
whose guilt has been for - giv - en; whose hearts, made true a - gain.

Text: The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909  
As found at Hymn 446, stanza 1

## \*PASSING THE PEACE, LOVE AND JOY OF CHRIST TO OTHERS

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

*We exchange  
reconciling words  
and gestures  
among the people  
of God.*

## LISTENING FOR THE WORD

### STORY TELLING

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: Luke 12:22-31

*Large Print Pew Bible, page 91  
Pew Bible, pages 74-75*

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

God of Still Waiting

Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)

*Chancel Choir*

God of still waiting, God of deep longing, God of the heart's true rest:  
hold us in fathomless peace, guard us with unwaning love.

Spirit of promise, Spirit of purpose, Spirit of ceaseless prayer:  
bathe us in life full and free, kindle our wonder and hope.

Word who comes to us, Word who lives with us, Word who disturbs and heals:  
silence our chattering fears, waken our unconscious faith.

Word true and faithful, hope-bringing Spirit, God of enfolding love:  
come in your fullness and grace, work through our lives for your praise.

*-Carl P. Daw, Jr. (2001)*

**SECOND READING:** Isaiah 55:1-9

*Large Print Pew Bible, pages 838-839*

*Pew Bible, pages 685-686*

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON:** God Invites Us to a Feast

Dr. Jim Lunde

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE — NO. 78**

You Thirsty Ones, Come

HEAVEN'S RAIN

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

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.21*

The reconciling work of Jesus  
was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.  
His cross and resurrection become personal crisis  
and present hope for women and men  
when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.  
In this experience,  
the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all,  
moves people to respond in faith,  
repentance, and obedience,  
and initiates the new life in Christ.

## 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.

## OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

## MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy      American Folk Tune, arr. Ronald Turner  
*Chancel Choir*

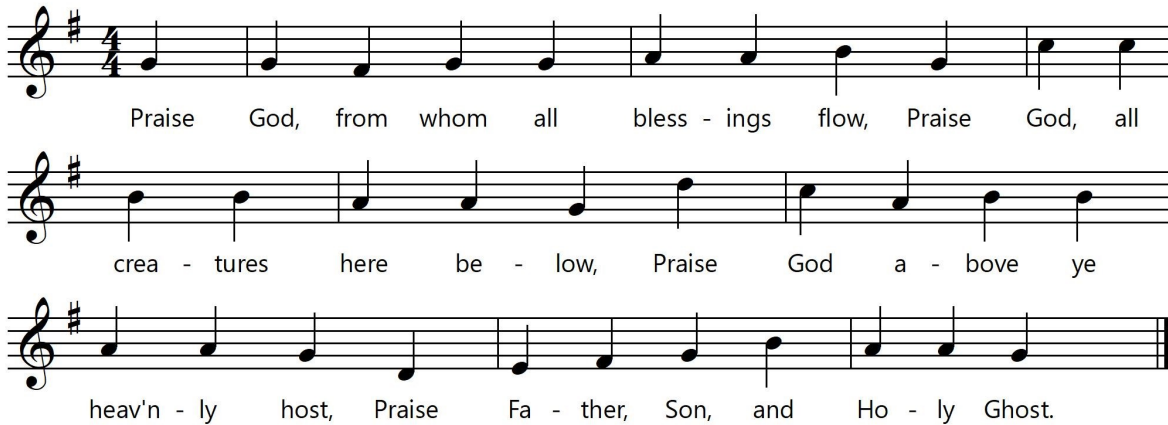
Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore,  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.  
Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.  
I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are then thousand charms.

*-Joseph Hart, 1759*

## \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

TALLIS' CANON



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow, Praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low, Praise God a - bove ye  
heav'n - ly host, Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Tune: TALLIS' CANON, as found  
at Hymn No. 675

## BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

### \*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN — No. 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

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

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*James Lunde, D. Min., Senior Pastor and Head of Staff*

*John W. Johnson, M. Div., Parish Associate for Communications*

*J. Patrick Murphy, M. Mus., Organist-Choirmaster*

*Charlotte Nance-Allbright, M.A, C.C.E., Director of Christian Formation and Education*

## 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.

**BULLETIN COVER:** *First Presbyterian Church Steeple*, Pat Scheible

**WORSHIP NOTES:** During the season of Lent, it is our tradition at FPC to remove Alleluias from worship; to sing the Doxology without Alleluias; and to offer no closing voluntary. These will return with the Joy of Easter Sunday.

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

**LITURGY** from *Call to Worship*, PCUSA

**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!



**RECEPTION HONORING J. PATRICK MURPHY:** Patrick's retirement from FPCB is approaching. He has honored and protected and advanced our church's legacy of music being a foundational piece of our worship, of our healing, and of our joy. Please make plans to join us on April 27, at 11:15 a.m., in Shive Hall, for a reception and thank you to Patrick.

**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.

**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. RSVP by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26 (reception@fpcburlington.org or 336-228-1703) The class theme: Wealth and Poverty in the Biblical World and Today.

### DONATIONS FOR FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your many years of donating food for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. We are thankful we can continue to partner in this important ministry and mission. Donations can be dropped off in the designated bin outside the CDC entrance during the week or inside directly into the Food Pantry closet in the Welcome Center during office hours or on Sundays. Please note that food left in the outside bin is frequently brought inside to the closet, however, there are occasions that our neighbors experiencing hunger and/or homelessness may find the resources in the bin and take those to meet their need. Interested in volunteering with this meaningful mission? Please contact Bruce Shields (bruce.shields@yale.edu).

**REFUGEE SUPPORT NEEDED**

We, at First Presbyterian Church, embrace our call to be a Matthew 25 Church and serve Christ by helping those in need in our community. For the past few years, our church has been working with agencies to help fully vetted refugees resettle in Burlington. Christ is calling us to continue in that service with our newest neighbors. With reductions in government funding, some of the refugees relocated to Burlington have had their monetary and support assistance severely reduced or eliminated altogether. Perhaps you feel called to help and might serve in one or both of these ways:

A few members of our church and sister churches are forming a Support Team to help with transportation needs. If you are interested and would like to learn more or serve in this way, please contact Bruce Shields (203-668-2488 or [bruce.shields@yale.edu](mailto:bruce.shields@yale.edu)).

If you are led to give a financial gift, cash or checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with note/memo "Refugee Assistance." For more information or to learn more, contact Kent Byrd (336-516-1592 or [kentbyrd@gmail.com](mailto:kentbyrd@gmail.com)).

**IN MEMORIAM**

**MARY FRANCES MILLER BLANCHARD**

**April 13, 1918 - March 17, 2025**

"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord."

*John 11:25*



**Moment's Meditation**

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near... *Isaiah 55:6*

**Easter Lilies:** Easter lilies will be present for worship in the sanctuary and will beautify the sanctuary chancel for Live Streaming and Facebook Live worship on Easter Sunday (April 20, 2025). To order a lily as a memorial or honorarium (\$33 each) please complete the order form below and return it to the church with your check (make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and notate "Easter Lilies" on the memo line). Please contact the church at 336-228-1703 if you have questions.

**The deadline to order is Monday, April 14.**

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM:

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, March 23

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 9:00 a.m. Learning to Use My Bible Class— Room 403
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class — Room 122
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Band Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship — Shive Hall

### Monday, March 24

- 8:30 a.m. ACAC Serving Team A Serves
- 6:00 p.m. What LIES Between Us Class — Witherspoon Room

### Tuesday, March 25

- 6:45 a.m. Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study — Witherspoon Room
- 7:30 a.m. Dough Devotions for Youth — The Park
- 10:00 a.m. Weekly Staff Meeting — Room 203
- 10:30 a.m. Refugee Support Team Meeting — Room 122
- 7:00 p.m. BSA Troop 17 Meets — Garrison Joyner Activities Building

### Wednesday, March 26

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study — Witherspoon Room
- Noon FPCB Staff at TV@B
- 6:00 p.m. Pack 17 Meets — Garrison Joyner Activities Building
- 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, March 27

- 6:45 a.m. Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study — Witherspoon Room
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Meets — Room 201

### Friday, March 28

- 6:00 p.m. Young Life — Garrison Joyner Activities Building