



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 18, 2025

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

**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 "Rhosymedre"

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God on high!

**Praise God, sun and moon.**

**Praise God, all you shining stars!**

Praise God from the earth,  
you sea monsters and ocean depths!

**Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars,  
praise the Lord!**

Kings and all peoples of the earth,  
princes and all rulers of the earth,  
praise the Lord!

**Old and young together;  
all people praise the Lord!**

Let us worship God!

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

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN – NO. 14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God,  
you command us to love one another,  
yet we hold grudges  
and refuse to work for peace.

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

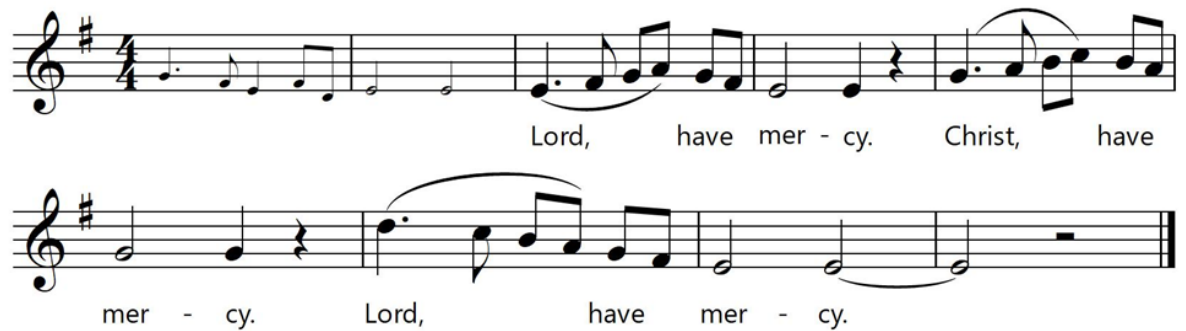
You command us to care for all of creation,  
yet we neglect the earth  
and abuse nature through carelessness.  
You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus,  
yet we too often walk our own way.  
Forgive us, O God.  
Guide us as we work toward  
a new heaven here on earth.  
Lead us to reconciliation  
and a vision for your beloved community,  
as we share your love  
with your people everywhere.

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Lord, Have Mercy

John Weaver (1937-2021)

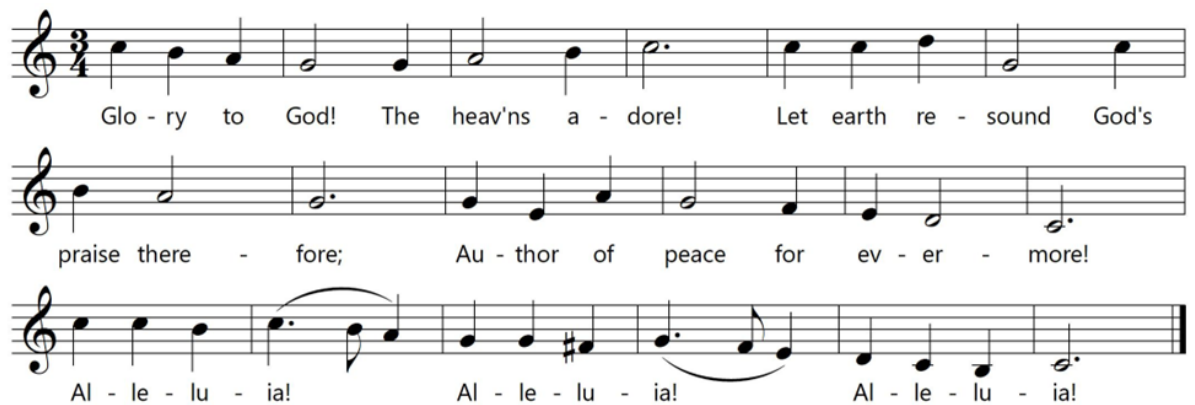


**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Glory to God!

GELOBT SEI GOTT



Text: Michael Morgan

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

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

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

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

## LISTENING FOR THE WORD

### STORY TELLING

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST READING:** Psalm 148: 1-6

*Large Print Pew Bible, page 716*

*Pew Bible, pages 582-583*

Holy wisdom, holy word.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

God of Grace and God of Laughter

Roy Hopp (b. 1951)

Mark Payne, clarinet

God of grace and God of laughter, singing worlds from nought to be-

Sun and stars and all thereafter joined in cosmic harmony:

Give us songs of joy and wonder, music making hearts rejoice:

Let our praises swell like thunder, echoing our Maker's voice.

When our lives are torn by sadness, heal our wounds with tuneful balm:

When all seems discordant madness, help us find a measured calm.

Steady us with music's anchor when the storms life increase;

In the midst of hurt and rancor, make us instruments of peace.

Turn our sighing into singing, music born of hope renewed;

Set our souls and voices ringing, tune our hearts in true accord:

Till we form a mighty chorus joining angel choirs above,

With all those who went before us, in eternal hymns of love.

**SECOND READING:** Acts 11:1-18

*Large Print Pew Bible, page 158*

*Pew Bible, page 130*

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON:** Hindering God

Dr. Jim Lunde

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE – NO. 766**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

MC KEE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*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,

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

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

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

### 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 My Way, My Truth, My Life

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Come my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a Way as gives us breath;  
Such a Truth as ends all strife: such a Life as killeth death.  
Come my Light, my Feast, my Strength; such a Light as shows a feast:  
Such a Feast as mends in length; such a Strength as makes his guest.  
Come my Joy, my Love, my Heart; such a Joy as none can move;  
Such a Love as none can part; such a Heart as Joys in love.

## \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



## BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

### \*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN – NO. 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

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

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

*Lisa Mullen, M. Div., Parish Associate*

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



### Moment's Meditation

May His passion become your passion  
so that your life reflects His abundant life plan for you.

*Susie Larson*

## 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](#).

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

**MUSIC:** For the month of May, Jane Kolarich is preparing and conducting the Chancel Choir. David Vaughan is playing the organ.

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edwin and Marilee Armstrong by their children, Lee and Morgan Armstrong.

**LITURGY** today is liturgy is from *Call to Worship, PCUSA*.

**CELEBRATING MILESTONES:** Congratulations to the High School graduates! We hold you in our hearts and prayers as you prepare for the next step in your journey. Jackson Allbright, Nina Brasington, Nevy Fisher, Bennett Gould, Houston Hopcroft, Josh Hunter, Catherine Parker, Hamilton Plunkett, Samuel Schiller, and Charley Walsh. The light of Christ guide your way.

**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.

**WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER (WRC)** is the May Mission Giving Focus. WRC clients appreciate your donation of full-size toiletries. Other needed items can be found in the weekly church eblast. Drop off donations in the bin outside the CDC/Welcome Center entrance or in the bin in the Welcome Center. Thank you!

**A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** has been called by the Session immediately following worship today. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a nominating committee. The slate of nominees includes Eddie Gant, Betsy Reeves, Barry Bradberry, Willy Fisher, Reid Dusenberry, Libby Conde and Karen Carrouth.

**The Don't Trash It! campaign with Elon University has begun** with linens being picked up daily.

Don't Trash It! Volunteer Days sorting and bagging linens—9:00 am – 12 N in the Garrison-Joyner Building (Scout Hut) on these dates:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, May 19, 21, 23

Wednesday, Friday, May 28, 30

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, June 2, 4, 6

Monday, Wednesday, Friday June 9, 11, 13

Bags of linens to take home and wash can be picked up after the church services on Sunday, May 25 and Sunday, June 1 outside the Garrison-Joyner Building.

The Furniture Ministry will be closed Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, May 18**

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting — Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Senior Youth Celebration Brunch — Witherspoon Room
- 5:00 p.m. Passport Kids Camp Meeting — Room 228
- 5:30 p.m. Diaconate Meeting — Room 402
- 7:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting — Witherspoon Room

### **Monday, May 19**

- 5:30 p.m. Mission Team Meeting via Zoom

### **Tuesday, May 20**

- 7:30 a.m. Dough Devotions for Youth — The Park

### **Wednesday, May 21—Habitat Unity Build**

- 5:00 p.m. Foundation Board Meeting — Room 203
- 6:00 p.m. Pack 17 Court of Honor
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Game Night — Shive Hall
- 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, May 22**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry Meets — Room 201

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