

Large Print Hymnals, printed copies of the sermon, and a hearing assistance system are available. Please speak to an usher for assistance.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### We welcome these guest Celebration Musicians to worship today:

Tatiana Karpova (violin), Ellyn Stuart (violin), Ellen Ferdon (viola), Janis Nilsen (cello), and Jeff Ferdon (bass). Thank you for sharing your musical talents with us.

**A Congregational Meeting** follows worship for the purpose of electing a Deacon to the Class of 2025 and Elders and Deacons to the Class of 2026.

**Last Call for Girl Scout Cookies**—the Girl Scouts will hold a final cookie booth on the front lawn of the sanctuary today, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 PM (or while supplies last!)

**Prayers for Peace in Ukraine:** today in the Commons Prayer Room at 6 PM. All are invited.

**Lent 2023: Parables and Other Puzzles:** During Lent this year we are considering some of Jesus' more puzzling parables, confounding stories that invite us to look at how the pieces of the kingdom fit together. Each week at the close of worship, you are invited to pick up another puzzle piece. All of the pieces are the same shape, so they all fit together. They will never form a fully finished picture, however. They—like we—will always be a work in progress, with bumps and uneven edges. So, you are invited to take a piece with you as you go, writing a word on it, if you choose, or coloring it with a marker or paint during the coming week, or simply connecting it to another piece and pondering what this week's puzzling parable has to say to you about this kingdom which has come near in Jesus Christ as we once again move together toward the cross.

**Daily Lenten Devotionals** written by Teri Ott, editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook*, will be emailed weekly. A list of other resources will be available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and in next week's Banner.

**Online Mid-Day Prayer** During Lent, tune into our YouTube channel on Wednesdays at 12:30 or anytime after for a brief time of scripture and prayer.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Later today

12:00 PM	Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
12:15 PM	Pizza and Puzzles (Davis Hall)
1:00 PM	Girl Scout Cookie Booth (Front Lawn)
3:30 PM	Racial Equity Reads (Commons)
4:30 PM	Confirmation (Davis Hall)
5:30 PM	Youth Dinner
6:00 PM	Combined Youth
6:00 PM	Prayers for Peace in Ukraine (Commons)

### Monday, March 27

6:30 PM	Worship & Music Meeting (Journey Classroom)
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### Tuesday, March 28

9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young)
2:00 PM	Staff Meeting (FH sunroom)
6:00 PM	Cub Scouts (Davis Hall)
6:00 PM	APNC (Fellowship House Library)
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts (Youth Room)
7:00 PM	Al Anon Meeting (Commons)

### Wednesday, March 29

9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young)
10:30 AM	Bible Study (Fellowship House)
11:00 AM	Cabarrus County Safety Coalition (Davis Hall)
7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

### Thursday, March 30

9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young)
10:00 AM	Thursday Morning Coffee (Gibson Mill)
6:00 PM	Girl Scouts (Ed Bldg)

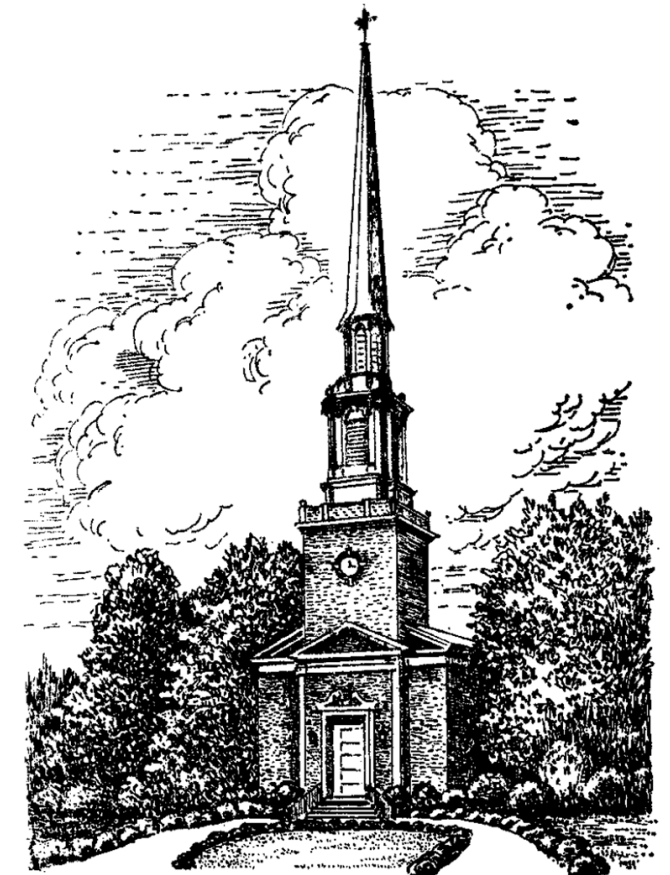
### Friday, March 31

9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young)
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### Sunday, April 2

9:45 AM	Sunday School Classes (various rooms)
10:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
11:00 AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
4:30 PM	Confirmation (Davis Hall)
5:30 PM	Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)
6:00 PM	Combined Youth (Davis Hall)

# Fifth Sunday In Lent



**First Presbyterian Church**  
70 Union Street North  
Concord, North Carolina

Sunday, March 26, 2023



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CONCORD

[www.firstpresconcord.org](http://www.firstpresconcord.org)

(704) 788-2100

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**Rev. Ellen Crawford True**, Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Julie Hill**, Temporary Associate Pastor  
**René Prager**, Director of Christian Education  
**Dr. Jacqueline Yost**, Director of Music and Organist  
**Dr. Jeffrey W. Price**, Choirmaster  
**Amy Woolwine**, Clerk of Session  
**Dakeita Vanderburg**, Moderator, Board of Deacons

For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website:

[www.firstpresconcord.org](http://www.firstpresconcord.org)



## 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.

*Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of people;  
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry;  
Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing;  
Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers;  
Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked;  
Give me the care that strengthens the sick;  
Make me share in the quest to set the prisoner free.  
In sharing our anxieties and our love,  
our poverty and our prosperity,  
we partake of your divine presence.*

~ Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe

### 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 you neighbor.*

### VOLUNTARY

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.

**People: Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he is faithful and just.**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he is coming to judge the nations and redeem creation.

**All: Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**\*HYMN 26** *Earth and All Stars!* EARTH AND ALL STARS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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!**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE 774** *There Is Now a New Creation* STUTTGART  
**There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ, peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.**

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** lay reader, Cindy Wise

**FIRST LESSON** Psalm 98 pew bible, page 551  
This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**SECOND LESSON** Matthew 25:31-46 pew bible, page 28  
This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** Rev. Ellen Crawford True

#### MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from the Confession of 1967

**In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself.**

**We confess that Jesus Christ is God with us,  
the eternal Son of the Father,  
who became human and lived among us  
to fulfill the work of reconciliation.**

**We believe that the risen Christ is present in the church  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to continue and complete his mission.**

**This work of God,  
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
is the foundation of all we say  
about God, ourselves, and the world.**

#### 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

**TEXT TO GIVE: 704-228-7459**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Alice Parker  
(Sanctuary Choir and Celebration Musicians)

*1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; nought be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. 2. Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Father, I thy true son; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one. 3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, thou mine*

*inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art. 4. High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

**\*DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*  
PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, take and use these gifts and those who offer them for the work of seeing and serving Christ in the world. Amen

### BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**\*HYMN 307** *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

#### \*BENEDICTION

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen* in g minor Yost  
(Sanctuary Choir)

#### POSTLUDE

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*  
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Worship Notes: The prayer of confession is from the PC(USA) *Book of Common Worship*. This morning's affirmation is drawn from the *Confession of 1967* which "is built around a single passage of Scripture: 'In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself.' (2 Cor. 5:19)." Written in a tumultuous time in history, this confession seeks to address the church's role in the modern world

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!** We trust that you will experience God's presence as we worship. Please accept this invitation to participate in the full life of this congregation as we meet for study, fellowship, worship and service. If you would like to know more about the church or membership here, one of our pastors would be delighted to talk with you following worship. Worship is livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person and can be accessed from our website.

#### 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.

**Pew Prep** - We invite any kindergarten through second grade children to attend Pew Prep after the Children's Message. Our volunteers will lead the children to the Children's Chapel on the second floor of the Education Building where they will engage in fun activities while learning about different aspects of worship. The goal of Pew Prep is to provide education that allows our young worshipers to understand and fully participate when they are in the sanctuary. Volunteers will bring the children back to the sanctuary during the Doxology and they will return to sit with their family.