

**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.

**Pew Prep** - We invite any kindergarten and first 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.

**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

**Today’s flowers** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jeffrey Price for his extraordinary gifts, talent, knowledge, creativity, energy, and all the love he has blessed our congregation with for 20 years.

**Our “Noisy” Offering** received during the Message for Children will benefit the Backpack Program at Coltrane-Webb Elementary.

**The Session has called a Congregational Meeting** to present the budget and vote on the terms of call for Pastor Ellen and Pastor Casey, following today’s worship. The meeting of the corporation will also take place.

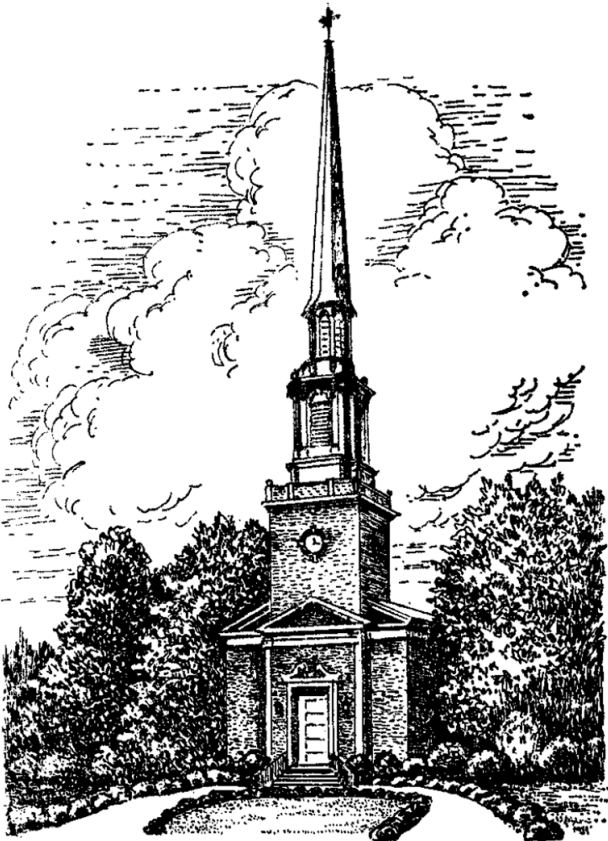
**The Sacrament of Baptism** will be offered this morning to Margaret McLaurin Mitzel, daughter of Mollie and Ryan Mitzel. Grandparents are Lou Ann and Mark Clark. We welcome Margaret into our fellowship and pray for God’s blessings on this family.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

LATER TODAY		
12:00 PM		Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
12:30 PM		Girl Scout Cookie Booth (Front Lawn)
4:30 PM		Confirmation (Davis Hall)
5:30 PM		Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)
6:00 PM		Combined Youth (Davis Hall)
Monday, January 29		
9:00 AM		First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
2:00 PM		Staff Meeting (FH Sunroom)
7:00 PM		Boy Scouts (Will Young rm 304)
7:00 PM		Racial Equity Reads (Commons)
Tuesday, January 30		
9:00 AM		First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
1:00 PM		Library Committee Workday (Library Conference Room)
7:00 PM		AI Anon (Commons)
Wednesday, January 31		
9:00 AM		First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
10:30 AM		Bible Study (Library Conference Room)
6:30 PM		Worship & Music (Journey Classroom)
7:30 PM		Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thursday, February 1		
9:00 AM		First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
2:00 PM		Thursday Connections (Commons)
5:30 PM		Girl Scout Troop 334 (Ed Bldg)
6:00 PM		Girl Scout Daisy, Brownie & Junior Troops (Ed Bldg)
Friday, February 2		
9:00 AM		First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Sunday, February 4		
9:45 AM		Boy Scout Sunday
10:30 AM		Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms)
11:00 AM		Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)
4:30 PM		Worship (in person and live streamed)
5:30 PM		Confirmation (Davis Hall)
6:30 PM		Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)
		Combined Youth (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  
Jenny Chikes, Moderator, Board of Deacons  
For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website  
[www.firstpresconcord.org](http://www.firstpresconcord.org)

Fourth Sunday  
after Epiphany



First Presbyterian Church  
70 Union Street North  
Concord, North Carolina

Sunday, January 28, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
C O N C O R D

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

From fears that paralyze us;  
Heal us, O Lord.

From illness that strangles us;  
Heal us, O Lord.

From sorrows that weigh us down;  
Heal us, O Lord.

From aimlessness that plagues our visions;  
Heal us, O Lord.

~ Katherine Hawker

## 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

Sheryl Kluge, 1 CAN

## VOLUNTARY

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You are ever faithful, O God,  
People: **so we sing of your steadfast love.**  
**You keep your promise to every generation,**

Leader: so we proclaim your faithfulness to our children.  
You are full of compassion,  
People: **so we dare to love the unlovable in your name.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the God Most High,  
People: **whose faithfulness is as firm as the heavens,**  
All: **now and forever!**

Leader: With friends and strangers,  
with family and neighbors, we gather:  
People: **Come among us, Healing God,**  
**with that love which never ends.**

Leader: With faith reaching out to touch,  
with hearts straining to trust, we hope:  
People: **Come among us, Friend of the broken,**  
**with your compassion which makes us whole.**

Leader: With word and wonder,  
with silence and song, we wait:  
People: **Come among us, Dryer of our tears,**  
**to lift us to our feet to follow you.**

## \*HYMN 667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
“Do not be afraid; only believe,” you tell us, O Lord. Forgive the ways we insist on clinging to fear. Give us the grace and the courage to trust you above all others. In Christ’s name we pray. 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 662 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies RATISBON  
Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light; Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o’er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION	lay reader, Lori Clay
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FIRST LESSON	Psalms 131	pew bible, page 574
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This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Noisy Offering

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.

SECOND LESSON	Mark 5:21-43	pew bible, page 39
This is the Word of the Lord.		
Thanks be to God.		

SERMON	Rev. Ellen Crawford True
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MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 178	The Woman Hiding in the Crowd	SIMMONS
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\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from a Declaration of Faith  
We are certain that Jesus lives.  
He lives as God with us,  
touching all of human life with the presence of God...  
We declare that Jesus is Lord.  
His resurrection is a decisive victory  
over the powers that deform and destroy human life.  
His lordship is hidden.  
The world appears to be dominated by people and systems  
that do not acknowledge his rule.  
But his lordship is real.  
It demands our loyalty and sets us free  
from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.  
We maintain that ultimate sovereignty  
now belongs to Jesus Christ  
in every sphere of life.  
Jesus is Lord.

He has been Lord from the beginning.  
He will be Lord at the end.  
Even now he is Lord.

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	Take My Life and Let It Be	Brian Hanson
	(Sanctuary Choir)	

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy throne. Take my will; take my heart, my life. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee. Ever, only, all for thee.

\*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  
Thank you, O God for the ways you heal us and make us whole. May all that we offer be used to share your saving love with a fear-filled world in Jesus’ name. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 846	Fight the Good Fight	DUKE STREET
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\*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	Sanctuary Choir
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POSTLUDE

\*Those who are able, please stand.  
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This morning’s Call to Worship was written by the Rev. Thom Shuman. This morning’s affirmation of faith is drawn from “A Declaration of Faith,” adopted by the Presbyterian Church in 1985 as a contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration.

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.