

Cover artwork by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com This morning's call to worship was written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell. 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. This morning's prayer of thanksgiving comes from the PC(USA) Office of Theology.

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.

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.

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 by scanning the QR code on the card in the pew rack, or by texting 704-288-7459.

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

We welcome these Guest Celebration Musicians to worship today. Our thanks to each of them for sharing their musical gifts with us, and to the Glory of God:

Tatiana Karpova, violin
 Ellyn Stuart, violin
 Ellen Ferdon, viola
 Jill Fung, cello
 Jeffrey Ferdon, bass
 Jacquie Yost, organ

A Congregational Meeting will follow worship next Sunday, April 7, to elect the Class of 2027 officers.

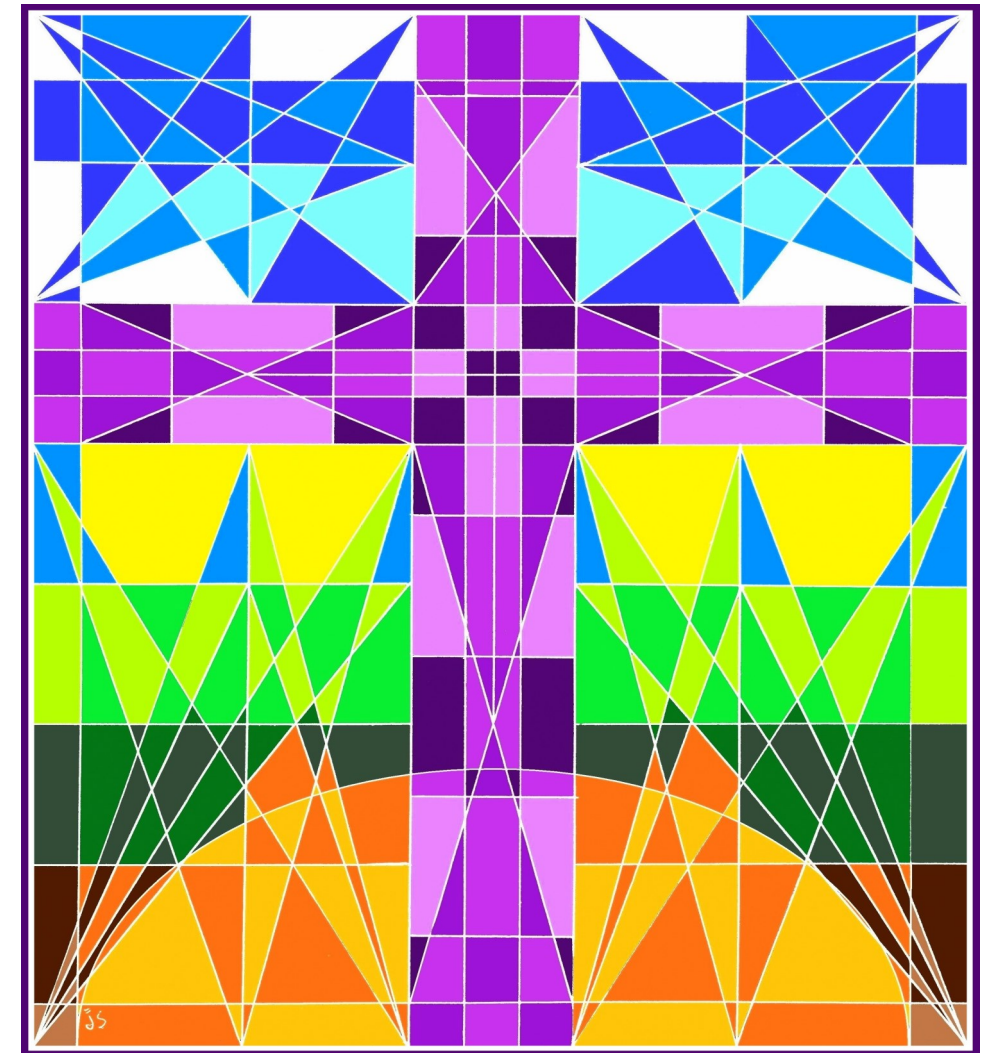
Vacation Bible School registration is now open! VBS Week (June 10-13) is FREE, but advance registration is required. Visit our website or paste this link into your browser <https://firstpresconcord.org> to register today!

We are still looking for VBS Volunteers – for both advance preparation items, as well as week of assistance. If you are able to help, please use this link to sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0948ACAB2DABF49-47262850-vbsvolunteers#/> or contact Bill Cochran.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, April 1	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Office Closed for Easter Monday Circle 1 (Fellowship House) Boy Scouts (Will Young room 304)
Tuesday, April 2	9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Board of Deacons (Library Conference Room) Al Anon (Commons)
Wednesday, April 3	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 6:00 PM 6:45 PM 7:30 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Bible Study (Library Conference Room) Buildings & Grounds (Library Conference Room) CE Meeting (FH Library) Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thursday, April 4	9:00 AM 1:00 PM 5:00PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Library Committee (Library Conference Room) First Kids International Dinner (Davis Hall) GS Troop 334 (Ed Bldg) GS Daisy, Brownie, & Junior Troops (Ed Bldg)
Friday, April 5	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Sunday, April 7	9:45 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM 12:15 PM 3:00 PM 4:30 PM	Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms) Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room) Worship—Senior Recognition (in person and live streamed) Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary) New Member Lunch (Davis Hall) Organ Concert (Sanctuary) Combined Youth (Sanctuary)

Easter Sunday



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

Sunday, March 31, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 C O N C O R D

www.firstpresconcord.org

(704) 788-2100

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



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.

Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt,
may we, who have not seen,
have faith and receive
the fullness of Christ’s blessing,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

EASTER GREETING

Leader: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Pad found on the center aisle of each pew and pass it to your neighbor.

INTROIT

Worthy Is the Lamb

G.F. Handel

(Cecilia Moneta Matthews, Carrie Myers, Scott Verner,
Jeffrey Price and Instrumentalists)

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto Him, be unto Him. Blessing, honor, glory and power be unto Him for ever and ever.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The tomb is dark, but empty.

People: The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness.

Leader: The stone has been rolled away.

People: The one you are looking for has overcome death.

Leader: The burial clothes are put aside.

People: The one you are looking for is alive!

Leader: Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is Risen Indeed!

All: Let us worship our Risen Savior!

*HYMN 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to cynicism and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to transform us and the whole of creation that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. 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 240** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO. 1

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

lay reader, Jim Monroe

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 118:20-24

pew bible, page 565

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Mark 16:1-8

pew bible, page 54

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 247

Now the Green Blade Rises

NOEL NOUVELET

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Declaration of Faith*

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Excerpts from MESSIAH

G.F. Handel

(Sanctuary Choir and Instrumentalists)

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth (Cecilia Moneta Matthews, soloist)

I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

Since By Man Came Death

Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive!

Musical Recitation

Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory!”

O Death, Where Is Thy Sting? (Choral Duet)

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

But Thanks Be to God

But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

*DOXOLOGY 609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Eternal God, we praise you that your glory has dawned on us, and brought us into this Day of Resurrection. We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son, and that he has conquered death, risen to rule over all powers of this earth. We praise you that he summons us into new life, to follow him with joy and gladness.

People: By your Spirit, lift us from doubt and despair, and set our feet in Christ’s holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life, and all we have may show forth his love.

All: Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 239

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

GELOBT SEI GOTT

****Note: If you would like to stand with the choir and sing the Hallelujah, please walk forward by way of the side aisles during this hymn. Music scores will be available to you from a choir member at the end of the side aisles.***

*BENEDICTION

***CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Hallelujah* G. F. Handel
Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever. Hallelujah.

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able, please stand.*

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