

**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 by scanning the QR code on the card in the pew rack, or by texting 704-228-7459.

**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**

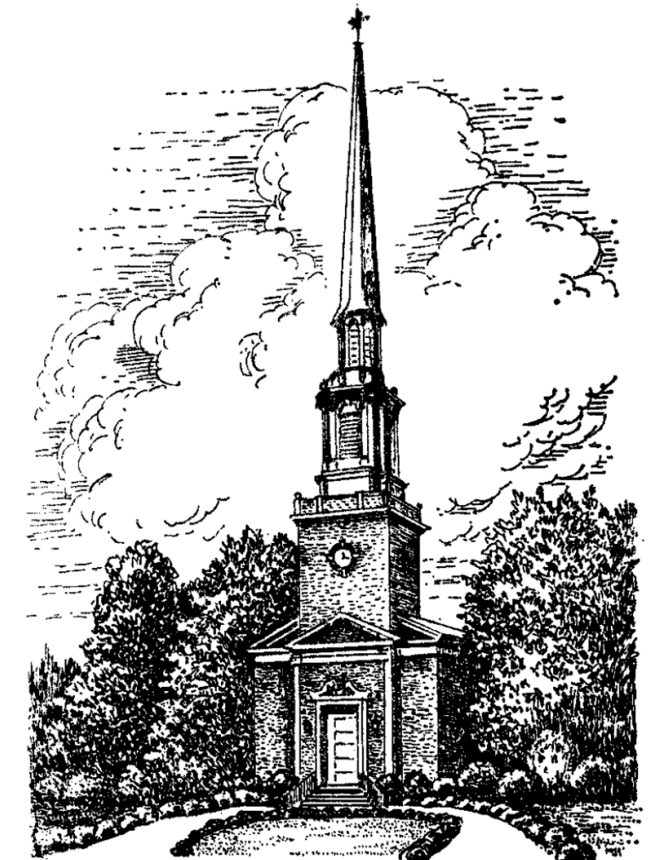
**Today's flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Polly Barnett, mother of Brevard Barnett Crowell.

**All Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited** to join us later today for a fun evening of mini golf! Bring a friend! We will meet at Jocko's Mini Golf, 259 N Cannon Blvd. Kannapolis at 6:00 PM and finish up at 7:30 PM. Please plan to eat dinner at home before or after Youth. We will enjoy Sno-Cones at Jocko's!

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

|                                |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Later Today</b>             | 4:30 PM   | Combined Youth Kick Off (off campus)  |
| <b>Friday, September 9</b>     | 9:00 AM<br>11:00 AM   | First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)<br>Circle 4 (off campus)   |
| <b>Tuesday, September 10</b>   | 9:00 AM<br>10:00 AM<br>6:00 PM<br>6:30 PM<br>7:00 PM<br>7:00 PM   | First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)<br>Joy Dinner Committee (FH)<br>Cub Scouts (Davis Hall)<br>Session (Library Conference Room)<br>AI Anon (Commons)<br>Boy Scouts (Senior High Room)                             |
| <b>Wednesday, September 11</b> | 9:00 AM<br>10:30 AM<br>2:00 PM<br>7:30 PM                         | First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)<br>Bible Study (Library Conference Room)<br>Staff Meeting (FH Sunroom)<br>Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)   |
| <b>Thursday, September 12</b>  | 8:30 AM<br>9:00 AM<br>9:00 AM                                     | Academic Learning Center (Library Conference Room)<br>First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)<br>Meeting (FH Library)  |
| <b>Friday, September 13</b>    | 8:30 AM   | First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)  |
| <b>Saturday, September 14</b>  | 9:00 AM   | Leadership Retreat (Niblock Farm)   |
| <b>Sunday, September 15</b>    | 10:00 AM<br>10:30 AM<br>11:00 AM<br>4:30 PM<br>5:30 PM<br>6:00 PM | Sunday School Classes (Various locations)<br>Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)<br>Worship (in person and live streamed)<br>Middle School Youth (Davis Hall)<br>Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)<br>High School Youth (Davis Hall) |

**Twenty Third Sunday  
In Ordinary Time**



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

**Sunday, September 8, 2024**



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. 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**  
**Elizabeth Anne Dover Bishop, Moderator, Board of Deacons**  
 For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website:  
[www.firstpresconcord.org](http://www.firstpresconcord.org)  
 For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website:



# 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.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east  
and put there the human he had formed.

~ Genesis 2:8, CEB

## 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

Julianna Willis, *Rise Against Hunger*

### VOLUNTARY

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From the beginning,

**All: God loved us.**

Leader: From the beginning,

**All: God wanted good things for us**

Leader: From the beginning,

**All: God shaped us to care for God's creation and for one another.**

Leader: From the beginning,

**All: God sought us out**

Leader: Today and every day,

**All: God is calling still.**

**Let us worship God.**

### \*HYMN 35

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One, you have placed us in the midst of your creation filled with beauty and abundance, and yet, we are quick to see only what we lack. You have created us for relationship with you and our neighbors, and yet we spend our precious days pointing fingers at our siblings and hiding from you. Forgive us, O God. Draw us back to you and to one another and lead us in the way of life. In Jesus' 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 410 *God is Calling Through the Whisper* W ZLOBIE LEZY

**God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs, through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise. Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder. God is calling, can you hear? God is calling, can you hear?**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

lay reader, Elly Steel

### FIRST LESSON

Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39

pew bible, page 158

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Commission Leaders and Teachers

### SECOND LESSON

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-13

pew bible, page 2

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 841

*God Is My Strong Salvation*

WEDLOCK

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Leader: In life and in death we belong to God.

**People: Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,**

**All: we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

Leader: We trust in God,

whom Jesus called Abba Father.

**People: In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image...**

**All: to live as one community.**

Leader: But we rebel against God;

**People: we hide from our Creator.**

Leader: Ignoring God's commandments,

**People: we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth,**

**exploit neighbor and nature,**

**and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

**All: We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation...**

Leader: Loving us still,

**People: God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant...**

Leader: With believers in every time and place,

**All: we rejoice that nothing in life or in death**

**can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

### 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

*Catch the Vision! Share the Glory!*

Carl Schalk

(Sanctuary Choir)

(1.) Blessed children, saints, elect of God, globe-encircling cloud of witnesses:

We have heard the Christmas angels, We have seen the Easter sunrise, cried

with joy when Christ began his reign. **Catch the vision! Share the glory!**

**Show the captives, tell them: Christ is here!** (2.) Universal Body of the Lord,

Chosen, called, made just, and glorified: Ours the faith, and ours the triumph,

Ours the peace the world is seeking; Who on earth as privileged as we? **Catch**

**the vision! Share the glory! Show the captives, tell them: Christ is here!** (3.)

Heirs together of the grace of Life, All baptized into the death of Christ: Born again,

in love maturing, From the altar free and cheerful, Caring, winsome family of

God. **Catch the vision! Share the glory! Show the captives, tell them: Christ is**

**here!** (4.) For this time and place have we been born, Gifted by the Spirit, trained,

and sent: With the eyes of Jesus seeing, With the hands of Jesus helping, With the

words of Jesus bringing life. **Catch the vision! Share the glory! Show the**

**captives, tell them: Christ is here!**

**\*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

**For all of your good and delightful gifts, we give you thanks and praise, O**

**God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Take all that bring—our gifts**

**and our very lives and use them for the tending of your world and the**

**glory of your name. Amen.**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD

### INTO THE WORLD

### \*HYMN 24

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

HOLY MANNA

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Amen in E*

Yost

### POSTLUDE

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

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**Worship Notes:** This morning's affirmation comes from **A Brief Statement of Faith** which was commissioned to celebrate the reunion of two of the largest Presbyterian churches in the United States in 1983 and "our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task." (From the Preface to the *Book of Confessions*)

**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.