

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 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

The Tree Lighting Family Advent Event is this evening, at 5:00 PM. Please join us on the Fellowship House front lawn.

Poinsettia order forms are available in the narthex and lobby of the Fellowship House to order a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one. **All orders must be received in the church office by Tuesday, December 3rd.**

Open House at the Trues' 146 Spring Street NW, Sunday, December 8, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Please drop by for fellowship and treats! *Please park on Marsh Street or on Union Street North. The driveway will be available so that those who need an easier entrance may be dropped off and picked up near the back door.*

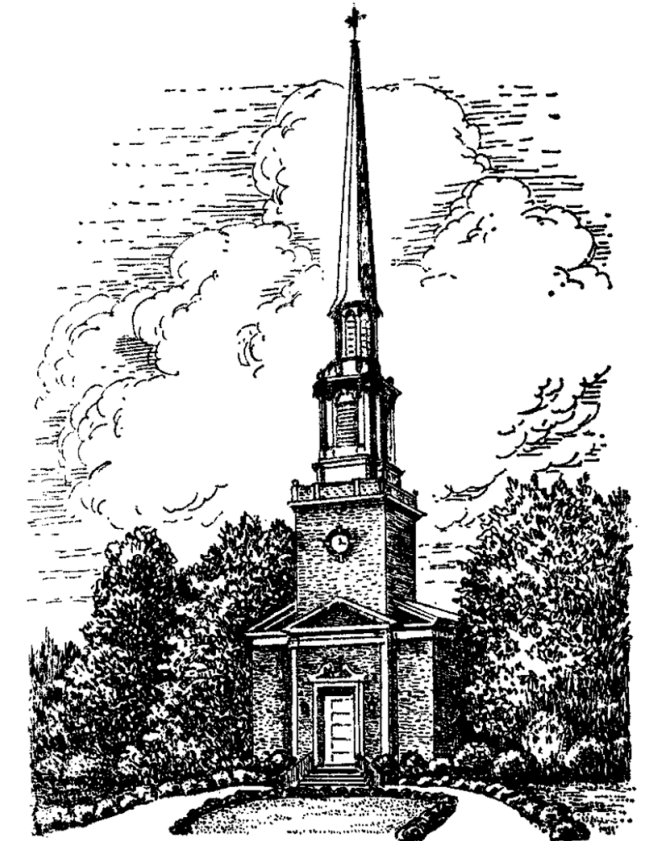
Advent 2024

Traditionally we tell the story of Jesus’ birth with hushed tones and lullabies, and yet the coming of God’s long-awaited Messiah is less of a whisper than a jolt, startling humanity and disrupting the world in ways that will not be smoothed over or undone. As we move through Advent together, we will listen for notes of God’s jolts of hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare to welcome God’s gift of world-changing life in Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Later today 5:00 PM	Tree Lighting Family Advent (Fellowship House Front Lawn)
Monday, December 2 9:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Circle 1 (Fellowship House) Racial Equity Reads (Zoom)
Tuesday, December 3 9:00 AM 1:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Library Committee Work (Library Conference Room) Cub Scouts (Davis Hall) Hospitality Team (Library Conference Room) Boy Scouts (Senior High Room, Will Young) Al Anon (Commons) Board of Deacons (Library Conference Room)
Wednesday, December 4 9:00 AM 2:00 PM 5:30 PM 7:30 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Staff Meeting (Fellowship House Sunroom) Joy Dinner (Davis Hall) Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, December 5 9:00 AM 2:00 PM 6:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Thursday Connections (Library Conference Room) Girl Scouts (2nd & 3rd floors Ed Bldg)
Friday, December 6 9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Saturday, December 7 8:00 AM 5:30 PM	Love Feast on the Streets (off campus) Deacons Host Kids Night In (Davis Hall)
Sunday, December 8 9:30 AM 9:45 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM 2:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM	Children’s Christmas Choir (Children’s Music Room, Ed Bldg) Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms) Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room) Worship w/special music (in person and live streamed) Open House at the Trues’ (146 Spring St NW) Circle 5 (Library Conference Room) Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

First Sunday of Advent



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

Sunday, December 1, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CONCORD

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
Elizabeth Anne Dover Bishop, 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.

"We are not optimists; we do not present a lovely vision of the world which everyone is expected to fall in love with. We simply have, wherever we are, some small local task to do, on the side of justice, for the poor." – Herbert McCabe, OP

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.

VOLUNTARY

*CALL TO WORSHIP (ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING)

Leader: To all who have lost their way,
who have given up,
who have been let down or left behind,
return to me with all your heart, says the Lord.
I am abounding in love, and determined to pour out hope
through voices old and young, unexpected and overlooked.
Let us pray:

All: ***Startle us again with your hope, O God, as we wait and watch
for your Son to be born in us again. Amen.***

*HYMN 104 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of life, love, and liberation, for all of the ways in which we have fallen asleep to the work you have called us to do, forgive us. We confess we have taken the gift of our lives for granted, failing to appreciate what you have abundantly and joyfully provided for us. And we have too often struggled to care for our neighbor, and have neglected to share with them the love and liberation that you have unfailingly offered us in Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, and by your Spirit jolt us awake again to prepare the way for your kingdom on earth. 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 583 *Glory to God* GLORIA
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia! (sung twice)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION lay reader, Kimberly Leatherman

FIRST LESSON Acts 2:1-13 pew bible page 119

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON Joel 2, selected verses pew bible, page 846
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Casey Aldridge

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *the Confession of 1967, 9.52*

Leader: The Lord's Supper is a celebration
of the reconciliation of people with God
and with one another, in which they joyfully eat
and drink together at the table of their Savior.

People: **Jesus Christ gave his church this remembrance
of his dying for sinners so that by participation in it
they have communion with him
and with all who shall be gathered to him.**

Leader: Partaking in him as they eat the bread and drink the wine
in accordance with Christ's appointment,
they receive from the risen and living Lord
the benefits of his death and resurrection.

People: **They rejoice in the foretaste of the kingdom
which he will bring to consummation at his promised
coming, and go out from the Lord's Table with courage and
hope for the service to which he has called them**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Rise Up Shepherd Taylor Davis
(Sanctuary Choir)

Rise up, shepherd and follow. There is a star on Christmas morn. It's light will show where Christ was born. Follow the star to Bethlehem. You'll find a manger behind an inn. You need to heed the angel's word. Forget your flocks, forget your herds. You'll leave your sheep and leave your lambs. You'll leave your ewes and leave your rams. Rise up, shepherd and follow. Rise up!

*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, Lord, for jolting us back to hope again when we ourselves have forgotten how to hope. Take and use these gifts, and our whole lives, that their fruits might serve as a beacon of hope for a world in need. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER †

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...
And so, we join our voices with the faithful of every time and place, joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in joyful praise...

HYMN 562 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

The prayer continues and then ends with 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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Leader: Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service.

People: **Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup, to be his faithful disciples so that our daily living may be part of the life of your coming kingdom, and our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 82 *Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Amen* in F Jacqueline Yost
(Sanctuary Choir)

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able, please stand.*
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