

**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.

**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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Birth**, the rosebud in the chancel today is in honor of Benjamin Worth Blackman, born on December 23. Parents are Taylor Allen and Alexander Blackman. Grandparents are Elaine and Trent Blackman.

**Please join us** in Davis Hall after worship today, as we celebrate our dedicated nursery Coordinator, Ms. Bea’s , 90th birthday!

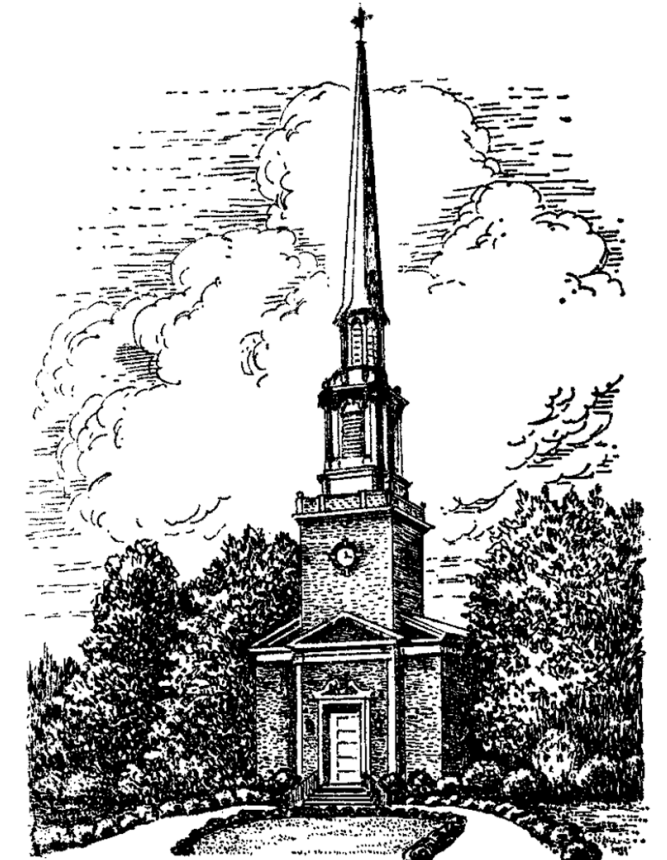
**Confirmands and confirmation partners** meet today in Davis Hall. All are invited to arrive at 4:15 PM to catch up before class starts at 4:30 PM. Confirmands should bring their Journal and any make-up work with them. The session will end at 5:30 PM and all are welcome to stay for dinner. Confirmands are encouraged to attend Youth Group from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

**Please save the date** to attend Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, January 28th in Davis Hall when we will host a special presentation from Ed Hosack, chief executive officer of CCM. CCM has launched a bold new initiative in several locations to assist families and seniors in our community. Stop in to listen, or join us for lunch too. Call the reservation line to reserve a spot, 704-788-2100, #7. Our Christian hearts need to hear this presentation of HOPE.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

<b>Later Today</b>	12:00 PM	Birthday Reception (Davis Hall)
	3:00 PM	Circle 5 (Library Conference Room)
	4:30 PM	Confirmand Meeting (Davis Hall)
	5:30 PM	Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)
	6:00 PM	Combined Youth (Davis Hall)
<b>Monday, January 13</b>	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	9:20 AM	Preschool Committee Mtg (Will Young Bldg)
	11:00 AM	Circle 4 (off campus)
	2:30 PM	Cabarrus VIP Blood Drive (Davis Hall)
<b>Tuesday, January 14</b>	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	11:30 AM	Circle 3 (Davis Hall)
	1:00 PM	Library Committee (Library Conference Room)
	6:30 PM	Session (Library Conference Room)
	7:00 PM	AI Anon Meeting (Commons)
	7:00 PM	Boy Scouts (Will Young Senior High Room)
<b>Wednesday, January 15</b>	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Library Conference Room)
	2:00 PM	Staff Meeting
	6:30 PM	Worship & Music Mtg (Journey Classroom)
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
<b>Thursday, January 16</b>	8:30 AM	Academic Learning Center (Library Conference Room)
	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	2:00 PM	Thursday Connections
<b>Friday, January 17</b>	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
<b>Friday, January 17</b>		Scout Banquet (Davis Hall)
<b>Sunday, January 19</b>	9:45 AM	Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms)
	10:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)
	11:00 AM	Worship (in person and live streamed)
	12:00 PM	Usher Training (Sanctuary)

**Baptism of the Lord**



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

**Sunday, January 12, 2025**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CONCORD

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

Saving God, source of our calling,  
your Word is full of power and glory.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
so that we may receive your grace  
and live as your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ PC(USA) *Book of Common Worship*

## 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

Woody Collins, Congo Helping Hands

## VOLUNTARY

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the wilderness, a voice cries out,  
**People: calling us to change our hearts and lives.**  
Leader: In the wilderness, water splashes on waiting heads,  
**People: offering hope and new beginnings.**  
Leader: In the wilderness, Jesus prays  
**People: and hears God call him beloved.**  
Leader: Together let us worship God  
**People: who meets us in every wilderness,**  
Leader: who promises us new life,  
**All: and calls us beloved, too.**

**\*HYMN 96**      *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*      WINCHESTER NEW

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. 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 582**      *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*      GLORY TO GOD

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

lay reader, Ben Lacy

### FIRST LESSON

Psalms 51:10-12, 15-17

pew bible, page 520

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

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SECOND LESSON

Luke 3:1-22

pew bible, page 60

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 739**      *O for a Closer Walk with God*      CAITHNESS

### REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Sentences of Scripture  
Questions to the Congregation

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

### 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**      *God So Loved the World*      John Stainer  
(Sanctuary Choir)

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. God so loved the world.

**\*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

Leader: God of heaven and earth, you call us to come in humility before you,

**People: bringing the offering of our very selves.**

Leader: As you revealed Jesus to be your Son in his baptism at the hand of John,  
**People: so you claimed our lives in baptism, that we might die to sin and be raised with him to new life.**

Leader: By your Spirit, confirm in our hearts the witness that Christ is Savior of the world and our Lord.

**All: Accept all we have and are, O God, in the service of Jesus Christ, and strengthen us with your Spirit's power, now and forever. Amen.**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**\*HYMN 297**      *In Christ Called to Baptize*      ST. DENIO

### \*BENEDICTION

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

## POSTLUDE

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*  
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**Worship notes: The Prayer of Confession and the Prayer of Thanksgiving** are adapted from the PC(USA) *Book of Common Worship. The Apostles' Creed:* "Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed reflects the theological formulations of the first century church...In a time when most Christians were illiterate, oral repetition of the Apostles' Creed, along with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, helped preserve and transmit the faith of the [church]...By the eighth century, the creed had attained its current form." --from the preface to the Apostles' Creed in the PC(USA) *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.