

**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

**Welcome Dr. Jacqueline Bussie!** This morning, we welcome Dr. Jacqueline Bussie as our guest preacher. Jacqueline is an award-winning author, professor, public theologian, and student of life in all its messy beauty, as well as a much sought after speaker and workshop facilitator. An active servant-leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Jacqueline spent the last twenty years teaching religion to undergraduates at ELCA colleges and serving as the founding Director of the Forum on Faith and Life at Concordia College. Jacqueline's favorite things to do are dance, walk on the beach, read good books, ride in the front car of roller coasters, spend time with friends, and travel to any place she's never been before. Every day she is amazed and grateful that gets to: 1) write and tell her story; 2) empower other people to write and tell theirs; and 3) accompany marvelous people like you on your journey of faith, hope, and healing.

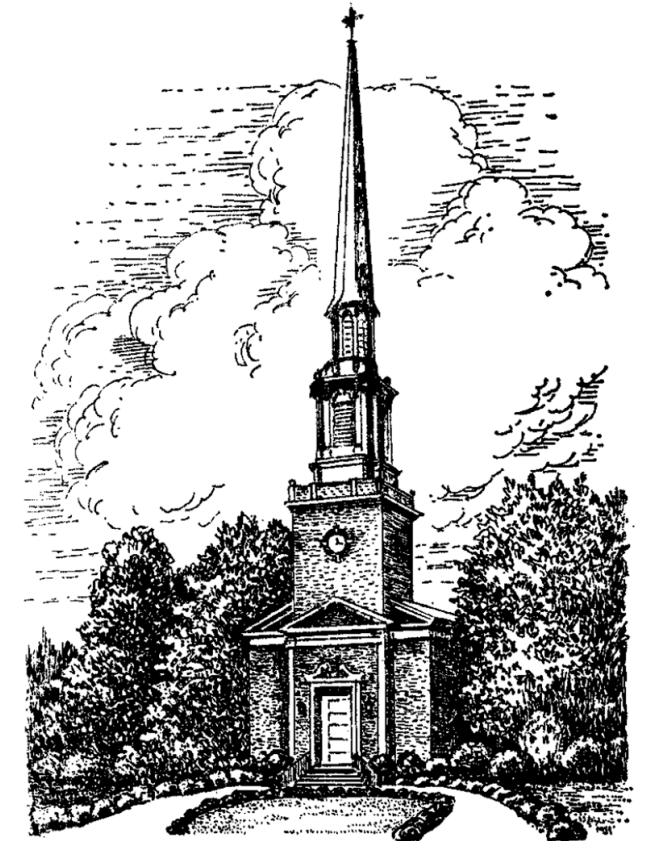
**Our "Noisy" Offering** received during the Message for Children will benefit the Backpack Program at Coltrane-Webb Elementary.

**Bibles** are being presented today to Gibson Lee Carpenter, Gabriel Tibor Chikes, Claudia Jean Dugan, Locke Bane Floyd, and Emily Catherine Johnson

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<b>Later Today</b>	
12:30 PM	Lunch & Book signing (Davis Hall)
4:30 PM	Confirmands (Davis Hall)
5:30 PM	Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)
6:00 PM	Combined Youth (Davis Hall)
<b>Monday, February 24</b>	
9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) CCM (Commons)
<b>Tuesday, February 25</b>	
9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
12:00 PM	Lunch Bunch (off campus)
6:00 PM	Called Session & Confirmands (Fellowship House)
7:00 PM	AI Anon Meeting (Commons)
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts (Will Young Senior High Room)
<b>Wednesday, February 26</b>	
9:30 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
10:30 AM	Bible Study (Library Conference Rom)
6:00 PM	Christian Ed Mtg (Fellowship House Sunroom)
7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
<b>Thursday, February 27</b>	
9:00 AM	Donuts for Daddy (Davis Hall)
9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
6:30 PM	Boy Scout Board of advancement (Ed Bldg)
7:00 PM	Book and Brews (off campus)
<b>Friday, February 28</b>	
9:00 AM	Donuts for Daddy (Davis Hall)
9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
6:00 PM	Girl Scout sleepover (Davis Hall)
<b>Saturday, March 1</b>	
	Girl Scout sleepover ends (Davis Hall)
<b>Sunday, March 2</b>	
9:30 AM	Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms)
10:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)
11:00 AM	Worship (in person and live streamed)
12:15 PM	Usher Training (Sanctuary)
4:30 PM	Middle School Youth (Davis Hall)
5:30 PM	Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)
6:00 PM	High School Youth (Davis Hall)

# Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**

**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 offic- ers,



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CONCORD

[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.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
~ Isaiah 58:9-10

## 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.*

### PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

### VOLUNTARY

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*based on Psalm 103*

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives us.  
**People: Bless the Lord who heals us.**  
Leader: Bless the Lord who saves us.  
**People: Bless the Lord who crowns us,**  
Leader: not with gold or jewels,  
**People: but with love and mercy.**  
**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul,**  
**and all that is within me,**  
**bles God's holy name**

### \*HYMN 619

*Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy Lord, we are weary, wary, and tightly coiled with fear. We confess that we are quick to see our neighbors as threats rather than as your children created in your image, just as we are. In your abundant grace and mercy, forgive us once more. Lead us in your way of courage, hope, and steadfast love so that we may be your faithful servants, honoring you as we care for your children, in Jesus' name. 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, Emily Johnson and Claudia Dugan

**FIRST LESSON** Psalm 103:1-5 pew bible page 554  
This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Noisy Offering

**SECOND LESSON** Isaiah 58:6-12 pew bible, page 635  
This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

**SERMON** Dr. Jacqueline Bussie

### MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\***HYMN 316** *Where Charity and Love Prevail* TWENTYFOURTH

\***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**

### 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** *The Majesty and Glory of Your Name* Tom Fettke  
(Sanctuary Choir)

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers, the moon and stars suspended in space: oh, what is man that You are mindful of him? You have given man a crown of glory and honor, and have made him a little lower than the angels. You have put him in charge of all creation: the

beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea. But what is man that You are mindful of him? O Lord our God, the majesty and glory of Your name transcends the earth and fills the heavens. O Lord, our God, little children praise your perfectly, and so would we. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

\***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

**You have given us too many gifts to count, O God. Receive these offerings and the ones who give them as thank you notes for your saving ways and as promises to love your world and to follow Christ to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\***HYMN 296** *Go in Grace and Make Disciples* WONDROUS LIGHT

### \*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 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.

**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.