

Peace, peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you; my peace I give to you.

POSTLUDE

† *Our communion bread is gluten-free, so that all may share one bread. (1 Cor. 10:17)*
**Those who are able, please stand.*
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Worship Notes: 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.

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. In order to comply with our Child Protection policy, we ask that a parent/caregiver accompany children under 12 to the sanctuary restroom.

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 Deadline to sign up for Walk This Way through Brooklyn Village with Dr. Greg Jarrell is tomorrow, April 7. Use the link in the Banner or call the reservation line: 704-788-2100 #7.

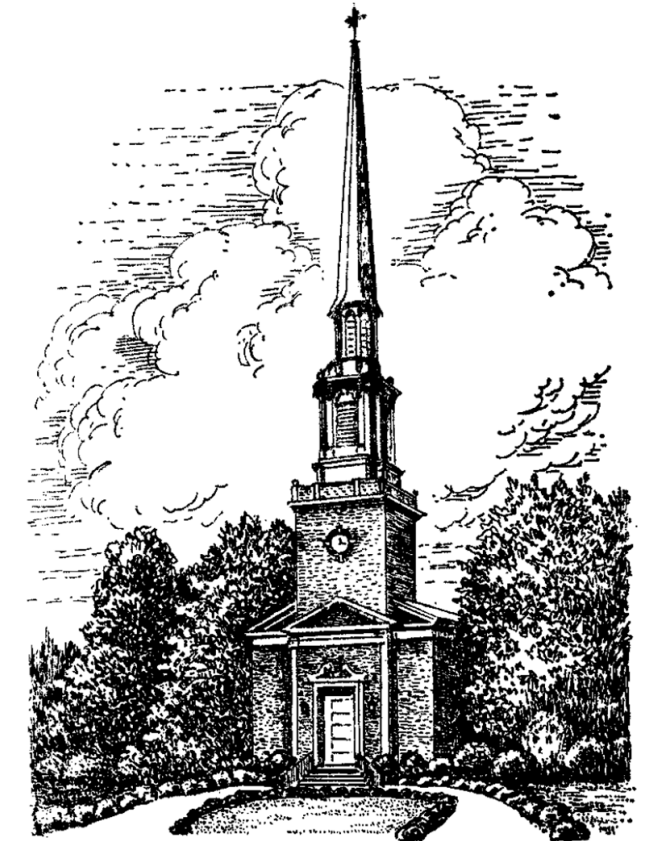
Palm Sunday Procession: Worshipers of **ALL** ages are encouraged to join in the procession on Palm Sunday. We will gather in the narthex and enter during the first hymn.

Restoring the Chancel: At the close of our Good Friday service on April 18, we will strip the chancel and drape it in black. Once again this year, our children (ages K-12th grade) are invited to help us restore the chancel at the beginning of the Flowered Cross service at 9:30 AM on Easter morning, Sunday, April 20. Children who would like to participate are invited to a brief rehearsal following worship on Palm Sunday, April 13. For more information, contact Pastor Ellen.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Later Today	4:30 PM 5:30 PM	Combined Youth (Davis Hall) Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)
Monday, April 7	9:00 AM 1:30 PM 6:30 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Library Committee (Library Conference Room) Circle 1 (Fellowship House)
Tuesday, April 8	8:00 AM 11:30 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Circle 3 (Davis Hall) Session (Library Conference Room) AI Anon Meeting (Commons) Boy Scouts (Will Young Senior High Room)
Wednesday, April 9	9:30 AM 10:30 PM 2:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:30 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Bible Study (Library Conference Room) Staff Meeting (Fellowship House Sunroom) NAMI (Commons) Guest speaker/dinner (Davis Hall) Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, April 10	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Friday, April 11	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Saturday, April 12	10:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Sunday, April 13	9:45 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 3:00 PM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM	Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms) Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room) Worship (in person and live streamed) Circle 5 (Library Conference Room) Combined Youth (Davis Hall) Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)

Fifth Sunday in Lent



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

Sunday, April 6, 2025



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.

God of all joy,
fill our souls to overflowing
with the fullness of your grace.
In this season,
remind us of your triumph over the tragedy of the cross,
and your victory for us over the powers of sin and death,
so that we may reflect your glory
as disciples of Jesus Christ,
our risen 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.

VOLUNTARY

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *based on Psalm 147*

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: How good it is to sing praises to our God,
for he is gracious.**

Leader: The Lord gathers the outcasts;

**People: the Lord heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

All: The Lord's name be praised!

***HYMN 624** *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* TOULON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are quick to grumble, O Lord, quick to see slights and quick to choose sides. Forgive us. Open our eyes, our hearts, and our lives to your will and your way as revealed to us in your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 581** *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION lay reader, Timothy Cline

FIRST LESSON Luke 18:31-34 pew bible, page 82

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM Children's Choir

When Jesus came to Jericho, a crowd was waiting there. The Rabbi's deeds and miracles were now known everywhere. A tax collector climbed a tree to see above the crowd. The Rabbi looked him in his gaze, then said his name aloud. *(refrain) Zachaeus, so high up in the tree. Come down, believe in me.* Zachaeus hurried down the tree amazed at his request. He had not earned the right to dine with such an honored guest. He said to Jesus, "I've done wrong and cheated all my friends. But when I heard you call my name, I vowed to make amends." *(refrain)*

SECOND LESSON Luke 18:35-19:10 pew bible, page 82

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 800** *Sometimes a Light Surprises* SALLEY GARDENS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *A Declaration of Faith*

We are certain that Jesus lives.

He lives as God with us,

touching all of human life with the presence of God.

He lives as one of us with God.

Because he shares our humanity

and has bound us to himself in love,

we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Set Me As a Seal* Rene Clausen

(Sanctuary Choir)

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.

***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 DEDICATION

Holy God, we gather at your table because you have invited us in grace and love. Receive these offerings and those who give them as signs of our promise to follow your Son and to love the world in his name. 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

We will eat the bread and drink the cup together, after the pastor says, "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The cup of salvation, poured out for you."

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Lord of all, you have filled us with good things and promised to be with us always. Walk with us in the days ahead and lead us in your way of peace, justice, generosity, and love, in Jesus' name, Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 441** *Hear the Good News of Salvation* NETTLETON

*BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Peace I Leave with You* Walter Pelz
(Sanctuary Choir)