



During the Sundays we will not be worshipping in person,
the congregations of First Presbyterian and First United Presbyterian Churches
will be worshipping together.

Many years ago, our churches shared a history as one congregation
before our ties were broken by racism and sin.

Years later, we rejoice that we can participate in Christ's ministry of reconciliation
as we bear witness to God's faithfulness and grace.

Order of Worship

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020
11 a.m.*

Preparation

Prelude	Arioso	Johann Sebastian Bach
Words of Welcome		The Reverend Pen Peery
Chiming of the Trinity		

Adoration

Choral Call to Worship LIVING GOD
*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt
me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful,
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing; help us to praise:
 might - y Lord, our prayer at - tend.
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour.
 prais - es be, hence ev - er - more!

Fa - ther, all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 Come, and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 Thou who al - might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 Thy sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come, and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Confession

Call to Confession

Elder William Harris

Prayer of Confession

Spirit of God:
you come, aflame with new life,
but our apathy threatens to douse your passion;
you come, on fire with love,
yet we limit our affections to a select few;
you come, surging with new dreams and new hopes,
but we still cling to the old ways of living;
you come, glowing with the vision of the kingdom,
yet we close our eyes to your future.

For our failure to recognize your presence, forgive us.

Come to us, anew, this day:
to shatter our hardened hearts with your tenderness;
to set our souls on fire with your love;
to send us into a world which aches
for the new joy, the new hope, the new life
offered in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Response (Hymn No. 551)

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news.
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Response (Hymn No. 33)

LLANFAIR

Praise the Lord! God's glories show, Alleluia! Saints within God's courts below, Alleluia!
Angels round the throne above, Alleluia! All who see and share God's love. Alleluia!

Sacrament of Baptism

Sacrament of Baptism

Lucas Bowen Caldwell

*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.

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The 11 a.m. service is televised over WAXN-TV, Channel 64 this morning and streamed live at www.firstpres-charlotte.org and on Facebook Live.

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Helen Neil's ninety-fifth birthday on Saturday, September 19.

We are grateful to Scott Bryan, Bill Fleet, Loretta Giles, Eric Langer, Kelly Potts, David Williamson and Jimmy Flanders, Alexis Small, Daphne Williams, and Lolane Yongue from the FUPC Praise Team for sharing their musical talents in worship today.

We continue with our sermon series called "Promises Worth Pursuing Instead." Here's what's coming up over the next few weeks:
9/20: Dependence instead of Deserving
9/27: Story instead of Surety
10/4: Work instead of Wings

Lucas is the son of Bella and Tyler Caldwell.

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Rick Rogers on the death of his father, Dr. Richard Lionel Rogers; and to David Dillard on the death of his brother, Penn Dillard.

Even though we are not meeting in person, we ask for your continued support. We encourage you to give by text, online at www.firstpres-charlotte.org, or by mailing a check to 200 W. Trade Street, Charlotte, NC, 28202.

Anthem

“Spirit Song”

arr. Tom Fettke

O let the son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

Scripture

John 16:12-15

Sermon

“Promises Worth Pursuing Instead: Spirit instead of Static”

The Reverend Pen Peery

Hymn No. 816

“If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee”

WER NER DEN LIEBEN GOTT

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful
 3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine

heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be -
 hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Keep - er's
 own part faith - ful - ly. Trust the rich prom - is - es of

tide thee, to bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
 plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our
 grace; so shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er

God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.
 in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways dear.
 yet for - sook at need the soul se - cured by trust in - deed.

Response

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

The Reverend Chuck Williamson

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.

Stewardship of Life

Offertory Anthem

“Immortal, Invisible”

arr. Eric Thiman

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor waiting, Thou rulest in might: Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all. We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee. Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight; all laud we would render: O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee. Amen.

*Doxology (Hymn No. 606)

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Sending Forth

*Hymn No. 546

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

SICILIAN MARINERS

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling

joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Virtual Passing of the Peace

Benediction

Benediction Response

A Special Blessing from the Sanctuary Choir

Postlude

We are glad you are worshipping with us today!

We welcome all to First Presbyterian Church as we worship together, knowing that each of us is a beloved part of the body of Christ.

Our Pastors

Pendleton B. Peery
Senior Pastor
ppeery@firstpres-charlotte.org

Robert L. Galloway
Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Young Adults
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Anna R. Dickson
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
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Mary Margaret Porter
Parish Associate
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Charles C. Williamson
Parish Associate
cwilliamson@firstpres-charlotte.org

William P. Young, III
Director of Music Ministries
wyoung@firstpres-charlotte.org

Are you interested in joining our church?

Contact Jane Ives
Membership Coordinator
jives@firstpres-charlotte.org

Pastor on call

If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

200 West Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
www.firstpres-charlotte.org
704.332.5123

Announcements for First Presbyterian Church

Installation of The Reverend Anna Dickson

Please join us for a streamed worship service on Sunday, September 20 at 4:30 p.m. as the Reverend Anna Dickson is installed as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care. The Reverend Dr. Ed McLeod, senior pastor of FPC - Raleigh, NC, will be preaching.

New Features on Website

We've made changes to the church website that should make it easier to connect as we continue to gather virtually and begin to offer in-person opportunities. Now, when you visit the website, the landing page will feature:

- a drop-down menu of in-person programs and activities now available. Click on the + for details and a link to participate. The last item in the drop-down menu will include ongoing and virtual programs and activities;
- a link on the right-hand side to watch worship either live on Sundays at 11 or anytime during the week. Below that is a link to the current bulletin;
- *A Word from Pen* video;
- a link to the church's Home page on the top right;
- the blue bar with links to information you need about anti-racism resources, the Advocacy Committee, Outreach opportunities and other news that may involve ways for you to connect with each other.

This new landing page on the website will be your first stop for all the most current information about what is happening at First Presbyterian.

September Formation

Pathways to Discipleship offers a guide for living as disciples of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life. Aimed at deepening inward faith and inspiring outward service, resources for personal study and a link to last week's class are available at www.fpcpathways.com.

Open Positions at FPC

First Presbyterian Church has two positions available in the Formation Department—Director of Youth Ministry and Director of Children and Family Ministry. In addition, there is an opening for a full-time Church Business Administrator. Visit the church website for more information.

In Loving Memory of
Bernard Hargadon

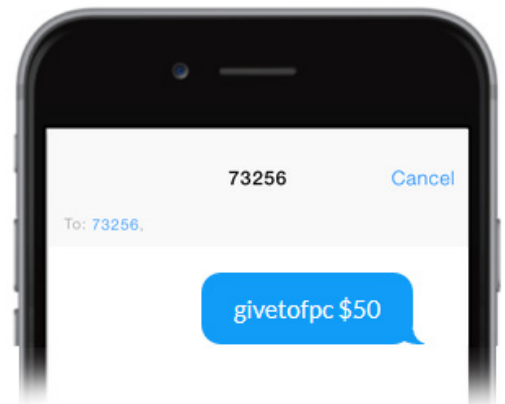
December 27, 1927 - September 8, 2020

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit.

Revelation 14:13

TEXT GIVING – You can quickly donate to the church through TEXT GIVING. See the example below.

- Text to 73256
- Content of the text needs to be – givetofpc followed by a \$ and the dollar amount.
- You will be prompted to enter your payment information.
- You will receive an email receipt of payment.



Announcements for First United Presbyterian Church

FUPC members, please be sure to check your email daily for updates to our weekly schedule.

For the foreseeable future, First United Presbyterian Church will not have in-person worship due to concerns about the COVID-19 virus. We have also suspended all other programs and activities at the church.

We will continue the practice of linking our weekly studies to our weekly sermon for the first half of our study year. Our focus will be on the text from today's sermon. Hope to have you journey with us!

Donations can be made via the website at fupcc.org. Just click the "Give Now" button. Donations can also be mailed to First United Presbyterian Church, 406 North College Street, Charlotte, NC, 28202.