



# First Presbyterian Church

*Growing in Faith and Love*

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

*The music of the Opening Voluntary draws us from the outside world into the presence of God. In preparation for worship, you are invited to use this time for prayerful reflection.*

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

"A Festive Intrada"

Walter Pelz

"O God, Thou Faithful God"

Flor Peeters

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*[Please pass the friendship register down the row for each person to sign.]*

### MOMENT FOR MISSION— ANGEL TREE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 80)

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches;**

it sent out its branches to the sea,  
and its shoots to the River.

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

#### +HYMN 12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and Sisters, why do we confess our sin?

**Because all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.**

But why do we do it together?

**Because we are a community, a covenant people.**

*[+You are invited to stand. For each hymn, please stand as the last line of the introduction is played.]*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by things we have done and by things we have left undone. We have allowed our love for you to become stale and tired, and our love for our neighbors, weak and powerless. Renew us, dear Lord. Revive us, reform us, and recommit us to your coming kingdom, as we offer these prayers to you... (our silent prayers of confession) Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sisters and Brothers, hear this good news!  
Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.  
And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,  
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.  
Anyone who is in Christ in a new creation.  
The old life is gone and a new life has begun.  
Let us all believe this good news!  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

## +GLORIA PATRI (581)

GREATOREX

*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.*

## +THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

[Children will come forward, place their offerings in the plate, have a short message and prayer with the minister, then go to Room 208 for their worship service called Worship and Wonder.]

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Mark 12: 1-12  
Pew Bible p. 48

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 5: 1-7; 11: 1-5  
Pew Bible p. 634; 640

“Be the Shoot”

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

### +HYMN 50

“Deep in the Shadows of the Past”

SHEPHERDS’ PIPES

### +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

### CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“I Am the True Vine”

Peter Aston

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Ev’ry branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it that it may bring forth more fruit. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth fruit. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

### +DOXOLOGY (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. Amen.*

**+PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.

**WE GO IN GOD'S NAME**

**+HYMN 105**

"People, Look East"

BESANÇON

**+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Sigfrid Karg-Elert



**TODAY'S SERVICE**

**THANK YOU** to all of you who have joined us for worship this Sunday, here and at home. We hope that you find your experience of worship to be uplifting and meaningful. Any usher (designated with a name tag) will be glad to assist you and answer your questions. If you need a large print copy of today's bulletin and hymns, please notify an usher. A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. If you would, please let us know you were here with us by signing the Friendship Register in the pews or by emailing our church office at [hello@firstonthird.org](mailto:hello@firstonthird.org)

**Leading in Worship**

Dan Lewis, Senior Pastor

Tracey Daniel, Associate Pastor

John Tabler, Music Director

Natalie Raygor, Associate Pastor

Benjamin Horrell, Choir Director

FPC Chancel Choir

**Weekly E-news:** Are you subscribed to the weekly e-news?  
Reach out to the front office!  
**Social Media:** Follow the church on Facebook and Instagram

### Looking Ahead– Calendar Snapshot

#### November:

19th– FPC 101 Class Tour– Open to congregation (10am– Library)  
19th– Youth Group at Cameron Center (5:30-7pm)  
26th– New Member Sunday (10:45am– Parlor)  
29th– Advent Bible Study (5:30pm– Gilmour Hall)  
30th– Mom's Advent Study (9:30am– Parlor)

#### December

1st– Open Arms Christmas Party (Inland Greens)  
3rd– Advent Festival (9:30-11am Cameron Center and Parking Lot)  
6th– Advent Bible Study (5:30pm– Gilmour Hall)  
7th– Mom's Advent Study (9:30am– Parlor)  
10th– Music At First- Hoggard Holiday Concert (5pm– Sanctuary)  
11th– Circle 3 (10:30am– Gilmour Hall) Circle 2 (11:30am– Gathering Place)  
Circle 1 (6pm– Home of Jan Halderson)  
12th– Circle 4- (10am– Bride's Room)  
14th– Mom's Advent Study (9:30am– Parlor)  
17th– Music At First- Wilmington Voices (3pm– Sanctuary)  
17th– Christmas Pageant (5:30pm– Sanctuary)  
21st– Longest Night Service (6pm– Chapel)  
24th– 11am Worship– Sanctuary; 4pm Worship– Sanctuary;  
Worship Prelude 8:30pm; 9pm Service– Sanctuary

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Nursery care is provided for infants and toddlers during the  
worship service.

**Worship And Wonder** ages 3-2nd grade. Please visit the church website  
(under the "Register" page) to sign up to help as a greeter or storyteller.

**Top Dogs-** Welcome to new and returning Top Dogs (3rd-5th graders)! We plan to  
get together once a month to have fun while including some devotions and learning  
what it means to live by Jesus's example.

**Youth Group** for Middle School and High School ages will meet on Sunday  
evenings at the Cameron Center. Upcoming youth dates in the snapshot above.

#### Adult Sunday School-

**Bible and Breakfast:** Meets in Boney Hall in the Cameron Center. Breakfast  
begins at 9:45 and then stay for our Advent study based on the book, The Unlikely  
Advent by Rachel Billups. We will broaden our view of the Christmas story by  
examining the minor characters, their unlikely roles in the first Christmas and how  
their stories can work in our lives today.

The **Agape Class** will meet at 9:45am in the Session Room and will use The Cho-  
sen as discussion material. All are welcome.

The **Journey Class** meets upstairs in Room 303 (Fire Place Room) at 9:45am.  
Class will discuss the book 'The Jesus I Never Knew' by Philip Yancey.

#### Children's Sunday School-

Ages 3 through fifth grade will meet at the Cameron center for Sunday School.

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If you would like more information about **Stephen Ministry**,  
please call one of our pastors, 910-762-6688, or Janice Clark, 910-228-8584.

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#### ONLINE GIVING

Use this QR code to give to the general fund.  
Looking for other ways to give? Visit the website,  
[firstonthird.org/give](http://firstonthird.org/give) for more information.



**Blended Worship Gilmour Hall 9:00 AM**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**Moment For Mission– Angel Tree**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**+MUSIC**

“Raise Up the Crown”

Tomlin

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Response: *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.*

**+THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**+HYMN 5**

“God the Sculptor of the Mountains”

JENNINGS-HOUSTON

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH**

[Children will come forward, place their offerings in the plate, have a short message and prayer with the minister, then go to Room 208 for their worship service called Worship and Wonder.]

**SCRIPTURE AND SERMON**

Dan Lewis

First Reading– Mark 12: 1-12

Second Reading– Isaiah 5: 1-7; 11: 1-5

**“Be the Shoot”**

**+MUSIC**

“Turn, Turn Turn!”

Seeger

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING MUSIC**

**Leading in Worship:**

Dan Lewis, Senior Pastor

Natalie Raygor, Associate Pastor

Phil Bevilacqua, Piano

Clay Zava, Guitar/Vocals

Doug Leess, Bass/Vocals

David Dimuro, Percussion

Ella Boyer, Vocals

**HELP NOW AND CIRCLE PROJECTS**

**Salvation Army Stockings!** Pick up an empty Salvation Army Stocking from the Donation Station, fill with listed items needed, and return by December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ANGEL TREE-** This year's Angel Tree will provide Christmas gifts to the children and grandparents participating in the Grandparent Support Network. Church members can select one or more gift tags from the tree.

**Church World Services** is collecting gently used and new coats of any size and gender for clients who do not have coats. The Donation Station will have a large bin set aside for drop-off. This ask will run until November 30th.