



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

Prelude based on Psalm 130
Out of Depths I Cry Unto Thee O Lord

Herbert Howells

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Please pass the friendship register down the row for each person to sign. Visitors, we are grateful you are here this morning to worship with us. We invite you to mark the visitor box and make sure to collect a blue Welcome Gift Bag from the Gathering Place as you exit today. Thank you for visiting FPC!]

CALL TO WORSHIP *

God loves the field mouse.
God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.
God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.
God loves the child who rocks and claps.
God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.
God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.
God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.
God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing tall over all of us.
God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.
There is no bit of creation that God does not love.
So let us worship this good-news God!
Amen.

+ HYMN 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYDY NOS

CALL TO CONFESSION *

Family of Faith,
every week we confess
because we need to be reminded
of God's abundant grace.
**We need to be reminded of God's great love,
of the good news that we too can grow and change.**
So join me in this moment of honesty
as together we seek transformation.
Let us pray...

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



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, 3/15:

9:00am	Sunday School Classes Donuts with Davis FPC 101 Exploring Spiritual Practices Worship Service	Various rooms Room 305 Library Chapel Sanctuary & Gilmour Hall
10:00am		Room 303 FPC Gym Sanctuary
11:00am	Confirmation Class Pinewood Derby	
5:00pm	Music@First: Coastal Strings Reception at Savard to follow "Be the Light" Youth Group Activity	First Baptist Activity Center

Monday, 3/16:

No events scheduled

Tuesday, 3/17:

12:15pm	Happy St. Patrick's Day! Handbell Choir Practice	Choir Room
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Wednesday, 3/18:

10:30pm 4:00pm	Women on Wednesday Step Up	Session Room Boney Hall
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Thursday, 3/19:

7:45am 5:30pm	Men's Bible and Breakfast Grandparent's Support Network Blended Worship Band Rehearsal Choir Practice	Cape Fear Club Cameron Center Gilmour Hall Choir Room
7:15pm		

Friday, 3/20:

Office closes at 3pm
First Day of Spring!!!

Saturday, 3/21:

Church Closed

Sunday, 3/22:

9:00am	Sunday School Classes FPC 101 Exploring Spiritual Practices Worship Service	Various rooms Library Chapel Sanctuary & Gilmour Hall
10:00am		Room 303 Sanctuary
11:00am 12:30pm 5:00pm	Confirmation Class Betsy Ormand Funeral Music@First: Coastal Strings	Kenan Chapel @ Landfall

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 8th-April 12th: FPC 101 classes begin at 9am in the Library.

Sunday, March 29th: Palm Processional at 10am in the Sanctuary and Gilmour Hall
Easter Egg Hunt at 4pm (Infants-5th Grade) @ 615 Forest Hills Dr
(Lillian Smith's residence)

Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday: 12pm Small Gathering Communion in Sanctuary & 6pm in Sanctuary
Good Friday: 12pm Service in Chapel
Easter Sunday: 6:30am Sunrise Service @ Wrightsville Public Access 34
9am & 11am Traditional Services in Sanctuary w/ communion

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Contact Natalie Raygor (natalie@firstonthird.org) for more information.

Nursery (infant through two-years-old) Loving care is provided during the Sunday School hour and Worship Services.

Worship and Wonder (three-years-old through 2nd grade): Children are invited to come forward during Children's Time in the service, place their offerings in the plate, enjoy a short message and prayer with the minister, then go to Room 208 for Worship and Wonder for their worship service.

Growing in Grace Children's Sunday School Class – (three-years-old through 5th grade)

Meets at 9am in the Grace Space, at the foot of the stairway to Gilmour Hall.

Top Dogs (3rd-5th grade) – Stay tuned for next meeting details!

Youth Group (6th-12th grade) - "Be the Light" at First Baptist Activity Center (5pm-7pm)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES — 9AM SUNDAYS

NOTE: BIBLE 101 & JOURNEY WILL BE MEETING IN THE CHAPEL FEBRUARY 22—MARCH 22.

"Bible 101" meets in Room 101. Bible 101 studies and discusses the scripture that will be preached that morning. All are welcome. Good discussion group.

Journey Class meets in Room 303: February 22-March 29: "24 Hours that Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton.

The Village Class meets in the Session Room. The Village Class is currently studying the book *Woven* by Meredith Miller which explores how parents and grandparents can help children connect with a loving God.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle One (service): Second Monday of the month @ 6pm (off campus)

Circle Two (book study): Second Monday of the month @ 11:30am in the Gathering Place

Circle Three (book study): Second Monday of the month @ 10:30am in the Bride's Room

Circle Four (fellowship): Second Monday of the month in the evening (off campus).

Please contact Mary Grigg at marygfountain@gmail.com or text to 910-617-2934 for more information.

Circle Five (book study): Second Monday of the month @ 10am in Library or off campus

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES/FELLOWSHIP

Knitting Ministry: Second Wednesday of the month @ 1:30pm in The Ladies' Parlor

Women on Wednesdays: First and Third Wednesdays of the month @ 10:30am in the Session Room.

Contact the FPC office for more details. Dates and times subject to change due to holidays and events.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

First Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry congregation. If you would like to receive support from a **Stephen Minister**, please call one of our pastors at 910-762-6688.

ONLINE GIVING

Use this QR code to give securely to the general fund. Looking for other ways to give? Visit the website, firstonthird.org/give, for more information.



REALM

We are using this app to streamline our church communications, making it easier to sign up for events and opportunities! Please reach out to Melissa (melissa@firstonthird.org) in the office or call the office at 910-762-6688 for assistance .

LITANY OF CONFESSION *

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

Holy God, we confess that we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

We confess that we have resorted to violence more often than we have pursued peace.

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left;

it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

We confess that we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them."

We confess that we have kept the good news from the ones who've needed it most.

Hear, O God, our personal prayers of confession... (silent prayers...)

In the name of Christ our Savior,
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *

Fortunately for all of us, God also said,

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

By God's grace, and despite our sin, we are named and claimed, forgiven and freed, in the powerful and loving name of Jesus.

We believe this good news. Thanks be to God!

+GLORIA PATRI 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.**

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!
And also with you!

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Children are invited to 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 LESSONS

Deuteronomy 24: 17-22

Pew Bible, OT p.179

Matthew 19:13-15

Pew Bible, NT p. 21

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Good and Good Again"

Dan Lewis

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ HYMN 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

BEACH SPRING

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - 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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Children's Ministry
Mary Hannah Weiner

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Go My Children With My Blessing arr. Walter L. Pelz

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory. Go my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you, here his tender comfort stilled you. I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace. I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace. I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

+ DOXOLOGY

**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.**

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

+ 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.**

+ HYMN 215

What Wondrous Love is This

WONDROUS LOVE

+ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on Wondrous Love

John Tabler



*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in
loving memory of Elisabeth Genevieve Lafaurie Loving.*



Leading in Worship

Dan Lewis, Senior Pastor

Natalie Raygor, Associate Pastor

John Tabler, Music Director

Benjamin Horrell, Choir Director

FPC Choir

**Adapted from liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

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.