

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

11:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY COMMUNION SUNDAY

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

VOLUNTARY: *Adagio from Sonata no. 3*..... Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Matt Bussell

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT..... Nancy Moore

* CALL TO WORSHIP Caroline Phillips

Leader: We have come to worship God, the living God,
All: who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

Leader: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,
**All: who answers the forces of hatred and hurt
with the power of grace.**

Leader: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,
**All: who chooses all of us to receive and carry
the Word of hope, peace, and love.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 275 – *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN’ FESTE BURG



275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.
truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains a melody with various notes and rests, including a dotted quarter note, an eighth note, and a half note. The bass staff contains a bass line with similar rhythmic values. The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font between the two staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots on both staves.

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSIONCaroline Phillips

**Generous God,
when we set our tables,
we imagine who belongs.
We are satisfied to welcome
those who we call our own.
Our boundaries are drawn for our own family,
our own congregation, our own neighborhood.
We limit the seating to those
who make us comfortable,
and lay out the welcome mat
for those who we choose to welcome.
But your kingdom has no boundary.
Before our birth you have known, loved,
and claimed each and every one.
Soften our hearts to those we rage against.
Restore us to your vision of who belongs at the table.
Renew us with your abundant mercy and love,
which know no end. Amen.**

A brief period of silence is observed for personal confession.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Where Charity and Love PrevailTWENTY-FOURTH

Where char-i-ty and love pre-vail, there God is ev-er found; brought
here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *1 Corinthians 13:1-13* Margaret Benjamin

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT OF GODLY PLAY FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Lisa Witherspoon

THE WORD READ: *Luke 4:21-30*

Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *Who Belongs?* Matt Bussell



Loaves Were Broken, 498 Words Were Spoken

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)
F Dm B \flat

1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the Gal - i -
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a qui - et
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in faith we
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your

(D) (Bm)
F Dm

le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of Life from heav - en, was their
room one night. In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you
gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the a - ges: "I am
name to share bread for which the mil - lions hun - ger, words that

(G) (D) (A)
B \flat F C

food for - ev - er - more.
came as Light from Light. By your bod - y bro - ken
with you; do not fear!"
tell your love and care.

(Bm) (F \sharp m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
Dm Am Dm B \flat C F

for us, by your wine of life out-poured, Je - sus, feed a -

(Bm) (G) (D)
Dm B \flat F

gain your peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The first two stanzas of this text deal with events in the past (the feeding of the multitude and the Last Supper) and the final two with events in the present. The recurring last four lines of each stanza serve as an affirmation of Christ's continuing presence at all times.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 498 – *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*.....BEACH SPRING

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLEDoug McLeroy

GREAT THANKSGIVING..... Matt Bussell

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God ...
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels
and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever
sing to the glory of your name:

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
2. Bless - ed is he who comes

God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

One: You are holy, O God of power and might, and blessed is Jesus Christ, the one who comes in your name ... Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim together the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

One: Come, then, life-giving Spirit, brood over these bodily things and make us into one body with Christ ... We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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.....Doug McLeroy

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Word of God, Come Down on Earth Johann R. Ahle (1625-1673)
arr. John Ferguson (1941-2025)

Chancel Choir

Word of God, come down on earth, Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth Faith and hope and love unending;
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die, Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring, Speak to us, your love outpouring.
Word that speaks God's tender love, One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above, God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us, Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

– *text: James Quinn*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Matt Bussell

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

*You may also participate in the offering using the QR code on the back page
of this bulletin. Information for giving by other options, including
text, app, and regular mail, can be found there as well.*

OFFERTORY: *How Firm a Foundation* Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Chancel Choir

Radha Upton, piano

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
What more can He say?
“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am Thy God, I will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”
What more can He say?
“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow.”
What more can He say?
“I will be with thee thy trials to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.”
What more can He say than His excellent Word?

OFFERTORY continues, over

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
 My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
 The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
 Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.”
 “The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
 I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
 That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
 I’ll never – no, never forsake!”
 –“K” in Rippon’s Selection of Hymns

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise
 God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Praise
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....Doug McLeroy

* CHARGE AND BLESSING Matt Bussell

* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 326 – *For All the Saints*SINE NOMINE

VOLUNTARY: *Prelude on ‘Hyfrdol’* Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
John Alexander, organ



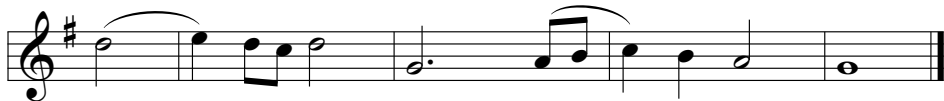
1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
 3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
 We feebly struggle; they in glory shine; yet
 steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the countless host,



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
 thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave again, and arms are strong,
 singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The broad and sweeping tune with which this hymn is so closely identified was created to be sung during a reverent but dramatic procession at the beginning of an All Saints' Day service, an enacted representation of the enduring "fellowship divine" celebrated by this text.

Harmony, stanza 3

3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!

We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet

all are one in thee, for all are thine.

Al - le - lu - ia! *to stanza 4*
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Matt Bussell, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*

Caroline Phillips, *Pastoral Care*

Doug McLeroy, *Parish Associate for Pastoral Care*

Lisa Witherspoon, *Director of Children & Youth Ministry*

Margaret Benjamin, *Lay Reader*

Madeline Faucher, *Acolyte*

John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*

Radha Upton, *Piano*

Chancel Choir

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Text: Martin Luther; Music: Martin Luther.

“Where Charity and Love Prevail” Text: Latin, 8th century; Music: Lucius Chapin.

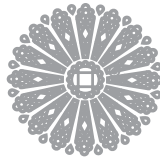
“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken” Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.; Music: *The Sacred Harp*.

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*.

“For All the Saints” Text: William Walsham How; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams.

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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We seek to be God's changemakers for good in the world.
FPC is a Matthew 25 church, and our creation care and hunger ministries have been recognized by the Presbyterian Church USA.



2024-2025 Committee Chairs, Vice chairs

Adult Formation: Margee Jones, John Sullivan. *Youth Formation:* Leigh Abraham, Layne King. *Children's Formation:* Sally King, Lorie Jones. *Church Officer Development:* Tim Cook, Graham Farless. *Communications:* Rich Prigge, John Vanderwerff. *Discipleship:* Lauren Martin, Nancy Courts. *Finance:* Rob Peddrick, Dave Thompson. *Hospitality:* Caroline Showers, Bet Vanderwerff. *Human Resources:* Ralph Davison, Lisa Cook. *Outreach:* Margaret Arbuckle, Rhonda Wakefield. *Pastoral Care:* Tamara Slaughter, Sheri Evans. *Property:* Brian Pierce, Sam Simpson. *Stewardship:* Dan Goley, Tom Gillespie. *Technology:* Sam Bostian. *Worship:* Chip Bristol, Morgan Hood. *Nominating:* Nancy Moore, Ross Harris. *Appointments:* Randy Jackson, Leigh Jones.

WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith.
We are a church of growing disciples believing that worship
is at the center of all we are and do as Christians.



TAKING ATTENDANCE: The QR code, left, directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts. If you do not have a smartphone, you can pick up a physical copy of an attendance card as you enter the Life Center or




Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.

NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED for infants through age 4 on the first floor of Mullin Life Center. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL

EMERGENCIES: If during the service you or someone who is with you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency; or if you notice someone else having a medical event; please contact the closest usher, who can assist in the situation.

FIND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA –

Members are sharing great photos, comments and more! Follow and Like us on **Facebook**  (search “First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro”), **YouTube**  (“fpcgreensboro”) and **Instagram**  (“1stpresgo”) to get more of our posts in your newsfeed.



FOR MORE INFO ON CHURCH SCHOOL, UPCOMING SERVICES, AND OTHER EVENTS • Check out the “Coming Up” insert in your bulletin • Subscribe to our e-news and Sunday preview emails at fpcgreensboro.org/connect • Visit fpcgreensboro.org/events.

PARKING MINISTRY: This ministry helps members with mobility issues get from their cars to the sanctuary for the 11 am service on Sundays. Two volunteers work on Greene Street 10:30-11:15 am. Passengers may be dropped off at the Greene Street door and will be escorted into the sanctuary. Drivers will be directed to a reserved space as needed. One volunteer is needed after the service until 12:15 pm. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at fpcgreensboro.org/signup.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR GREEN seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors’ stoles signifies the season of “Ordinary Time.” This season is a time of spiritual growth when the scriptures about Jesus’ preaching, teaching and healings are read and proclaimed.

ABOUT TODAY’S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Ruth Ann Horner by Fred Horner and family.

TODAY IS COMMUNION SUNDAY: All are welcome to the Lord’s table. Our Communion bread is gluten free. We pray that as Christ meets you here you will be refreshed for the journey and strengthened in faith.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may also give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code (*right*) to give online. You can also go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text to download the FellowshipOne Giving mobile app (Apple  or Android ) and for instructions for giving via text. You may also mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give for more ways to give.



USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED: Contact Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4711.

PASTOR ON CALL: When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth K. Harrison Bringle
January 25, 2025



COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

LATER TODAY

- **KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB** for grades 3-5, 3-4:30 pm, Life Center
- **SUNDAY FUNDAY** for youth. *Bring a friend for The Princess Bride!* 5:30 pm in the Life Center

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2 | [See our full calendar at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST & DEVOTIONS:** 7:15-7:45 am, Chick-Fil-A on Pisgah Church Road.
- **RSVP DEADLINE** for Presbyterian Women luncheon with speaker Rev. Mark Diehl. Luncheon is February 10 at noon in Mullin Life Center, \$10. Make a paid reservation at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP, by calling 336-478-4799, or at the Welcome Center desk.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **FIRST FAMILIES:** Monthly gathering for families with young children to get to know each other. Hosts rotate, dinner provided, small fee for onsite childcare. First Fridays, 6-8 pm. Contact Lorie Jones, LORIEJONES88@GMAIL.COM.
- **FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE:** Kate & Tom Gillespie host a monthly couples' gathering at their home. First Fridays, 7-8:30 pm. Contact KATEHUDELSON@ICLOUD.COM.

NEXT SUNDAY IS MULLIN FORUM SUNDAY



As part of our 200th February focus on Pastoral Leadership, we welcome **KAVIN ROWE** to preach both services. Kavin attended FPC as a child, and is now vice dean of faculty and George Washington Ivey Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School.

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/200

SOUPER BOWL POTLUCK! After worship, come to the Life Center for a hot bowl to benefit youth ministry and local hunger efforts! Use the QR Code (right) to sign up to bring your favorite soup to share.



AT 4 PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM, Kavin Rowe will discuss his book *Christianity's Surprise: A Sure and Certain Hope*.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1



NEIL'S MEALS: Through your efforts and in partnership with Out of the Garden Project, we help feed our Guilford County neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Join us **Saturday, March 1**, in Mullin Life Center to help make a difference in our community. Registration will be at 8:30 am and we will begin packing at 9 am. *Children 8 to 13 years old are welcome to attend and participate with an accompanying adult.*

SIGN UP NOW



**FEBRUARY 9:
NEXT SUNDAY IN
CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 AM**

- **Thrivers: The Surprising Reasons Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine.** Faithful Families class, Memorial 304.
- **The Disciples of Jesus.** Sandie Gravett series in YMBC & Agape classes, Redhead Hall.
- Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Always a Guest* in the Commitment Class, Blair Hagan Room.
- **200th anniversary: Pastoral Leadership** – Rev. Neil Dunnivant speaks about Dr. Sidney F. Batts, senior pastor 2001-2018. Come as You Are class, Garden Room.
- **Gospel of John** in the Seekers class, Main 125.
- Youth will meet for **3D - Doughnuts, Dialogue and Devotions.** Memorial 303.
- **Confirmation:** Confirmands meet in Memorial 300.
- **Milestones of Faith:** Preschool-elementary age children will develop a strong foundation for their growing faith in these annual classes, Sundays through March 2, Corl building.

LATER IN THE DAY

YOUTH GROUP: Middle School, 5-6 pm; dinner for all, 6-6:30 pm; High School, 6:30-7:30 pm. Life Center.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MEALS • EVENINGS • OVERNIGHT

Our Winter Emergency Shelter provides dinner & a warm place to sleep for 15 men each night in the Shetler Building. **Please find a way to help** – that's what Jesus would do! *Use the QR code for more info and sign-up links.*



**SUNDAY,
MARCH 2**

- **One 11 am service:** Confirmation Sunday
- **Congregational Meeting** after worship, to vote on the slate of church officers. *Slate will be announced during worship today.*

**AUTHOR TO LEAD
LENTEN RETREAT 2025**



SIGN UP NOW for our Lenten retreat, *Meeting God in the Longings of Our Hearts*, being held Saturday, March 8, 9 am-3 pm at the church. Men and women of the church are invited to join author Jeff Crosby and Rev. Grier Booker as we deepen our understanding of ourselves and cultivate a more profound connection with our spirituality. Worship leaders will be Jill Duffield, Anne Albert & Will Edwards. Donna Chase and the Adult Formation Committee will guide activities. Registration including catered lunch is \$50. Books can be purchased at the Welcome Center reception desk. *RSVP by Monday, March 3.*

