



First Presbyterian Church

of Raleigh, North Carolina

Serving Christ from the heart of the city to the ends of the earth with love, faith, and action.

February 1, 2026

4th Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Introit

SERVANT SONG

arr. K. Zinsmeister

Call to Worship

Let the same mind be among us that was in Christ Jesus.

Teach us, O God, to walk humbly and serve your people.

Christ was obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

By the saving grace of Christ, we know that Jesus is Lord of all. Let us worship God!

*Hymn 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Dr. Ernie Thompson

Self-Giving God, we admit that we need to be reminded again how it is we live and love like you do. Instead of walking humbly with you, we have sought power and privilege. You call us to be emptied of our arrogance and self-centeredness, but still we ignore the cries of others and seek safety in control. You invite us to discipleship, but we often neglect this life-giving path. Forgive us, Loving God, and show us again what it means to follow Jesus. Lead us again into your path of righteousness.

(Let us continue our confession in silence)

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Pardon

Friends in Christ, in response to this gift of God's grace, how then shall we live?

With gratitude, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.

This is the way of Jesus, in whom we find life!

Welcome to Worship!

Some notes about the service:

*An asterisk denotes standing, in body or spirit.

Words in bold are read aloud by the congregation.

This is a special time set apart from our busy lives, to worship the true God. It is a time to remember that God has claimed us out of God's abundant love and grace and calls us to lives of faithfulness.

Later in the service we will welcome both confirmation students and new members into the family of faith. They join us as partners in Christ's service. Let us know the strength of the ties that bind us.

**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.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.
World with out end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

We Listen and Respond to God's Word

Children's Moment (11:00)

Beth Thaxton

Hymn 399 *God Welcomes All*

**God welcomes all, stranger and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

After the Children's Moment, children ages 4 - 2nd gr. are invited to the Library for Children's Church and will return following the sermon.

Prayer for Illumination

John George (8:30) | Kathie Cheatham (11:00)

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 53: 1-6

**This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Gather at the River

Susan LaBarr

lyrics to the anthem may be found on the back page of the bulletin

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2: 5-11

**This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Christology: Christ the Crucified

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Silent Reflection

*Hymn 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

Stanza 1 solo/choir, Stanzas 2-6 congregation

*Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles's 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 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.

Reception of Confirmation Class of 2026

All are invited to sing
"God Welcomes All" as
the children come
forward for the
children's moment.

We are in the middle of
a sermon series centered
around the idea of
Christology.
Christology is the
theological exploration of
who Christ is and the
work he does in the
world and on behalf of
humanity.

Confirmation
Class of 2026:
Hattie Mae Dryden
Hailey Tara Jennings
May Britt Macolly

Reception of New Members

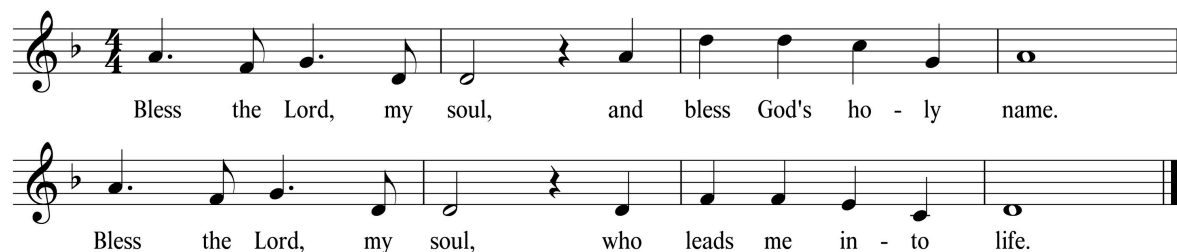
Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession 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.

Response to Prayer | Hymn 544

BLESS THE LORD (Taize)



An Invitation to Give An Offering

Offertory

At the Name of Jesus
See Hymn 264

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Doxology | Hymn 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 Dedication

We Carry God's Word into the World

*Hymn 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response | Hymn 295 stanza 4

SINE NOMINE

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

Vivace

John Stanley (1713-86)

Please welcome our
New Members:

Beth Curtiss
Randy Curtiss
Ryan Gough
Katherine Richeson
Hayes Gough
Ellie Gough
Henry Gough
Gavin Litchfield
Collier Maxwell
Leslie McLeod
Kelly Olsen
Charlotte Olsen
Joyce Strand
Ron Strand

As worship begins in
expectation of the holy,
it ends with obedience
to the holy. We
endeavor to leave this
place and serve a
hurting world as Jesus
did.

Anthem

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let his blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river,
the river that flows by the throne of God.

And, Lord, haste the day when my faithful shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trumpet shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of Brenda's mother, Marjorie P. Ferree, and Jerry's mother, Bettie Y. Johnson, on the occasion of their February birthdays by the Johnson family: Jerry, Brenda, Kathryn, Jay, Blake, Worth and Campbell.

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Scan the QR code for
ways to become
connected to our
ministries.



On the Calendar This Week February 1 – February 7

Today – Confirmation Sunday | Early Worship 8:30am | Sunday School 9:45am | Late Worship 11:00am
Pathfinders & ROCK Stars 5:00pm | Youth Group 5:30pm

Monday, February 2 – Staff Meeting 1:00pm

Tuesday, February 3 – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00am | CDC Chapel 10:30am | Glenaire Lunch 12:00pm

Wednesday, February 4 – Early Birds 6:30am | CDC Music 9:30am | JobStart Worship Service 11:30am

Thursday, February 5 – Knitting Group 10:00am | Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

Friday, February 6 – No events or activities scheduled.

Saturday, February 7 – No events or activities scheduled.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Children of FPC | Valentine's Day Flower Sale Benefitting Haiti Outreach Ministries

Each year, the elementary-aged children of the church create something beautiful for the congregation to purchase as a fundraiser to sponsor scholarships for children to attend school in Haiti. We are so proud of our children for their compassion, and they would be overjoyed to have your support. This year, the children are making (faux) bouquets of flowers for you to share with loved ones. Flowers will be sold by the bundle for \$15 on Sunday, February 8, in the Edge Lobby!

Souper Bowl of Caring

Let's Tackle Hunger! Next Sunday, February 8, during both worship services, a youth will share a Moment for Mission with the congregation to tell them about what the Souper Bowl of Caring is and who this year's offering will support. After worship, we'll gather as a church for a delicious lunch of soup and wings. Donations accepted to cover the cost of the meal and any proceeds benefit Farm Church!

FPC Book Club- In Person and on Zoom

Our next read for anyone who wants to join will be Sipsworth by Simon Van Booy. This lovely novel tells the story of Helen Cartwright, whose life is unexpectedly upended by a little something she finds. We'll discuss the book in person on Tuesday, February 24 at noon (bring your own lunch) or Tuesday, February 24 at 7pm over zoom. Please register online at <https://fpcraleigh.org/events>. Hope you can join us!

Let's Mahjong

Do you love to play Mahjong or have you ever wanted to learn? Hope Carmichael, Anne Otersen, and Kathy Johnson are starting an FPC Mahjong Group. Our first session will be on Sunday, February 15th, after 11:00 worship. Lunch will be provided in Memorial Hall immediately following worship for those playing. We will play at the Edge Lobby tables from 1-3 pm. Anne Otersen has agreed to teach anyone that wants to learn. All skill levels are welcome! There is no cost, but please register online at <https://fpcraleigh.org/events>. Hope you can join us! Please reach out to Kathy Johnson with any questions at kjohnson@fpcraleigh.org.

FPC Shares Item for January

This month's FPC Shares item is Canned Fruit | Applesauce! Bring this item and/or your favorite non-perishable food donations to the church. There are FPC Shares receptacles on both sides of the Edge Lobby and in two places in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space outside the sanctuary.

Mission Highlight

Urban Ministries of Wake County aims to “engage with our community and respond to our neighbors in crisis with compassion, dignity, and care. They engage the community to serve and advocate on behalf of those affected by poverty by providing food and nutrition, promoting health and wellness, and laying the foundation of a home. Since 1981, Urban Ministries of Wake County has responded to our neighbors in crisis by providing basic needs- food, medicine, and shelter.

In 1981, Raleigh congregations of diverse faiths and denominations formed an organization in order to respond to unmet needs in the community. Urban Ministries of Wake County realizes that those in crisis face a multitude of complex hardships, including when food and funds run out, when untreated illness affects a family, and even when a person's sense of “home” has slipped away. A crisis directly impacts a person's stability, presenting them with many barriers and complexities that hinder their ability to thrive.

Urban Ministries of Wake County focuses on these areas: nutrition, health and wellness, homelessness, as well as advocacy and service. In recognizing that many of the issues they seek to ease are intertwined, Urban Ministries believes in offering a hand up, not a hand out. Partnership is key in order to help bring about stability for folks in crisis. Urban Ministries offers emergency shelter for women at the Helen Wright Center, the Open Door Medical clinic and pharmacy, as well as a nutritional food pantry. And, so far in 2025, they have grown over 8,000 pounds of fresh vegetables in their garden.

First Presbyterian Church supports Urban Ministries of Wake County annually through the FPC Mission Budget. In 2022, the FPC Foundation provided funding so that Urban Ministries could purchase a new box truck for the food pantry. Additionally, a portion of all FPC Shares collected is donated to Urban Ministries of Wake County.

To learn more about their work and ministry, please visit <https://www.urbanmin.org/>