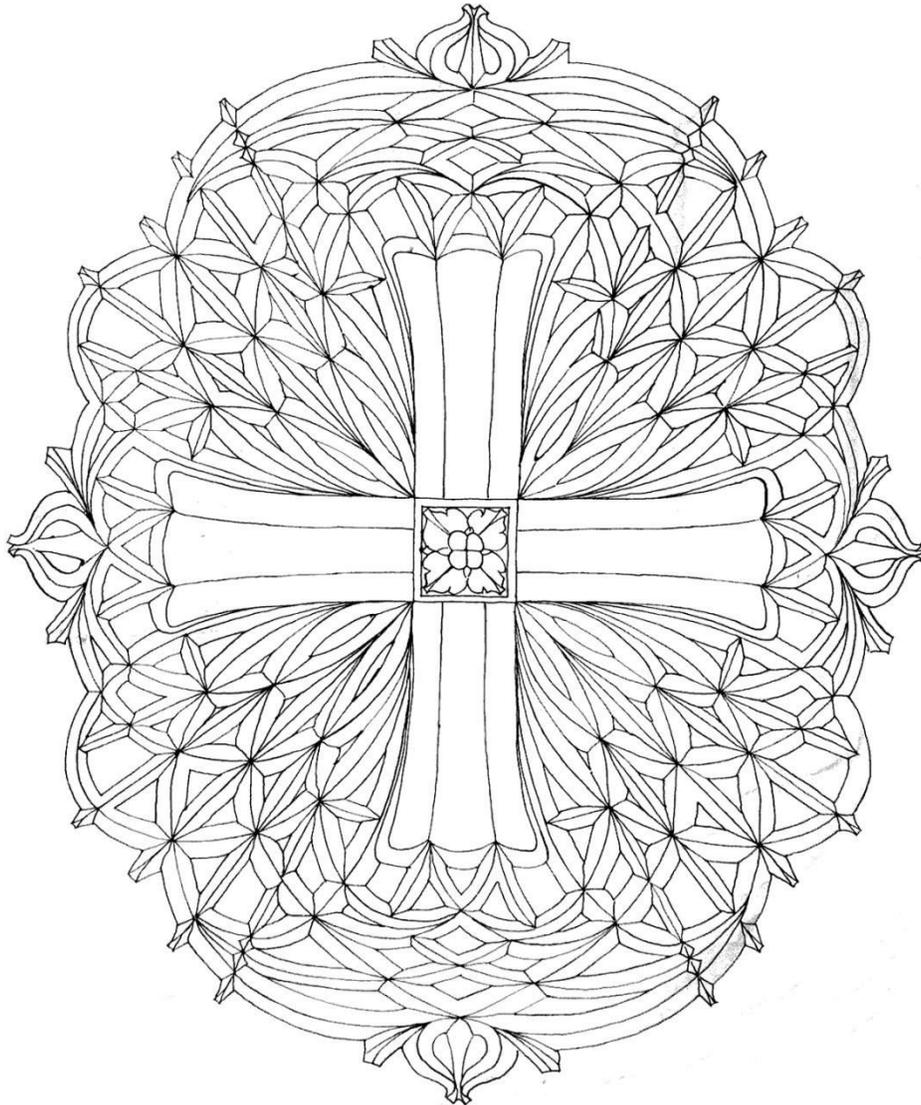


# First Presbyterian Church

December 27, 2020

First Sunday of Christmas



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH *of Raleigh*

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

## We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Laurie Taylor Weicher

Prelude

*"Three Songs of Christmas"*  
Ann Permar, piano; Stephen Fiess, organ

arr. Lani Smith

Call to Worship | from Psalm 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise the LORD in the heights!

**Praise the LORD, sun and moon; praise the LORD, all you shining stars!**

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost.

**Mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars!**

**Wild animals and cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and rulers of the earth!

**Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

**All:** Let us praise the name of the LORD.

Hymn

["Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"](#)

No. 132

Prayer of Confession | **Almighty God, we confess that we are tired. Like Simeon, we are looking forward to the time when our nation and our people will find consolation. This year has felt as long as Anna's years and we are still waiting for relief. Yet, in looking forward to the return of our own comfort, we admit that we have forgotten to look around and see the light of Christ all around us. Forgive us for the times when our lament has led to inaction and our fear has encouraged us to stay silent. Remind us that Christ has already come. Embolden us to lay bare our laments *and* to allow the joy of Christ to well up in us until we can't help but speak.**

Kyrie | **Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.**

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!

## We Celebrate our Life Together

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.**

## We Listen to God's Word

A Moment for Children

Katy Schafer

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 61:10-62:1, Luke 2:22-40

Sermon

"Exhausted Joy"

Kristen Sommerfeld

## We Respond to God's Word

Hymn

["Light Dawns on a Weary World"](#)

No. 79

Affirmation of Faith | from "A Brief Statement of Faith"

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Solo

"What I'm Thankful For"  
Scott Sommerfeld

Yearwood

Prayer of Dedication

## We Bear God's Word into the World

Hymn

["Go, Tell It on the Mountain"](#)

No. 136

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response

Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,  
that in Your Spirit, strong and true, our lives may be our gift to you.

Postlude

"For Unto Us A Child Is Born" from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

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The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and given by Olive Worth McCord, in loving memory of her parents, Olive Pittman Worth and David Crenshaw Worth, who were married in the sanctuary on Christmas day 1930, and also in loving memory of much loved brother, David Crenshaw Worth, Jr.