



# 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.*

March 31, 2024

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day

## We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Deus in adjutorium" from the *1610 Vespers* Claudio Monteverdi  
Chancel Choir Arr. David Marlatt

*O Lord, make speed to save me: O Lord, make haste to help me.*

*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.*

Call to Worship

Early in the morning light,  
**the women went to Jesus' tomb**

The tomb was empty, the stone rolled away,  
**for God's love is stronger than death itself**

Let us join our voices with Mary Magdalene:

**"We have seen the Lord!"**

Easter people, Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed!**

\*Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

No. 826

Prayer of Confession

**O God, you raised Christ from the tomb and shattered the powers of sin and evil. Raise us from the tombs of our sin and bring us to new life in you. Lord, you bring us good news of Easter joy. Forgive us when we cannot hear it. You send us out to share your love. Forgive us when we cannot carry it. You cast a vision for peace and justice. Forgive us when we cannot imagine it. Forgive us when we stand in its way. For you are the God of the empty tomb, the one who makes all**

**things new. Amen.**

Kyrie

No. 575

**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!

\*Gloria Patri

No. 581

**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.**

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Judy Pidcock

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.**

Congregational Response to Prayer

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.**

Anthem

"Carol of the Hill"

Stephen Paulus

Chancel Choir

## **We Listen and Respond to God's Word**

A Moment for Children (11:00)

Katy Schafer

*Children's Church resumes next week*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 25:6-9; Mark 16:1-8

Today's lay readers are Barger Jeutter (8:30) & Mary Jo Littlewood (11:00)

Sermon Where's Jesus? Troy Leshler-Thomas

\*Hymn "O Day of Peace" No. 373

\* Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Arr. Dan Forrest  
Chancel Choir

\*Doxology No. 609

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures  
here below, Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God above; ye heavenly host,  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

## **We Carry God's Word into the World**

\*Hymn "Christ is Alive!" No. 246

\*Charge and Benediction

Jesus Christ is risen...**The Lord is risen, indeed!**

\*Congregational Response "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel

\*Postlude

\*All those who are able may stand.

## **Anthem and Offertory Lyrics**

### **Anthem: Carol of the Hill**

On my ground with a crown of thorn,  
He died for us who for us was born.  
The tree that flowered is cold and bare;  
No songs, no singing anywhere;  
O Bethlehem, Ah Jerusalem.

Second Adam Son of Man,  
Into my earth your life's blood ran.  
Now from this earth new trees will grow  
With fruits, with flowers I swear it so.  
O Bethlehem, Ah Jerusalem

For you I shall wear a crown of trees,  
And birds will sing from among their leaves,  
For you I shall wear a crown of trees,

Now sing bird sing, from among your leaves;

O Jerusalem.

### **Offertory: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
visit us with Thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, of breathe, Thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find the promised rest.

Take away our bent to sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see Thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in Thee:

Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

### **Guest Musicians**

Carey Forman, trumpet

David Hector-Hodges, trombone

Kris Gilmore, trumpet

Matt Ransom, tuba

Ethan Jones, horn

Victoria Nelson, timpani and percussion

Nancy Whelan, piano

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The palm fronds are dedicated to the glory of God and were given on Palm Sunday by Sue Mizelle in loving memory of her husband, Jim Mizelle and her daughter, Ann Mizelle Speck.

The Chancel Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given are given by the Hensey family in memory of Charles McKinnon Hensey

Today's acolyte are Samantha Eckard (8:30) & Arthur Jenkins (11:00)

*(Childcare is available in the Stock building from 8:20-12:15)*

*\*Easter hours include a closure from 9:45-10:45 for egg hunt and reception*

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## **On the Calendar This Week March 31 – April 6**

**Today Easter Sunday** – Easter Sunrise Service 6:30a | Early Service 8:30a | Church School 9:45-10:40a | Easter Egg Hunt 9:45a | Late Service 11a      No evening programs

**Monday, Apr 1** – FPC Holiday - Church Office Closed

**Tuesday, Apr 2** – Glenaire Lunch 12-1p |

**Wednesday, Apr 3** – Early Birds 6:30-8a | CDC Board 7-8:30p

**Thursday, Apr 4** – Knitting Group 10a-12p | Choir 7-8:30p

**Friday, Apr 5** – No activities or events scheduled.

**Saturday, Apr 6** – Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Dean Demasi 3 pm

### **Announcements and Upcoming Events**

#### **Easter Egg Hunt and Reception**

Today at 9:45am, meet in the Sanctuary for a short message from a pastor. We will walk together to the Capitol Lawn for an Easter egg hunt followed by a reception for all ages in Memorial Hall. A great activity for the whole family. All are welcome and we have bags with handles if you need a basket. Thank you to everyone who donated candy.

#### **FPC Officer Nomination**

Your 2024 Nominating Committee has opened nominations for the offices of Elder and Deacon, Class of 2027. Nomination forms can be found on the counter in the Gathering Space, Sunday School rooms or by scanning the QR Code found around the church. Please place completed forms in the box on the counter in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space or in Darcy Dye Bowers' box on the 2nd floor of the Edge Building by Sunday, April 7.

#### **Adult Fellowship**

Thursday, April 11 from 11am to 1pm, Lunch and Bingo! Come and enjoy fun, fellowship, games and more! All are welcome, so be sure to invite a friend. RSVP with the church by noon, April 8.

#### **Caregiver Support Group**

Are you a Caregiver? Would you like to join other caregivers for support, information and encouragement? Please contact the Church Office or Anne Swaim [bamswaim@att.net](mailto:bamswaim@att.net).

## **FPC College Scholarships**

College scholarships from First Presbyterian Church are available! For all those interested in this opportunity, printed copies of applications are available at the Edge Lobby Welcome Center. The deadline for all submissions is April 14.

## **FPC Mission Fair**

Save the Date! Sunday, April 28 from 8:00am-1:00pm, Memorial Hall. Sponsored by the FPC Mission Committee and FPC Foundation

## **FPC Shares Item for April**

This month's FPC Shares item is Peanut Butter! 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 Partners and Highlights**

**Union Presbyterian Seminary**, one of 10 theological schools of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), was founded in 1812 as a theological adjunct of Hampden-Sydney College in central Virginia. Since their founding, they have served the church by educating pastors and teachers, missionaries, and scholars for service to Christ and the world. The "Union" in their name represents the partnership of the synods of Virginia and North Carolina on behalf of theological education.

Since 1898, they have been located in Richmond, Virginia. In 1997, Union Theological Seminary federated with the Presbyterian School of Christian Education to become Union-PSCE. The Presbyterian School of Christian Education had been established in 1914 as the Assembly's Training School for Lay Workers. Its name was changed to the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in 1959. In July 2010, Union-PSCE changed its name to Union Presbyterian Seminary to reflect a collective vision for the future and to signify the new creation that God is forming out of this historic seminary.

In 2002, at the invitation of four presbyteries in North Carolina and one in South Carolina, Union Presbyterian Seminary began holding classes at the new seminary extension on the campus of Queens University. The Charlotte campus provides students with a unique learning opportunity born out of the vision of faith communities in North and South Carolina. These Presbyterian leaders, both clergy and lay people, discerned a need for a local seminary to provide for the education of future pastors and educators in the church. Their vision was to enable non-traditional students with a call to ministry to pursue this theological training without having to relocate to a traditional residential seminary.

The FPC Mission budget provides annual support to Union Presbyterian Seminary and it is where many of our pastors received their education.