First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



April 13, 2025

Service for the Lord's Day

Palm Sunday

8:30am Early

9:00am Contemporary

11:00am Traditional

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg – we are delighted that you are joining us for worship today! First Presbyterian is a community of believers in the heart of Spartanburg seeking to know and share the transformative love of Jesus Christ with others. Here you will encounter people who come from all walks of life representing diverse beliefs and faith experiences. What binds us together is our common hope in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship, and mission we seek to root our lives in scripture, nurture our unity in Christ, and serve our neighbors in faith! No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

Peace,

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out of town, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with a pastor before or after today's worship or fill out the friendship register. We would love to get to know you better!

Pastoral Concern? Please let us know how we can be praying for you by visiting with a pastor before or after worship. If you need to contact a Minister, call 864-208-2142 day or night.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship!

Activity Bags located in the welcoming areas of each worship venue are available for your child to use during worship. After worship, please return the crayons and bags to the baskets. The activity sheet is for your child to keep.

Nursery is available for infants through age 3 in the Clark Building in Room 105.

After *The Word for Children* in the 11:00am Traditional Service, children 3K-1st grade may attend Children's Worship with Ms. Kara. After the service, families are asked to pick their children up from Room 202 of the Clark Building.

To Aid in Worship Advanced listening technology, large-print hymnals, and large-print bulletins are available upon request for the Chapel and Sanctuary. Please locate an usher for assistance.

Worship Online Livestreaming of the Contemporary and Traditional Worship Services is available at fpcspartanburg.org/worship. Additionally, sermons are on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, or wherever you find your podcasts!

Ways to Give There are many ways you can support the missions and ministries of First Presbyterian. During worship, you may place your gift in the Offering Plate or you can scan the QR Codes. The ShelbyNext QR code will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you may give via Venmo or mail a check to the church office (address on back of bulletin). Thank you for your gifts. *Questions? Contact Church Financial Officer Lynise Clarke; 864-208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.*

ShelbyNext Venmo

Early Worship
8:30am
Chapel

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Voluntary — *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* — Michael Burkhardt

✞Call to Worship — John Lynch

This is the day that the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna! Save us, O Lord!
The Lord is our God, and He has given us light.
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
His steadfast love endures forever!

✞Hymn 197 — *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* — Ellacombe

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

God of the wilderness and the city,
we confess that we do not always recognize your coming.
You walk among us in humility, yet we long for signs of power.
You call us to faithfulness, yet we are easily swayed by fear.
In the wilderness, you provide, yet we still grasp for control.
Forgive us, O Lord. Open our eyes to see you on the road before us.
Strengthen our hearts to walk your way, even when the path is uncertain.
Lead us from fear to trust, from self-preservation to self-giving love,
that we may follow Jesus, our Servant King.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The wilderness does not last forever.
God is making a way - through dry lands, through doubt, through fear.
The One who entered Jerusalem in humility enters our lives with mercy.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hosanna in the highest!

✞Response

Hymn 93 — Truro

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

✞Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Life of the Church

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most sacred time in the Christian calendar. On this day, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where crowds greeted Him with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna!"—a cry for salvation and praise. Yet, even as we celebrate, we recognize that this journey leads to the cross, reminding us of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for our redemption. As we wave our palms, we are invited to reflect on what it means to follow Jesus—not just in moments of joy, but through the trials of faith and the promise of resurrection to come.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading Luke 19:28-40

Sermon *Field Notes for the Wilderness: Jesus* Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✙Affirmation of Faith

The 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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Scripture tells us that we are able to love ourselves and to love others, because we have first been loved by God. So, too, we give of ourselves and our resources out of gratitude to God for what God has already graciously given to us. We give because God has first given to us.

Offertory *Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)* Georges Bizet

✙Doxology

Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✙Hymn 196 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

✙Charge and Benediction

✙Benediction Response

Hymn 93, verse 3 Truro

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

Closing Voluntary *Epilogue* Healy Willan

Following the service, you are invited to a time of coffee and fellowship in The Perrin Room.

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome		Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
✞Call to Worship		Kylie Hammett
✞Song of Praise		*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. L. Craig Foster
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Yes and Amen*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Palm Procession		*All the World Awaits (Hosanna)*

Please join the children and youth in waving palms during the processional music.

Anthem		*Here Comes the King*
Scripture Reading	Luke 19:28-40	
Sermon	*Field Notes for the Wilderness: Jesus*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
✞Affirmation of Faith		
The Apostles' Creed		
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*Hosanna, Praise is Rising*
✞Benediction		

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most sacred time in the Christian calendar. On this day, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where crowds greeted Him with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna!"—a cry for salvation and praise. Yet, even as we celebrate, we recognize that this journey leads to the cross, reminding us of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for our redemption. As we wave our palms, we are invited to reflect on what it means to follow Jesus—not just in moments of joy, but through the trials of faith and the promise of resurrection to come.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Traditional Worship
11:00am
Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

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Palm Procession — *Mantos y Palmas (Filled With Excitement)* — Ruben Ruiz Avila
Acolyte — Juliet Berry

The congregation is invited to remain seated and wave their palms during the Palm Processional.

✞Call to Worship — Rev. L. Craig Foster

This is the day that the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna! Save us, O Lord!
The Lord is our God, and He has given us light.
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
His steadfast love endures forever!

✞Hymn 197 — *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* — Ellacombe

Prayer of Confession — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

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we confess that we do not always recognize your coming.
You walk among us in humility, yet we long for signs of power.
You call us to faithfulness, yet we are easily swayed by fear.
In the wilderness, you provide, yet we still grasp for control.
Forgive us, O Lord. Open our eyes to see you on the road before us.
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✞Response
Hymn 93 — Truro

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make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
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✙Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children

Prayer for Illumination — *We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight* — Dunlap's Creek

First Reading — Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 — Huntington Clark

Second Reading — Luke 19:28-40

Sermon — *Field Notes for the Wilderness: Jesus* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✙Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

The 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.

Prayers of the People

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.

The psalms have served believers in every generation as a biblical source of prayer and praise and as models for their own response to God. The book is an invaluable resource for worship. The people of God have also heard God addressing them in the psalms, as the prayers and hymns bear witness to the nature and work of God. The Psalter is unique, bringing together human word and word of God in an inseparable unity.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Scripture tells us that we are able to love ourselves and to love others, because we have first been loved by God. So, too, we give of ourselves and our resources out of gratitude to God for what God has already graciously given to us. We give because God has first given to us.

Offertory *The Ground* *Ola Gjeilo*

Offertory text can be found on the last page of the bulletin.

✠Doxology

Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

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

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 196 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response

Hymn 93, verse 3 Truro

Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

Closing Voluntary *Epilogue* Healey Willan

The Palms in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Betty and J.D. Trout
by the family.

Life of the Church
Sunday, April 13, 2025

Lent & Easter
at First Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday
April 17, 2025

5:30pm - *Dinner in Fogartie Hall*
Register at fpcspartanburg.org/holyweek

6:30pm - *Maundy Thursday Worship in Fogartie Hall*

"Maundy" means commandment, referencing the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples on this day; for it was on this day that Jesus had his last meal with his disciples. It is our Christian tradition to celebrate this evening with the gift of worship and the sacrament of Communion.

Good Friday
April 18, 2025

9:00am-5:00pm - *Chapel open for prayer*

7:30pm - *Tenebrae Worship Service in the Sanctuary*

Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," is a prolonged meditation on Christ's suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ's passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous event. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ's suffering and death; we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the overwhelming sound of the "strepitus."- Calvin Institute for Worship

Easter
April 20, 2025

6:30am
Sunrise Service in the Columbarium

8:30am
Early Worship in the Sanctuary

9:00am
Contemporary Worship in Fogartie Hall

10:00am
Fellowship on the Front Lawn with Hot Cross Buns
(No Sunday School)

10:30 am
New Members Received in the Parlor

11:00am
Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Field Notes for the Wilderness
This Lent, we will step into the wilderness — a place of testing, transformation, and unexpected encounters with God. Through the stories of Miriam, Hagar, Moses, Elijah, Ezekiel, and Jesus we'll explore how God meets us in barren places and leads us toward hope. Come and walk this sacred path with us as we seek God's presence in the wilderness, and discover wisdom, resilience, and renewal for our own journeys.

Lenten Prayer Window
In this final week before Easter, we invite you to add your wilderness prayers to our collective Lent 2025 testimony of the God who meets us there. There are two prayer stations, one in the main hallway and one in the Family Life Center Lobby, where you can write your prayer on a piece of vellum and place it in the basket as together we create a stained-glass reminder that there always beauty and life in the midst of it all. These windows will be featured in our Maundy Thursday Worship.

Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship
On Maundy Thursday, we will share a meal together at 5:30pm. Please register at fpcspartanburg.org/holyweek or scan the QR code by tomorrow at 4:30pm. Following dinner, Maundy Thursday Worship will begin in Fogartie Hall at 6:30pm. Childcare for infants through age three will be available in the Clark Building during the service.

Flower Cross Volunteers Needed
We are in need of volunteers to help with the Flower Cross on Easter Sunday, April 20. There are opportunities available for all three services, and for all ages! Visit fpcspartanburg.org/holyweek to sign up and help make this Easter a beautiful experience for members and visitors alike.

Bethlehem Center Update

In 2024, First Presbyterian raised over $41,000 during Witness Season for a playground and outdoor learning lab to be built at the Bethlehem Center. On Friday, **April 18** at 12:00noon, all are invited to celebrate the newly constructed playground at 397 Highland Avenue.

Join FPC on Easter Morning

Church membership is an expression of our commitment to God and our faith. In the ancient church, people would often be baptized and officially join the church on Easter morning. Following in that tradition, we are inviting all those interested in joining First Presbyterian to consider doing so on Easter morning, **April 20** at 10:30am. We would love to have you add your gifts, energy, and love to the body of Christ that is FPC! Please contact Cathy Bagwell at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org if you are interested in joining that day. To learn more about membership and how to join, visit fpcspartanburg.org/membership or scan the QR code.

Sign up for Women's Connection

Pull up a chair and join other women from our congregation and around the country for a time of renewal and discernment, with powerful worship and rich engagement with the Bible **August 8-10** in Montreat, NC. Well-known New Testament scholar Dr. Amy-Jill Levine will be the keynote speaker, and you are sure to leave enlightened and enriched by her teaching. Our church has reserved 20 spots for this event. Registration is now open at fpcspartanburg.org/womensconnection.

Used Bikes Needed for Thornwell

The older children living on Thornwell's campus are in need of gently used small to medium adult bikes. Eight female 24-inch bikes and four male 26-inch bikes have been requested. Check your garages and basements, or ask your friends about donating a bike no longer used. Please only donate the sizes requested. Drop off at the recreation desk (near the gym) during gym hours by **April 30**.

Mini Health Clinic - April 30

The Health Committee will provide a Mini Clinic on Wednesday, **April 30** that includes skin, bone, and hearing screenings. All screenings will be held during Wednesdays at First. For more information and to sign up, please visit fpcspartanburg.org/health.

Sunday Greeters & Ushers Needed

Christian hospitality begins on Sunday mornings—and you can be a part of our welcoming team! We need friendly faces to serve as Greeters and Ushers. Greeters offer a warm hello to members and guests, which make this the perfect family service opportunity. Ushers help with bulletins and seating. Sign up for either opportunity at fpcspartanburg.org/sundayserve.

Photos in the Columbarium

Situated on the west side of our church grounds is the Columbarium. This beautiful and peaceful space is our church's version of a cemetery, a place where members are inurned (instead of buried) as a visible reminder that the church cares for its members from birth until death. It is carefully tended so that family and friends can always come for quiet meditation and prayer. Out of respect for the deceased and their families, **we ask that no pictures for weddings, prom, graduation, or any other event be taken inside.** Thank you for helping us honor the sacredness of this space.

JOY Fellowship Trip

It's time for our next JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship Day Trip! Join us Thursday, **May 8** for a trip of the historic Cowpens National Battlefield. Following the tour, we'll enjoy a meal together at Strawberry Hill. Bring money for lunch! Sign up by May 5 at fpcspartanburg.org/joy.

Gym Hours

Our gym is open Monday-Thursday from 7:00am-8:00pm; Friday from 7:00am-2:00pm; and Saturday from 8:00am-12noon. If you plan to access the fitness area/walking track, please bring your keycard. Thank you!

Sunday School - 10am
(Gathering Time - 9:45am)

Children and Youth

Nursery – Room C105 (Clark Building)
Preschool (3K-5K) – Room C110 (Clark Building)
1st & 2nd Grade - Room C202
3rd & 4th Grade - Room C203
5th Grade - Room C206
Youth - Second Floor of the Family Life Center

Adult Sunday School

Bible Alive – Room 2215
An extensive book-by-book study of the Bible

Emmaus – Room 2217
A journey with eyes open towards Jesus, with fellowship and a fresh new scripture-based lesson each week.

Abide - Room 2207
For younger adults and parents of preschool/elementary children to gather for a time of fellowship and learning.

L.I.F.T. - Room 2208
Faithful and energetic disciples who love growing deeper in faith through Bible study and trusting Jesus.

Glory Days - Purnell Room
Parents of youth & collegiates, come strengthen your faith and friendship with condensed stand-alone Bible lessons from dynamic teachers.

Today's Musicians

Early Worship
Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews;
Matias Mariani

Contemporary Worship
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals;
Kolby Carrouth, drums;
Landon Hammett, keyboard/vocals;
Anna Harkey, violin;
Matthew Kelly, guitar/vocals;
Jeff Key, electric guitar;
Corey McDaniel, bass guitar

Traditional Worship
Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews;
Chancel Choir

Offertory

The Ground
Ola Gjeilo

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

Calendar

April 17
Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service

April 18
Good Friday Service

April 20
Easter

April 21
All Church Facilities Closed

April 27
Confirmation Sunday

Looking Forward

May 18
Baccalaureate Sunday

May 21
Scotland Bon Voyage Concert

May 25
Worship as One (through July 27)

June 2-5
Vacation Bible School

June 14/July 19
Montreat Play Dates

August 8-10
Women's Connection at Montreat

For details on all church events,
visit fpcspartanburg.org/calendar

Front Cover:
"Palm Passion" by Lin Barrie

To Ponder Prayerfully

"When Christ calls someone, he bids them come and die."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Ministers: All Members of the Church

We are a community of believers committed to "Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together through Word and Deed."

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care

Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Pastoral Associate for Engagement

Holt Andrews
Pastoral Musician

Marcia Andrews
Associate Director of Music;
Organist

Kara Clark
Director of Children's Ministries

Carrie Coleman
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Grace deMaine
Associate Director, Youth Ministry

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Jane Mullins
Director of Hospitality

Pano Stathakis
Kitchen Assistant

Kris Graham
Director of the Weekday School

Lisa Cunningham
Contemporary Worship Music Leader

Lee Raines
Facilities Administrator

Jim Pitts
Campus Safety and Services Manager

Lynise Clarke
Church Financial Officer

Monteigne Campbell
Office Manager and
Admin to the Senior Pastor

Cathy Bagwell
Visitor and New Member Coordinator

Caroline Goodman
Communications Director

Ian Ritchings
Communications Coordinator

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin
to Music and Mission

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians

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