First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



November 26, 2023

Service for the Lord's Day

Christ the King 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!

Blue 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.

A Nursery is available for infants through age 3 in the Clark Bldg, 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, place your gift in the Offering Plate or scan one of these QR Codes (you may give via **ShelbyNext** or via **Venmo**). Additionally, you may mail a check to the church office (address on back of bulletin). Thank you. *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.

✞Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise, a noise of service and love.
Praise God with lives of compassion.
Sing with acts of kindness.
Glorify God with acts of mercy.
Praise God with works of justice.
Praise God with overflowing love.

✞Hymn 367 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* — St. George's Windsor

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Joanne R. Hull

God of glory,
we do not always see your glory in the world around us.
When we see a person in need, it is not easy to look him in the eye.
When we hear a cry for help, it is not easy to offer her quick assurance.
When we know of a lonely prisoner, it is not easy to make that unannounced visit.
Forgive us when we fail to see you in our everyday lives.
Forgive us when we are afraid to act, afraid to care.
Encourage us, God of glory.
Help us to see others with the eyes of compassion,
that we might be your loving presence in the world.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

There is overwhelming greatness in God's power and grace.
God's steadfast love lasts forever, offering grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

✞Response

Hymn 581 — Gloria Patri

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.

The Christian life is like a two-sided coin. One side is the forgiveness of sins. The other side is the call to discipleship and mission. They are distinct but inseparable. The first is justification by grace through faith; the second is sanctification. Justification without sanctification risks becoming "cheap grace," and sanctification without justification risks becoming "works righteousness."

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✠Passing of the Peace

The fullness of God dwells in Christ,
the one who brings peace and forgiveness.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon *This Is Our Story: Jesus* Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Jesus life, death, and resurrection reveal that true power is found through loving service, and it is this that makes him King. If his life and death give a radically new meaning to the words "king" and "kingship" and how justice is enacted in love, how does this change your understanding of power? How does it change the way you live?

Responding to the Word

✠Affirmation of Faith Rev. L. Craig Foster
The Apostles' Creed Hymnal Page 35

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *King of Glory, King of Peace* K. Lee Scott

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 643 *Now Thank We All Our God* Nun Danket Alle Gott

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response
Hymn 175, verse 1 Lafferty

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Closing Voluntary *Now Thank We All Our God* James Kimball

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		
✞Song of Praise		*Because of Your Love*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Living Hope*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
The Sacrament of Baptism	*Bryce Scott Leedham*	
Scripture Reading	Matthew 25:31-46	
Sermon	*This Is Our Story: Jesus*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Anthem		*O Come to the Altar*
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*New Doxology*
✞Benedication		{Alan}

Today is Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) Sunday. This day on the liturgical calendar centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ's truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Traditional Worship
11:00am
Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Today is Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) Sunday. This day on the liturgical calendar centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ's truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

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 — *Prelude in D Minor from Suite #2* — J.S. Bach

Acolyte — Willard Fairey

Introit — *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful* — In The Lord

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Make a joyful noise, a noise of service and love.
Praise God with lives of compassion.
Sing with acts of kindness.
Glorify God with acts of mercy.
Praise God with works of justice.
Praise God with overflowing love.

✞Hymn 367 — *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* — St. George's Windsor

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Joanne R. Hull

God of glory, we do not always see your glory in the world around us.
When we see a person in need, it is not easy to look him in the eye.
When we hear a cry for help, it is not easy to offer her quick assurance.
When we know of a lonely prisoner, it is not easy to make that unannounced visit.
Forgive us when we fail to see you in our everyday lives.
Forgive us when we are afraid to act, afraid to care.
Encourage us, God of glory.
Help us to see others with the eyes of compassion,
that we might be your loving presence in the world.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

There is overwhelming greatness in God's power and grace.
God's steadfast love lasts forever, offering grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

✞Response: Hymn 581 — Gloria Patri

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.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✟Passing of the Peace

The fullness of God dwells in Christ,
the one who brings peace and forgiveness.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children — Rev. Ansley B. Page
Ella Jane Brown, Reader

Sacrament of Baptism — *Emma Claire Seager* — Caroline Smith, Elder
Daughter of Mary Caroline and John Winfield Seager

Response — *Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.* — Jesus Loves Me
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship; those second grade and older will return to the pews.

Prayer for Illumination — *For You, My God, I Wait* — Springtime

First Reading — Psalm 100

Second Reading — Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon — *This Is Our Story: Jesus* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Jesus life, death, and resurrection reveal that true power is found through loving service, and it is this that makes him King. If his life and death give a radically new meaning to the words "king" and "kingship" and how justice is enacted in love, how does this change your understanding of power? How does it change the way you live?

Responding to the Word

✟Affirmation of Faith — Rev. L. Craig Foster

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.
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.

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

"Come, Walk With Me", our offertory anthem for this Christ the King Sunday, is in three sections. First, Christ invites us to follow Him. Then, we pray for comfort and protection. Jesus responds by proclaiming who He is, and the anthem ends with both Heaven and earth singing together.

Offertory — *Come, Walk With Me* — Z. Randall Stroope

✙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

Bearing the Word to the World

✙Hymn 643 — *Now Thank We All Our God* — Nun Danket Alle Gott

✙Charge and Benediction

✙Benediction Response

Hymn 175, verse 1 — Lafferty

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Closing Voluntary — *Now Thank We All Our God* — J. S. Bach

<u>The Flowers in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. William Grant Willard, Jr. and Mr. Benjamin Sims Willard
by their family.

Life of the Church
Sunday, November 26, 2023

Deck the Halls
Decorating begins **tomorrow, November 27** (meet in Room 2213 at 10:00am). For the complete decorating schedule, go to fpcspartanburg.org/deckthehalls. Questions? Contact LeAnne Thurmond (leanne.thurmond@gmail.com).

Giving Tuesday
This Tuesday, November 28, is our annual "Giving Tuesday," where we as a congregation, as well as millions around the world, celebrate generosity. This year, we are asking you to support First Presbyterian Church Community Impact Ministries. Your donation will be divided equally between Hand-in-Hand, our Neighborhood Meal Ministry, and CAST. Our churchwide goal for this year is $6000. Use this QR Code for more information and to even give your gift early!

Wednesdays at First - Nov 29
Full Schedule (see Calendar ---- >)
Come for Food, Faith, and Fellowship! Dinner is served 5:00-6:15pm in Fogartie Hall. Pre-registration for dinner is required by noon on Monday; online payment is preferred; use this QR Code to sign up.
Menu: Adults: Pot Roast, Rice, Baked Apples, Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert & Beverage Children: Chicken Tenders, Dipping Sauces, Homemade Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cup, Cookie & Juice Box
Adult Program: *Covenant Connections* (Fogartie Hall)

TOTAL Ministries Food Drive
Next Sunday, December 3, drop off non-perishable donations for TOTAL Ministries before or after service in the marked bins in the Tower Room, Narthex, or the Family Life Center Lobby. For a list of items needed, visit fpcspartanburg.org/total-ministries.

Angel Tree
As part of Angel Tree Ministry, First Presbyterian is providing gifts to 124 local children on behalf of an incarcerated parent. Angel Tree tags are hanging on the small Christmas trees in the Tower Room and in the Family Life Center. **Wrapped gifts - with the affixed Angel Tree tags - are due back to the Perrin Room by Sunday, December 17**. If you have questions, or if you would like to **deliver gifts on Sat, Dec 23 at 9am**, contact Brandt Goodwin (brandtgoodwin@gmail.com/ 864-542-4764)

DR Mission Trip
Sign up to travel with Pastor Leslie, other church members, and local doctors to the **Dominican Republic February 3-10, 2024**. Medical as well as non-medical folks are encouraged to be a part of this wonderful ministry to the people of San Juan de la Maguana. Contact Leslie Lang or Greg Colbath for more info; use the QR Code to register. Deadline to signup is Friday, December 1.

Reverse Advent Calendar
We invite you to participate in Reverse Advent. Start with an empty box and, each day, add the designated item in your box. On December 17, bring your full box to the church. All donations will go to TOTAL Ministries. Feel free to decorate your box! This week's list:

November 26 - Jar of Applesauce
November 27 - Box of Cereal
November 28 - Jar of Peanut Butter
November 29 - Box of Crackers
November 30 - Can of Chicken Broth
December 1 - Can of Pumpkin
December 2 - Stuffing Mix

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Down through the ages – from the prophets to the gospel writers – people have heard and told the good news of the Messiah's birth in slightly different ways. Join us this Advent as we are invited again to listen for where and how God is calling us to tell the story of the incarnation for our world today.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers for our **Advent Workshop on December 6, 6:15-7:15pm** (after WAF dinner). There will be several craft stations, so we need a number of volunteers to pull it off! No prior prep needed - just arrive at the gym that evening, ready to help! If you are interested in helping, or have any questions, contact Kara Clark (kclark@fpcspartanburg.org).

Winter Warmth Coat Purchase

The annual Winter Warmth Project of First Presbyterian Church was held on November 11. Over 800 warm winter coats were distributed to students from all seven Spartanburg County School Districts. Now, we need your help. For a gift of $35.00, you can be a part of providing a new warm coat for a child in need. Use this QR Code and choose "Winter Warmth" from the drop-down box. Gift Acknowledgement Cards are available upon request.

Love Letters for Joanne

At the end of this year, Rev. Joanne Hull will retire after 40+ years of ministry with 10 of those years as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church. We invite you to write words of well wishes, what she's meant to you, and perhaps some retirement advice. Joanne and Eddie plan to get out of town whenever they can, so travel tips are appreciated! Place cards in the designated baskets located in the Perrin Room, FLC Lobby, and the Receptionist's Office. Please join us in showing Joanne how much we care for her at First Pres and that our prayers are with her as she navigates through the unknown of retirement life.

Memorial Wreaths

This Advent season, we are offering the opportunity to purchase wreaths in memory of those inurned in the Columbarium. The cost of a memorial wreath is $35. Memorial names will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 17. Use the QR code to order yours before Friday, December 8 (deadline). Questions? Contact Lynise Clarke (lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org).

Order Christmas Poinsettias

Would you like to order poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones? Use the QR Code to order yours! The names of those honored/memorialized will be listed in a commemorative booklet. You may also request that an acknowledgement card be sent to the person or family of those being honored/memorialized. The cost per plant is $25 and must be ordered by Friday, December 15. You may pick up your plants in Fogartie Hall or the Tower Room any time after the services on Sunday, December 24. For questions, please contact Lynise Clarke (lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org).

Recommendations for CNC

The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking a slate of nine members (non-officers) from the congregation to replace those who will rotate off at the end of 2023. Members will serve for one year and will be charged with the nomination of Church officers. Please scan the QR code or go to fpcspartanburg.org/cnc and complete the form. Deadline is December 31, 2023.

Are you Receiving The eNews?

Receive the latest FPC news and events every Friday in your inbox! Sign up by using the QR code or go to fpcspartanburg.org/enews. Never miss out on the life of our church!

Joining First Presbyterian

If you would like to become a member of First Presbyterian Church, please make your way to the **Church Parlor at 10:30am** on **Sunday, December 10**. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you and welcome you into the membership of the church. Questions? Contact Rev. Joanne Hull; 864-208-2125 / jhull@fpcspartanburg.org.

Gym Hours

Mondays-Thursdays: 7am-8pm; Fridays: 7am-2pm; Saturdays: 8am-12noon

Chapel Open

The Chapel is open for Prayer Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, for you to come and sit and pray in the stillness of God. You may place any personal prayer needs in the Chapel prayer box and a member of our staff will pray over your requests.

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 2208*
Emmaus – *Room 2207*
Abide – *Room 2200*
L.I.F.T. – *Room 2201*
Glory Days – *Purnell Room*

Today's Musicians

Early Worship: Holt Andrews; Bruce Campbell

Contemporary Worship: Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals; Kolby Carrouth, drums; Cooper Cecil, electric guitar; Landon Hammett, keyboard/vocals; Anna Harkey, violin; Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship: Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Chancel Choir; John Koontz, cello

Calendar

November 26
Christ the King Sunday
8:30am Early Worship (Chapel)
9:00am Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
9:15am Coffee and Fellowship (Perrin Room)
10:00am Sunday School (9:45am Gathering Time)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

November 28
Giving Tuesday
Combined Diaconate and Session Meeting

November 29
Wednesdays at First
5:00pm Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie Hall)
5:00pm Children's Choirs (Clark Building)
6:15pm Christian Rec for Children (Gym)
6:15pm Youth Fellowship & Study (Upstairs, FLC)
6:30pm Adult Programs (See WAF Article)
7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

December 3
First Sunday of Advent: Hope
Communion
8:30am Early Worship (Chapel)
9:00am Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
9:15am Coffee and Fellowship (Perrin Room)
10:00am Sunday School (9:45am Gathering Time)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
4:00pm Chamber Singers' Concert (Sanctuary)

Looking Forward

December 6
Advent Workshop

December 12
JOY Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

December 13
White Gifts Service

December 17
Lessons and Carols
(9am - Fogartie Hall and 11am - Sanctuary)
Celebration of the Ministry of Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Young Adult Christmas Party

Front Cover: "Jesus Feeds the Hungry" by Tony Fischer
from Art in the Christian Tradition,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN
Original source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/tonythemisfit/3254449443.

Parts of today's liturgy are from the Abingdon Worship Annual.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Whosoever will reign with Christ in heaven,
must have Christ reigning in him on earth."

- John Wesley

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. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship and Communications

Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care and Deacons

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

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

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

Grace deMaine
Associate Director, Youth Ministry

Carrie Coleman
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Pano Stathakis
Director of Hospitality

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

Caroline Goodman
Communications Director

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Ian Ritchings
Administrative Assistant
Missions, Young Adults, Communications

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin to Music

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians

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