

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD • GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA
704.864.2651 • www.fpcgastonia.org • streaming live

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Worship

WE GATHER FOR GOD'S WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Please use this time to silently prepare for worship.

PRELUDE & SILENT MEDITATION

"Fugue from Sonata No. 6"

Felix Mendelssohn

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jill Kimbirl

The revelation of God is whole and pulls our lives together. The signposts of God are clear and point out the right road.

The life-maps of God are right, showing the way to joy. The directions of God are plain and easy on the eyes.

God's reputation is twenty-four-karat gold, with a lifetime guarantee. The decisions of God are accurate down to the nth degree.

God's Word is better than a diamond, better than a diamond set between emeralds. You'll like it better than strawberries in spring, better than red, ripe strawberries.

†HYMN #440

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

ABERYSTWYTH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We know the commandment:

You shall not murder;

You shall not commit adultery;

You shall not steal;

You shall not bear false witness;

You shall not defraud;

Honor your father and your mother.

We are sure we follow them but instead, we cannot let go of the things we think we need or what we think is important. We do not follow you, or love you, O God, with all our hearts, our minds, our strength. We refrain from giving our whole selves to you.

Forgive our disobedience,

Our lack of commitment,
And our desire to focus on material things
Instead of on your will for us.
In the name of our Teacher, Jesus Christ,
Who gave his whole life for the sake of the gospel.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Be at peace with God and one another, for in Christ, we are all forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

†GLORIA PATRI #581

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM

"New Wine"

Ligertwood

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 3:1-10

GOSPEL READING

Mark 10:17-31

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Lead Me to the Cross

SERMON

"Follow Me – The Challenge of Discipleship"

Rev. Brad Simpson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN #724

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ANGEL'S STORY

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Tithes and offerings may be presented online at www.fpcgastonia.org/giving or by scanning the QR code on the right.



OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Go To Dark Gethsemane"

Alec Rowley

†DOXOLOGY #606

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD'S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #69 (verse 1 and refrain)

"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

HERE I AM

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

"Toccata on Jesus, Lover Of My Soul"

David Bednall

†If you are able, please stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

EASTER LILY DEADLINE

Today — To honor or memorialize someone with a lily, please complete the enclosed form and make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church, noting "Lily" in the memo line. Return the form and your check by mailing it to the church.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Today, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall — FPC is participating in Rise Against Hunger after today's service. If you haven't signed up yet but want to participate, please sign up at the table in the Fellowship Hall.

FINAL LENTEN LUNCH

Wednesday, March 20, 12:00 p.m., FUMC — Churches in the community are hosting Lenten lunches and worship every Wednesday during Lent, with donations supporting Displaced Roses and CAM. For transportation, meet under the Chapel Portico at 11:30 a.m.

PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 24 — Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with Thrive and Traditional services at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Following the services, there will be a church-wide Easter Egg Hunt for children, and we encourage you to bring your own baskets.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES/OPPORTUNITIES

FPC Gastonia is holding multiple opportunities for mission and worship. Please see the Holy Week/Easter insert for more information about services and events.

PLANNED GIVING SUNDAY AND LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 14 — First Presbyterian Church will celebrate Planned Giving Sunday during worship and follow with a luncheon for all members of the 1882 Giving Circle. If you would like to learn more about Planned Giving, please scan the QR code below.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesday, April 17, 12:00 p.m. — We're forming a Caregiver Support Group to offer assistance to caregivers both within and outside our faith community. You can express your interest through the Realm Connect App, by calling or emailing the Minister of Visitation, Grady Moseley, or simply by showing up.

WOMEN'S CONNECTION RETREAT

August 9-11 — We're putting together a group for this year's Women's Connection Retreat at Montreat Conference Center; only 3 spots are left. Secure your spot by emailing Mary Taneti at mtaneti@fpcgastonia.org as soon as possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FPC GASTONIA,
SCAN THE QR CODE!



WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church - where faith is alive! Your presence here is our honor and joy. We pray that your heart is encouraged, that the Word is clear, and that you go from this place renewed and refreshed in search of an ever deeper connection with our awesome God! If you would like more information about First Presbyterian Church, please sign the welcome forms in your pew or stop by the welcome table to receive a gift in gratitude for your presence with us.

NURSERY CARE

Professional nursery care is offered for infants and children up to four years old. The nursery is located on the first floor; please see an usher for directions.

PASTORAL STAFF OFFICE HOURS*

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford	Mondays 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*
Rev. Brad Simpson	Mondays 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*
Mary Taneti	Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*
Rev. Grady Moseley	By appointment
Jill Kimbirl	By appointment

*Throughout the week, the ministry of the pastoral staff will lead them to meetings at church, beside the hospital bed, homes of members, and elsewhere in the community in order to serve the mission of FPC. Although they are always available by appointment, they will also be available in their offices for unannounced visits during office hours. Be sure to come on by and say hello!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford - Senior Pastor
Rev. Brad Simpson - Associate Pastor
Mary Taneti - Director of Faith Formation
Rev. Grady Moseley - Minister of Visitation
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Caleb Hayes - Director of Communications
Kensie Hayes - Receptionist
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries
David Jennings - Organist
Jill Kimbirl - Pastoral Assistant
David McFadden - Business Administrator
Ana Meyer - Financial Secretary
Cheryl Mims - Director of Mother's Morning Out
Sherry Moore - Administrative Assistant
Rodney Owens - Maintenance Supervisor
Becky Rowland - Director of Presbyterian Weekday School
Matt Smith - Thrive Music Leader & Audio/Visual Supervisor

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Brad Simpson, Mary Taneti, Jill Kimbirl, Bethany Jennings, David Jennings, Matt Smith, Thrive Band

Holy Week

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 24

Palm Sunday

Thrive | 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Sunday School | 10:00 a.m.

Traditional | 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt

12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

will move to the **indoors should there be inclement weather*

MARCH 25–28

Stations of the Cross

Monday–Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Monday–Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Drop by the Sanctuary the week of March 25-28 to participate in an immersive prayer experience through the Stations of the Cross. A self guided meditation may be done between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., or from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday.

MARCH 28

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship with Communion

6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

MARCH 29

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Childcare will be provided for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

Easter

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 31

Easter Services

Sunrise Service | 7:00 a.m., Columbarium*

Thrive | 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Traditional | 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Flowering of the Cross

A flower cross will be located at the Narthex entrance of the sanctuary. You are invited to bring fresh flowers and place them on the cross to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

will move to the **Chapel should there be inclement weather*

Missions

Join us in giving back this season!

During Lent, we're collecting canned goods and money for S.O.C.K.S. (Serving Our Community with Kindness in Springwood). You can drop off donations in the boxes near the Fellowship Hall or Narthex. All Holy Week offerings will go to S.O.C.K.S.

Easter Lilies

In keeping with our tradition, the sanctuary will once again be adorned with lilies for Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor or memorialize someone with a lily presented as a witness to the Resurrection of Christ, please complete the form by Sunday, March 17 with a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "Lily" in the memo line. Return the form and your check by mailing it to the church.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, you can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, providing hope through rebuilding efforts, and working with communities to promote self-development.

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone by participating in this offering, please complete the inserted form with a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church with "OGHS" in the memo line. Return the form and your check by mailing it to the church.