

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 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

11:00 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

The Carolina Brass

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Mark 11:1-10)

Jill Kimbirl

Jesus sent his disciples to get a donkey, for the Lord needed it. He entered Jerusalem as it was foretold, with the people proclaiming,

Hosanna!

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields, proclaiming,

Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

As Jesus entered the gates of Jerusalem, some went ahead while others followed, proclaiming,

Hosanna! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Just as the people of Jerusalem gathered, so too we gather to welcome our Lord and King!

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

†HYMN #197

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

ELLACOMBE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess that, too often, we fail to follow you when it counts. Instead of surrendering our entire lives to you, we only give what is convenient to us. Instead of trusting in your way, we wander down our own broken paths. Instead of proclaiming your Good News, spread messages of hate, fear, and apathy. Forgive us when we don't follow your Son to the cross. As we embrace the new life he gives us, show us how to make him our way, truth, and life, *(silent confession)* 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

King's Cadence

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Mark 14:53-65

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

SERMON SERIES

Lead Me to the Cross

SERMON

"Surrender or Die"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

King's Cadence

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Confession of 1967)

Rev. Brad Simpson

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of all humans. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for humanity when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all men and women, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

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

King's Cadence

†DOXOLOGY #607

†DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

WE COMMIT TO SHARE GOD’S WORD

†SENDING HYMN #196

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

The Carolina Brass

†If you are able, please stand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

EASTER EGG HUNT

Today, After Traditional Worship, Fellowship Hall — All children from nursery to 5th grade are invited to participate in our Easter Egg Hunt. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the traditional worship service. Please bring your own baskets and prepare for an egg-cellent time!

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.

OFFICE CLOSINGS FOR EASTER

FPC Gastonia will close for Easter on Friday at 12:00 noon and remain closed through Monday, April 1.

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. - 1:00 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.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

We'd love to hear from you! Have you had a chance to share your thoughts through our Congregational Communications Survey yet? Your feedback is incredibly valuable to us. Please take a moment to complete either the hard copy or digital survey by March 31st. Your input truly matters to us.

**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 THRIVE WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Brad Simpson, Mary Taneti, Jill Kimbirl, Matt Smith, Thrive Band, Young Presbyterians

LEADING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford, Rev. Brad Simpson, Mary Taneti, Jill Kimbirl, Bethany Jennings, Ginger Wyrick, Sanctuary Choir, The Carolina Brass, King's Cadence

THRIVE

March 24, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG
"God Welcomes All/Hosanna"

Bell/Brown/Baloché

WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jill Kimbirl

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST GOSPEL READING
Mark 11:1-10

Mary Taneti

ANTHEM
"Hosanna, Hosanna"

Young Presbyterians

SECOND GOSPEL READING
Mark 14:53-65

SERMON SERIES
"Lead Me to the Cross"

SERMON
"Surrender or Die"

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION
"Lead Me To The Cross"

B. Ligertwood

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Brad Simpson

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†SENDING HYMN (chorus only)
"Lead Me To The Cross"

B. Ligertwood

†BLESSING

†If you are able, please stand.