



Segregated Drinking Fountains in North Carolina, Mid-20th Century

FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Fifth Sunday
of Easter
Sunday, May 15, 2022
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ps. 148

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

Praise God in the heights!

Praise the Lord, sun, moon, and all you shining stars!

Praise God, you highest heavens, and the chaos above the heavens!

People of every age, gender, race, and station:

Praise the Lord!

*OPENING PRAYER

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*HYMN 15

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Trusting in the love of God to make all things new, let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you command us to love one another, yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace. You command us to care for all of creation, yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through carelessness. You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus, yet we too often walk our own way. Forgive us, O God. Guide us as we work toward a new heaven here on earth. Lead us to reconciliation and a vision for your beloved community, as we share your love with your people everywhere.

Silence is kept.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are a part of God's transformed creation. God is among us making all things new. Claim this grace. Know God's forgiveness. Rise with Christ to a life made new.
Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

*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.*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 300)

*We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God of promise, your word made flesh in Jesus Christ is trustworthy and true. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may it rise up in us this day like a gift from the spring of the water of life to refresh our thirsty souls. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:1-6 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acts 11:1-18 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Us vs. Them”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Confession of 1967

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The

church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING *We Shall Walk Through the Valley* arr. Wagner

*THE 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.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. You may take communion by taking a small piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Pre-packaged elements are also available in baskets for a contact-free option.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living Christ, as you open the scriptures to us you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Let us now go forth from this place, fed at your table and filled by the Spirit, to walk with you all the days of our lives, and proclaim the glory of your resurrection to all the world. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Ashley Hicks*

Communion Servers: *Janice Odom & Brad Smith*

The Life of the Church

Vacation Bible School will be held June 6-10. Kids age 4 through 5th grade will gather from 9am-Noon to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world as we celebrate our call to be caretakers of God's creation.

Register online at bit.ly/FPCVBS2022. We will need many volunteers to pull off a special week for our young people. Contact Stephanie Dube or Jeff Moles if you are interested in helping.



On Pentecost Sunday, June 5, we will hold a celebration of the creative arts following worship. This will be an opportunity for members of our church community to share their creativity with us all – painting, quilting, crafting, photography, and more. There will be more information soon about how to participate.

Christian Education Committee will meet today following worship in the Library.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.





First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive
community of faith called to proclaim
the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people,
and to join God in the building of a
just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



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Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Patrick Ritsch, Organist
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Kevin Parker, Staff Accountant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Kate Bowley, Nursery Care Provider