



First Presbyterian Church

of Raleigh, North Carolina

Serving Christ from the Heart of the City to the Ends of the Earth with Love, Faith and Action.

April 19, 2026

3rd Sunday of Easter

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Introit

Holy One, You Hear Our Longings

French Carol
harm. Richard Proulx

Call to Worship

We declare what was from the beginning.

We declare what we have heard and seen regarding the Word of Life.

We declare that in the risen Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.

In gratitude for this and our many blessings, let us worship God.

*Hymn 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH
DIR GEBEN

(11:00) Pathfinders will sing verse 1,
Congregation will sing all Refrains and verses 2-4

Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Mighty God, we confess that our faith is often weak. We trust only what we know and forget that you are a part of all things. We rely solely on self, instead of relying on you. Forgive us and remind us of your constant, loving presence in our lives. Turn our belief into trust, and our hope into action. Hear our silent prayers of confession, offered before your throne of grace.

(Let us continue our confession in silence)

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Pardon

Friends in Christ, in response to this gift of God's grace, how then shall we live?

With gratitude, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.

This is the way of Jesus, in whom we find life!

Welcome to Worship! Some notes about the service:

*An asterisk denotes standing, in body or spirit.

Words in bold are read aloud by the congregation.

In this season of Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and his encounters with the disciples as the Risen Lord.

Having sung our praises to God in the hymn, we now must face the sinful state of the world and our lives by confessing our sins. This turn from communal praise to corporate confession, established on the promise of God's grace, is one of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition.

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

We Listen and Respond to God’s Word

Children’s Moment (11:00)

Beth Thaxton

Hymn 399 *God Welcomes All*

**God welcomes all, stranger and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.**

*After the Children’s Moment, children ages 4 - 2nd gr. are invited to the
Library for Children’s Church and will return following the sermon.*

Prayer for Illumination

Barger Jeutter (8:30) | John Burns (11:00)

Scripture Reading

1 John 1:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Day of Arising

Carl Schalk

(8:30) Anna Rushing and Mark Woodcock; (11:00) Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

John 20:24-29

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

During Eastertide, our sermon series is called, “Lessons from the Risen Christ.”

Sermon

“Do Not Doubt but Believe”

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Silent Reflection

*Hymn 255

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

O FILII ET FILIAE

A Declaration of Faith was written in 1977 by the Southern Presbyterian Church. It was designed to be used in worship or for personal devotion.

*Affirmation of Faith: from A Declaration of Faith

We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God. We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. Amen.

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession 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.

Response to Prayer | Hymn 601

DANISH AMEN



An Invitation to Give An Offering

Offertory

Four Songs for Voice and Violin,
movements 1 and 2; Owen Beal violin

Gustav Holst

*Doxology | Hymn 609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

We Carry God's Word into the World

*Hymn 245

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

LLANFAIR

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response | Hymn 543 stanza 1

**God, be the love to search and guide me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.**

Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

Postlude on LLANFAIR

Timothy Albrecht

Our offering is a gift in response to God's love and care for each of us. The offering is used to support staff, maintain church property, to offer resources to our community through our important outreach ministries, and many other things. Your giving is deeply appreciated.

Scan here to give online:



As worship begins in expectation of the holy, it ends with obedience to the holy. We endeavor to leave this place and serve a hurting world as Jesus did.

Anthem

Day of arising, Christ on the roadway,
unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him, as fades the first day,
and bread is broken, Christ is made known.

When we are walking, doubtful and dreading,
blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us ever awaiting
our invitation: Stay, do not part.

Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken.
This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:
when the church gathers, when bread is broken,
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.

Christ, our companion, hope for the journey,
bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning
that all creation with you may rise.

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of
H. Mac Fuller and Joyce Fuller by their family.

Staff Directory | 919-821-5750

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger	Senior Pastor (Ext. 2206)
The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher	Associate Pastor (Ext. 2208)
The Rev. Dr. Ernie Thompson	Parish Associate
The Rev. Judy Pidcock	Parish Associate
Beth Thaxton	Director of Family Ministries & Christian Education
Betsy Williams	Director of Youth Ministries
Kathy Johnson	Director of Community Outreach
Rita Harris	Outreach Assistant
Mark Woodcock	Director of Music
Lindsay Anne McCall	Director of Children & Youth Music
Dr. Karl Zinsmeister	Organist
Gail Barrett	Church Administrator
Jean Suber	Director of Communications
Melani Harrison	Finance Assistant/Office Manager
Russell Clark	Facilities Manager
Brooke Barrett	Sexton
Tyler Elrod	Audio Visual Lead Tech
Valerie Chassereau	Director of Child Development Center

Scan the QR code
for ways to become
connected to our
ministries.



On the Calendar This Week April 19 – April 25

Sunday – Mission Fair 8:00am-1:00pm | Early Worship 8:30am | Sunday School 9:45am
Late Worship 11:00am | New Member Reception 12:00pm | Mahjong Group 1:00pm
Pathfinders & ROCK Stars 5:00pm | Youth Program 5:30pm

Monday, April 20 – Staff Meeting 1:00pm

Tuesday, April 21 – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00am | CDC Chapel 10:30am | Handbell Rehearsal 2:45pm

Wednesday, April 22 – Early Birds 6:30am | CDC Music 10:00am | Session 6:00pm

Thursday, April 23 – Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

Friday, April 24 – No activities or events scheduled for the day.

Saturday, April 25 – No activities or events scheduled for the day.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Youth Sunday

On Sunday, April 26, our seniors will be our preachers and our youth (6-11th grade) will write and lead prayers, liturgy, minister through music, usher, and more. We hope that you will be able to join us for one of our worship services and support our youth.

Book Club with Laurie

Join us as we discuss the popular book, "Theo of Golden," by Allen Levi. With themes of connection and neighborliness, as well as curiosity about how we really know people, this book is a delightful read and begs to be discussed. Join us on Wednesday, April 29 at noon for an in-person discussion, or at 7pm for a zoom conversation. Go to fpcraleigh.org/events to register. The church library has copies of the book for you to check out!

Nominations for Church Officers: Class of 2029

The 2026 Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the office of Elder and Deacon, Class of 2029. Nomination forms are available in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space or the Edge Lobby. Please place the completed form(s) in the box found in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space (near the photos of our ministers) or in Cindy Elderkin's mailbox on the 2nd floor of the Edge building by April 26.

First Friday

FPC will be at First Friday in Moore Square on Friday, May 1 from 5-9 p.m. and we would love for you to stop by and see us! There will be lots to do for the whole family: pinwheels for the kids, food vendors, movie ("The Incredibles" which begins at 7:30), live music, vendor markets, art galleries and studios to visit in the area. Bring your blankets and chairs for the movie and enjoy the evening in downtown Raleigh!

Adult Fellowship Lunch & Bingo: Cinco de Mayo

Grab your sombreros and your lucky bingo cards—it's time for a fiesta! Join us for an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship as we celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Join us Tuesday, May 5 from 11:00 - 1:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Bring your appetite, your competitive spirit, and maybe a little flair—bright colors and festive hats encouraged! Invite a friend or two—because everything's better when we celebrate together. There is no cost to attend but we do need you to register. RSVP by May 1 online at fpcraleigh.org/events, call the church office at 919 821-5750, or sign up in the event registration book at the reception desk in the Edge Lobby.

FPC Shares Item for April

This month's FPC Shares item is Peanut Butter and Jelly! Bring this item and/or your favorite non-perishable food donations to the church. There are FPC Shares receptacles on both sides of the Edge Lobby and in two places in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space outside the sanctuary.

Mission Highlight

FPC Mission Fair

Come One! Come All! Adults and children are invited to the Mission Fair. The Mission Committee is hosting a Mission Fair today, Sunday, April 19th, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in Memorial Hall. There will also be light snacks and games.

Did you know that there are over 40 mission agencies that First Presbyterian Church Raleigh either contributes money, space, and/or time to support? How many can you name?

Representatives from the FPC Foundation will also be in attendance to answer any questions. The FPC Foundation annually provides impactful gifts to our mission partners through its grant process, which enhances the ability of our congregation to support the great work these agencies do, both in our community and around the world.

Come and visit the displays and talk with a representative to learn more about some of the missions that we support with prayers, service, space, and funds. Perhaps you will be touched by one or two in particular. Please come and open your heart to FPC Missions!