



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.

March 29, 2026

Palm/Passion Sunday

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Introit

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Call to Worship

As Jesus came to us in humility, a king riding on a colt,
so come to us now, in this place of quiet sanctuary.

And as those praised you as King and Lord,
**so will we praise you as we seek to offer you our faithful
worship this day.**

*Hymn 197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

ELLACOMBE

Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

We confess that we have sinned, and although we would like to deny it, we have forsaken you. We are horrified by the suffering we cause—to you, to ourselves, and to the world you have created. Open the gates of your forgiveness and restore us in your love, for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Let us continue our confession in silence)

Kyrie Eleison | Hymn 575

KYRIE ELEISON (Pardini)

**Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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.

Palm Sunday begins

Holy Week, a time in

the church year when

we remember how

Christ gave his life in

love for the world.

Holy Week continues

with Maundy

Thursday, when we

remember the Last

Supper, Good Friday,

when we remember
the crucifixion of Jesus,
and ends on Easter
Sunday, when we
celebrate the
resurrection. Join us
for each of these
services this week to
immerse yourself in
the full story of Holy
Week.

**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

Mary Jo Littlewood

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

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

When the Bible has been read, its message is then proclaimed in a sermon or other form of exposition of God's Word. The God who speaks in scripture speaks to us now. The God who acted in biblical history acts today. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present in the sermon, offering grace and calling for obedience.

Anthem

Ah, Holy Jesus

arr. John Ferguson

The lyrics to the anthem may be found on the back page of the bulletin.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:15-4:1

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

Sermon

The Cruciform Life

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Silent Reflection

*Hymn 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR
GEBEN

*Affirmation of Faith

adapted from 1 Corinthians 1

We believe that the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For we proclaim Christ crucified and Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Therefore, we affirm our desire to never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to us, and ourselves to the world. 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 544

BLESS THE LORD (Taize)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

An Invitation to Give An Offering

Offertory *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* Georg Friedrich Kauffmann
(1679-1735)

*Doxology | Hymn 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

We Carry God's Word into the World

*Hymn 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Litanies

Jehan Alain (1911-40)

Chiming of the Trinity

Our offering to God is our whole lives. During the offertory, we consider what we will give to God in gratitude for God's forgiveness and love to us each. Part of that is giving a part of what we have back to God, to be used for God's work in the world.

Scan here to give online:



During the Season of Lent, the congregation is invited to be seated for the Postlude. Our postlude today is entitled, *Litanies*. *Litanies* is based on an ancient chant melody: heard at times alone and often superimposed on modern harmonies and driving rhythm. These elements along with the frequent alteration between major and minor represent the journey of Holy Week.

Anthem

Ah, holy Jesus how have you offended,
that mortal judgement has on you descended?
By foes derided, by your own rejected,
O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, has undone you.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you;
I crucified you.

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave has sinned, and the Son has suffered;
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.

For me, kind Jesus, was you incarnation,
You mortal sorrow and your life's oblation,
Your death was anguish, and your bitter Passion,
For my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay you,
I do adore you, and will ever pray you,
Think on your pity and your love unswerving,
not my deserving.

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God in honor of our First Presbyterian Family and friends, given by Tommy and Holly West.

The palm fronds are dedicated to the glory of God and are given by Sue Mizelle in loving memory of her husband, Jim Mizelle and her daughter, Ann Mizelle Speck.

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



On the Calendar This Week March 29 – April 4

Palm Sunday - Early Worship 8:30am | Sunday School 9:45am | Called Congregational Meeting 10:45am | Late Worship 11:00am

Monday, March 30 – Staff Meeting 1:00pm

Tuesday, March 31 – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00am | CDC Chapel 10:30am
Lenten Small Group 12:00pm

Wednesday, April 1 – Early Birds 6:30am | CDC Board Meeting 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – Knitting Group 10:00am
Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 3 – Good Friday Worship Service 12:00pm
Good Friday Worship Service 7:00pm

Saturday, April 4 – No activities or events scheduled for the day.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Called Congregational Meeting

There will be a called Congregational Meeting this morning, at 10:45 a.m. for the purposes of the election of the Nominating Committee and the approval of the Pastors' Terms of Call.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship Service - we begin Holy Week together. On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when crowds waved palm branches and cried, "Hosanna!" We will have two times for this worship service: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service - we gather to remember the night Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples and gave the commandment to love one another. This worship service will be at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Worship Service - we remember the suffering and crucifixion of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We will have two times for this worship service: 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship Service - we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the victory of life over death. We will have two times for this worship service: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt & Resurrection Celebration

Children and families are invited to join us on Easter Sunday at 9:45 am as we celebrate our Risen Lord! We will meet in the Sanctuary to hear the Easter story and then walk over to the Capitol grounds to hunt for eggs. Be sure to bring a basket. Once the eggs have been hunted and photos have been taken, we will head to Memorial Hall for a Resurrection Celebration and enjoy snacks and Easter-themed crafts.

What Does it Mean to be Presbyterian?

Designed for folks new to the denomination or those looking to refresh their memory, this four week Sunday school class will explore the theology and practice of Presbyterians. All are welcome! Class will be held at 9:45am in the Parlor (Just off the Lisa Ham Gathering Space) on Sunday April 12, 19, 26 and May 3.

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.

FPC Shares Item for April

Next 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

Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM) of Raleigh is a vital ministry of the New Hope Presbytery. Founded in the late 1920's at West Raleigh Presbyterian Church, its vision is to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God through ministry to, with, and for college students in the Raleigh area. An extension of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA), PCM of Raleigh seeks to be a unique voice of God's grace on the college campuses in our community.

PCM strives to provide a spiritual and nurturing home for college students while preparing the students to be future church leaders, both lay and professional, or to be future community leaders and activists. The evidence of the effectiveness of a student-based faith organization can be seen through the number of active participants and the great work they are doing in the community.

Students participate in weekly meetings at West Raleigh Presbyterian Church and local service projects, as well as embark on Mission Trips during school breaks.

Annual financial support from the FPC Mission Budget goes to help fund PCM's campus minister, Rev. Ashley Anne Masters, as well as provide meals and yearly programming.

FPC members, David Poisson and Eleanor Burns, are current PCM Raleigh Board of Directors members.

Continue to pray for the PCM ministry and their students as they enter the last several months of the semester.

Depression, suicide, societal pressures, and the anxiety that students face with a grueling school calendar and academic load can be a lot for young adults to work through. The hospitality and welcome of partnership churches can assist in comforting these students. As a community of faith, we should remain open to the presence of these young adults who may only be passing through our congregation, yet are in desperate need of a place to call home.

To learn more about PCM Raleigh, visit <https://www.pcmraleigh.org/>