



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 8, 2026

3rd Sunday in Lent

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Introit *What Does the Lord Require of You?* Jim Strathdee (1986)
See Hymn 70

Call to Worship

Let us hold fast to the Word of Life.

In Jesus Christ, we have found the way, the truth, and the life.

In gratitude for the extravagant grace shared with us,

let us worship God.

*Hymn 269 *Lead On, O King Eternal!* LANCASHIRE

Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Gracious God, we have not always lived our lives in a manner worthy of the Gospel. We have asked for forgiveness without forgiving others. We have called ourselves beloved, without loving others. We have given up on the way of holiness, compassion, and empathy. Forgive us, we pray, and turn our hearts again to Jesus.

(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.

Today is the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Good Friday and Easter. Just as we carefully prepare for the big events in our personal lives, such as weddings or commencements, Lent invites us to make our heart ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

We sing in gratitude for the gift of forgiveness and for God's love made evident in the salvific love of Jesus.

*Response of Gratitude | Hymn 14 stanza 1

DIX

**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 Ian McCaslin (8:30) | Hailey Jennings (11:00)

Scripture Reading Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

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

Anthem *Lord, for Thy tender mercies' sake* Richard Farrant (1530-80)

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

Scripture Reading Philippians 2:1-13

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

Our sermon series this Lent focuses on the Marks of Discipleship. Previously, we have focused on the marks of boldness and gratitude.

Sermon *Marks of A Disciple: Humility* The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Silent Reflection

*Hymn 274 *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd* PICARDY

*Affirmation of Faith from *A Declaration of Faith*

We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority. He did what only God can do. We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness. When he lived as a servant and went humbly to his death, the greatness that belongs only to God was manifest. In both his majesty and lowliness, Jesus is the eternal Son of God, God himself with us. 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 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* arr. M. Burkhardt
See Hymn 224

*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 263 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!* CORONATION

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Adagio* from Symphony No. 3 Loius Vierne (1870-1924)

Chiming of the Trinity

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession is offered on behalf of the whole church. We pray not just for our own congregation or the people we know; we also pray for all those in authority, those undergoing oppression, the poor, hungry, and sick.

During the Season of Lent, the congregation is invited to be seated for the Postlude.

The slow movement for today's postlude aptly represents humility. It's harmonies evolve and build tension with notes outside of our expectation. Humility is not a task to be completed, but a continual process by which we are called to live our lives.

Anthem

Lord, for Thy tender mercies' sake,
lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
to decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk, with a perfect heart before Thee now and evermore.
Amen.

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory
of Clarence Frizzell by his wife, Janice Frizzell.

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ministries.



On the Calendar This Week March 8 – March 14

Today – Early Worship 8:30am | Sunday School 9:45am | Late Worship 11:00am
Youth Subcommittee Planning Retreat 2:00pm | Pathfinders & ROCK Stars 5:00pm | Youth Group 5:30pm
Circle 9 5:30pm

Monday, March 9 – Circle 4 10:30am | Staff Meeting 1:00pm

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

Wednesday, March 11 – Early Birds 6:30am | Committee Meetings 6:00pm

Thursday, March 12 – Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

Friday, March 13 – No events or activities scheduled.

Saturday, March 14 – No events or activities scheduled.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Lenten Small Group

Join us for a Lenten Small Group on Tuesdays during Lent. Bring your own lunch while we discuss "Meeting Jesus at the Table" led by Beth Thaxton. We will meet on the Third Floor in the Edge Lobby from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. All are welcome. Dates are: Tuesday, March 10; Tuesday, March 17; Tuesday, March 24; Tuesday, March 31.

PW Honorary Lifetime Membership Reception

The congregation is invited to join PW as they recognize two church members for their faithful service to FPC Raleigh and our community at large. Honorees will be announced at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on March 15 and all are invited to the reception afterwards in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space where we will celebrate their accomplishments.

Adult Fellowship: Coffee & Donuts

Join us for a delightful morning of fellowship, laughter, and sweet treats on Tuesday, March 17 from 10:00am-12:00pm in the Edge Lobby. This special time of connection is a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends and meet new faces. All are welcome so please bring a friend!

Keyboard Harmony: Eric Wall and Karl Zinsmeister

Today at 3:00pm our wonderful organist, Dr. Karl Zinsmeister, will be playing a joint organ recital at White Memorial Presbyterian Church as a part of the Sounds on Oberlin Concert Series. The diverse program, which includes works by J. Cook, G. Walker, J.S. Bach, D. Pinkham, C. Ore, D. Locklair, F. Price, C. Franck, and M. Dupre, is open and free to the public.

Let's Mahjong Again

Do you love to play Mahjong or have you ever wanted to learn? Hope Carmichael, Anne Otersen, and Kathy Johnson are continuing the Mahjong fun! Our second session will be on Sunday, March 15th, after the PW HLM reception. Grab a snack at the reception and then we will play in the Edge Lobby from 1-3pm. All skill levels are welcome! No cost, but please register online at <https://www.fpcraleigh.org/events>

Called Congregational Meeting

There will be a called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at 10:45 a.m. for the purposes of this meeting are the election of the Nominating Committee and the approval of the Pastors' Terms of Call.

Red Cross Blood Drive

First Presbyterian Church is trying to help the Red Cross overcome a blood donation shortfall. Please consider donating blood and providing a critical lifesaving need. You can make a difference!! Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM in Memorial Hall. Register today at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=FirstPresbyterianRaleigh>

FPC Shares Item for March

This month's FPC Shares item is Canned Spaghetti or Ravioli! 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

One Great Hour of Sharing

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and Self-Development of People (SDOP)– all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Scripture reminds us time and again that God's people belong with those in need, releasing people from the bonds of injustice and with the hungry whom we are to welcome into our homes. The Church finds itself with those who are thirsty, imprisoned, and suffering illness, as Jesus says in Matthew 25. "When did we see you?"– in a time of need, in a time of weakness? In a time of hunger, in a time of thirst?

We are reminded that in every time and season, the Church finds itself through relationships with those in need. We belong in this place, not just to help address those needs, though that is surely part of it. We belong there, also, because it is through relationships that we might be transformed, too, as we become/experience/create/live the Church, together.

For more than 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has been the largest way Presbyterians come together to do mission and ministry with those whom we see are in need. Through these gifts, we declare that the Church belongs with people who we see suffering from the terrors of howling winds and natural disasters. The Church finds itself with those whom we see are thirsty because of too few water wells, and with those who are thirsty because of a lack of political will and the failure of powers and principalities to act to secure safe water for everyone. The Church belongs always, and forever, with those struggling for justice, righteousness, and peace.

Received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need and to work for a better world.

If you would like to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing, please send a check to the church made out to First Presbyterian Church, and notate One Great Hour of Sharing in the memo line.