

# 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.*

May 10, 2026

6th Sunday of Easter

## We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

*Four Songs for Voice and Violin  
Movement 3, I sing of a maiden*

Gustav Holst

Call to Worship

We gather together to worship our God,

**who is the source of our hope!**

We confess our faith in Jesus Christ,

**and witness to him by our love for one another.**

We are guided by the Spirit.

**Let us worship the triune God!**

\*Hymn 802

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ST. COLUMBA

Prayer of Confession

**Wondrous and generous God, you have blessed us with so much, and yet we are often hardhearted and tight-handed. We hold onto our blessings and think little of sharing them. We hide our talents and turn away from the needs of others. Release us, Holy One, from fear and create in us a contagious spirit of giving that touches the world with hope.**

*(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.**

“The word worship comes from the Old English root: “worth-ship.” It suggests something or someone worthy of honor, glory and praise. As a noun, worship can mean an act of reverence, a religious practice, or a feeling of respect. It is, in ordinary and universal use, a sign of worth.

But for Christians, it might be better to think of worship as a verb. To worship is to love the one who first loved us. To worship is to bless the one from whom all blessings flow. To worship it to show our gratitude for God's amazing grace. To worship is to give your life to the giver of life.”--David Gambrell

**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)

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.*

In the familiar words of Psalm 23, because God is a faithful shepherd and protector, the psalmist is confident that life will be filled with goodness and mercy.

### Prayer for Illumination

Mary Jo Littlewood (8:30)  
Lincoln Burns (11:00)

### Scripture Reading

Psalm 23

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

Many thanks to Anna Rushing, Kathy Johnson, Evan McCaskill, David Kesterson and Bill Miller for singing the anthem at the 8:30 a.m. service.

### Anthem

*The Lord is my strength*

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

### Scripture Reading

John 21:15-19

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

### Sermon

*Feed My Sheep*

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

### Silent Reflection

\*Hymn 720

*Jesus Calls Us*

GALILEE

\*Affirmation of Faith:

from *The Study Catechism*

How do you live for the love of God?

**I love because God first loved me. Amazed by grace, I live for the Lord who died and rose again triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially those in need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than me. Amen.**

In 1998, the General Assembly of the PCUSA approved the Study Catechism as a teaching tool of the church.

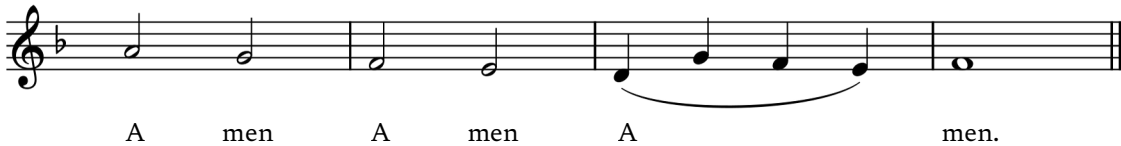
## Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

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*  
Movement 4, *My Leman is so true*

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 295

*Go to the World!*

SINE NOMINE

\*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

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

arr. Mark Sedio

In the broadest sense, our offering to God refers to the dedication of our lives to God, with gratitude for God's self-giving love in Jesus Christ. Our offering is also a giving of financial support for God's work in the world.

Scan here to give online:



We thank Owen Beal for his musical contributions to today's worship on the violin in both the Introit and Offertory.

## Introit

I sing of a maiden that matchless is:  
King of all Kings was her Son iwis\*.  
He came all so still where his mother was  
As dew in April that falleth of grass:  
He came also still to His mother's bower  
As dew in April that falleth on flower:  
He came all so still where his mother lay  
As dew in April that formeth on spray.  
Mother and maiden was ne'er none but she:  
Well may such a lady God's mother be.

\* "surely"

## Anthem

The Lord is my strength, my strength and my song,  
and is become my salvation.  
I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of God.

O Lord of all, with us abide,  
In this our joyful Eastertide,  
From ev'ry weapon death can wield  
Thine own redeemed forever shield.  
All praise be thine, O risen Lord,  
From death to endless life restored.

All praise to God the Father be,  
And Holy Ghost eternally.  
Amen.

## Offertory

My Leman\* is so true of love and full steadfast  
Yet seemeth ever new. His love is on us cast.  
I would that all Him knew and loved Him firm and fast,  
They never would it rue but happy be at last.

He lovingly abides although I stay full long;  
He will me never chide although I choose the wrong.  
He says 'Behold My side and why on Rood\*\* I hung;  
For my love leave thy pride And I thee underfong\*\*\*.'  
I'll dwell with Thee believe, Leman, under Thy tree.  
May no pain e'er me grieve Nor make me from Thee flee.  
I will in at Thy sleeve All in Thine heart to be;  
Mine heart shall burst and cleave  
Ere untrue Thou me see.

\* "beloved"

\*\* "cross"

\*\*\* "take back"

---

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory God and are given by Anne and David Blake in memory of their parents, Emma and Elwood Blake, and Bobby and Tom Nelson.

---

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



## **On the Calendar This Week May 10 – May 16**

**Sunday** – Early Worship 8:30am | Sunday School 9:45am | Late Worship 11:00am

**Monday, May 11** – Circle 4 10:30am | Staff Meeting 1:00pm

**Tuesday, May 12** – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00am | CDC Chapel 10:30am | Handbell Rehearsal 2:45pm

**Wednesday, May 13** – Early Birds 6:30am | Committee Meetings 6:00pm-

**Thursday, May 14** – Staff Mission Outing 8:15am | Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

**Friday, May 15** – No activities or events scheduled for the day.

**Saturday, May 16** – No activities or events scheduled for the day.

### **Announcements and Upcoming Events**

#### **Family Cookout at Pullen Park**

Join us for a cookout at Pullen Park on Sunday, May 17 from 2:30-5:00pm at Shelter #3. Hotdogs, hamburgers, and drinks are provided. Please bring a side dish to share! No cost. Registration required. Sign up at [fpcraleigh.org/events](http://fpcraleigh.org/events), on the Realm app, or the events registration book at the receptionist desk in the Edge Lobby.

#### **PW Birthday Celebration and Annual Meeting**

Celebrate with us on May 18, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Our Guest Speaker this year is Katie Lowek, Executive Director, Diaper Train. Cost of Meal is \$10 at the door on May 18 with cash or checks written to FPC, check memo line: PW Birthday Luncheon. RSVP by May 12 during April/May Circle meetings, register online at [fpcraleigh.org/events](http://fpcraleigh.org/events) or sign up in the events registration book at the reception desk. FPC members who are not part of a PW Circle are encouraged to attend!

#### **Summer Worship Schedule**

Beginning Sunday, May 24 we will move to our one-service summer schedule. Join us each week for Sunday School (all ages): 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Worship: at 10:30 a.m.; Community Building Activity: 11:30 a.m. We hope that you will be able to join us throughout the summer!

#### **This Changes Everything: Faith & Everyday Life**

Join us this summer for an all church combined adult Sunday School class exploring how faith speaks into the realities of everyday life. Together, we'll reflect on topics like identity, anxiety, suffering and grief, friendship, community, and more—all grounded in Scripture and meaningful conversation. Come discover how faith truly changes everything. We will gather each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in Memorial Hall. All are welcome!

#### **Note card Writing Community Building Activity**

Join the Congregational Care Committee on Sunday, May 24 after worship for a special card-writing activity for our homebound members. A simple note of encouragement can brighten someone's day and remind them that their church family is thinking of them. Cards, envelopes, pens, and stamps will be provided for this activity. All you need to bring is your kindness and a few moments of your time. Come help us share love, encouragement, and connection with members who are unable to join us in person.

## **Join Us for Pickleball at FPC**

We're bringing back our Pickleball group – Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 in the church gym beginning on Wednesday, May 27. Additional times can be planned if there is enough interest and participation. Beginners are welcome – we'll have some extra racquets and folks ready to teach you how to play if needed. If you have questions or want to be on our mailing list, please contact Ernie Thompson at [ethompson@fpcraleigh.org](mailto:ethompson@fpcraleigh.org).

## **Teacher & Volunteer Appreciation Lunch**

Join us on Sunday, May 31 at 11:30 a.m. in Memorial Hall as we celebrate and give thanks for our incredible teachers and volunteers. Build-Your-Own Salad Bar, Potluck Side Dishes (please bring a favorite to share!) Come enjoy a time of fellowship, gratitude, and celebration as we recognize these amazing servants in ministry. All are welcome! Hosted by the Congregational Life & Christian Education Committees.

## **FPC Shares Item for May**

This month's FPC Shares item is Cereal! 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**

Established in 1953, Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM) of Chapel Hill is a PCUSA Christian community in Chapel Hill creating space for students to belong, believe, and become. UNC PCM strives to provide an inclusive, affirming space for students to explore their faith, ask questions, build community, grow together, and aims to set the foundation for a healthy, authentic, and life-long relationship with God.

They invite Carolina students to:

- **Belong:** engage authentically in an intentionally nurtured community
- **Believe:** expand and deepen their belief and understanding of the Triune God
- **Become:** foster life-giving spiritual practices and invest their gifts in the world.

Primary programming happens on Thursday nights, from 6-8 pm at University Presbyterian Church on Franklin Street and provides a great time to share a home-cooked meal, experience fellowship, and explore faith together. Additionally, there is a weekly Bible study each semester and several retreat opportunities for students throughout the year.

Annual financial support from the FPC Mission Budget goes to help fund PCM's campus ministry programs. Many of our young people have participated in the UNC Campus Ministry program throughout the years. And, Laurie Taylor Weicher participated during her undergraduate days as a Tar Heel.

The hospitality and welcome of partnership churches can assist in the comforting of college 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.

Congratulations to the UNC-CH class of 2026, which graduated yesterday.