



# 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 3, 2026

5th Sunday of Easter

## We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

*In the Garden*

C. Austin Miles

(8:30) Mark Woodcock (11:00) Violet Eckard

Call to Worship

The Lord is present in his sanctuary; **let us praise the Lord.**  
The Lord is present in his people here; **let us praise the Lord.**  
The Lord is present with a message of hope; **let us praise and worship the Lord.**

\*Hymn 805

*Come Sing to God*

ELLACOMBE

Prayer of Confession

**Look deep, loving God, and see us as we really are—yearning to be close to you, yet fearful of what you may ask; desiring to be faithful, yet hesitant to go the extra mile; wanting to be loving, yet resistant to caring in particular situations. Loving God, we are a tangled vine. Prune us and train us to grow in your holy ways.**

*(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.**

We gather in worship to attend to the presence of God in our lives. In worship we see the world in light of God's grace, and go forth with a vision and power for living in the world as God's people. The rhythm of the life of the believer moves from worship to ministry, from ministry to worship.

"In the act of confession the believers step into the freedom of God in which they, too, may be free." - Theologian Karl Barth

We sing our grateful response to God's forgiveness.

\*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

Anthem (11:00)

*Every Morning Sun*  
ROCKstars

Eric Johnon and  
Sue Ellen Page

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.*

Prayer for Illumination

Kathy Johnson (8:30)  
Kathie Cheatham (11:00)

The church confesses the Scriptures to be the Word of God written, witnessing to God's self-revelation. Where that Word is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. For this reason the reading, hearing, preaching, and confessing of the Word are central to Christian worship.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 30

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*The Earth Adorned*

(8:30) Mark Woodcock (11:00) Chancel Choir and Sofia Leander, soprano

Waldemar Åhlén

Scripture Reading

John 21:1-14

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*Present to the Faithful*

Jeffrey Gray,  
Candidate for CRE

Silent Reflection

\*Hymn 39

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

\*Affirmation of Faith

FROM THE STUDY CATHCHISM

**By the Holy Spirit, we are made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. We are baptized into Christ's body, the church, along with all others who confess him by faith. As a member of this community, we trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God constantly in prayer. As we grow in grace and knowledge, we are led to do the good works that God intends for our lives. Amen.**

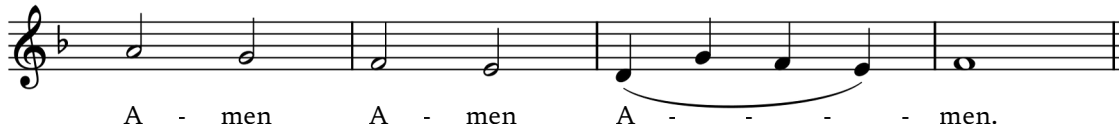
## Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

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

*From the Nets of Our Labors*

John R. Kleinheksel

See Hymn 751

\*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 463

*How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

\*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

Toccata on "ODE TO JOY"

arr. Paul Fey

As we offer our gifts, we praise God for letting us have use of all the resources the Lord has provided and the opportunity to serve on God's behalf.

Scan here to give online:



After we receive our offerings, we take a moment to dedicate them to God's work in our community and in the world. This ritual of setting apart concludes the offering by reminding us that we give not just to an organization but to a faith community called to make God's love visible.

## Anthem

En vänlig grönskas rika dräkt  
har smyckat dal och ängar.  
Nu smeker vindens ljumma fläkt  
de fagra örtes-ängar;  
Och solens ljus och lundens sus  
och vågens sorl bland viden  
förkunna sommartiden.

The earth adorned in verdant robe  
Sends praises upward surging,  
While soft winds breathe on fragrant flowers  
From winter now emerging.  
The sunshine bright gives warmth and light  
To budding blossoms tender,  
Proclaiming summer splendor.

From out the wood, the birds now sing  
And each its song now raises,  
To join with all the universe  
In voicing thankful praises.  
With hope and joy their songs employ  
A rapturous exultation  
In praise of God's creation.

O God, of life,  
Creation's glory beaming,  
Grant us the grace to keep your word  
And live in love redeeming.  
All flesh is grass, the flowers fade,  
And time is fleeting ever;  
God's word remains forever.

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The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given by  
Marie and Scott Trantham, in memory of their parents, Marshall and Margaret  
Trantham, Gerald and Norma Castleberry and Betty Bolin.

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



## On the Calendar This Week May 3 – May 9

**Sunday** – Early Worship 8:30am | Sunday School 9:45am | Late Worship 11:00am  
Pathfinders & ROCK Stars 5:00pm | Youth Family Potluck & Senior Send-off 5:30pm

**Monday, May 4** – Staff Meeting 1:00pm

**Tuesday, May 5** – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00am | CDC Chapel 10:30am | Adult Fellowship 11:00am  
Glenaire Lunch 12:00pm | Handbell Rehearsal 2:45pm

**Wednesday, May 6** – Early Birds 6:30am | CDC Music 10:00am | CDC Board Meeting

**Thursday, May 7** – Knitting Group 10:00am | Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

**Friday, May 8** – No activities or events scheduled for the day.

**Saturday, May 9** – No activities or events scheduled for the day.

### Announcements and Upcoming Events

#### **Guest Preacher: Jeff Gray, Candidate for Commissioned Ruling Elder**

What is a Commissioned Ruling Elder? – Jeff Gray, who delivered today’s sermon, is a long-time member of FPC, Raleigh and a candidate for Commissioned Ruling Elder. So, what is that? A Presbyterian Commissioned Ruling Elder (or “CRE”) is an ordained elder trained and commissioned by a presbytery to provide specific pastoral services, such as leading worship, preaching, administering sacraments, and moderating a Session. Once known as the “commissioned lay pastor” program, the CRE program became a part of the Presbyterian Church USA’s Book of Church Order (G-2.1001) over 30 years ago. This allows churches without an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament to continue to have pastoral leadership. A CRE serves under the supervision of a regional presbytery (for FPC, Raleigh it is New Hope Presbytery) and is commissioned for a term to a specific congregation. Jeff has completed his studies through Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA and is currently in a 12- week supervised ministry under the tutorage of Tara, Laurie, Ernie, Judy, and all the wonderful staff here, trying to learn how to minister to a congregation.

#### **Realm Help Desk**

Need assistance getting started with Realm? Members of the Stewardship Committee will be available at the Help Desk in the Edge Lobby after both worship services this morning. Stop by—we’d be glad to walk alongside you and help you make the most of Realm.

#### **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!

## **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.

## **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**

**ReNew Mobile Showers** is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring dignity and hope for individuals experiencing homelessness, hardship, or emergencies. By providing access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene resources, they meet a critical need for vulnerable populations living in encampments, vehicles, parks, underserved communities, and emergencies. Their mobile shower and laundry trailer travels out into the community, meeting neighbors where they are. The shower service includes everything needed to feel fresh, clean, and rejuvenated. Guests are offered towels, a variety of toiletries, undershirts, bras, socks, and other seasonal items. Their laundry service provides all laundry products. They assist guests with connecting to other community assistance resources. When not offering showers, ReNew Mobile Showers engages in Community Outreach by collaborating with local organizations to distribute hygiene and cleaning products to those in need. They partner with A Place at the Table on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Additionally, Pamela Owens, their founder, distributes pre-packaged hygiene kits to folks experiencing homelessness through her street outreach program.

In 2026, ReNew Mobile Showers became a new mission partner of First Presbyterian Church, and in February, we combined efforts to begin offering showers once a month in our upstairs Stock building showers. After a successful three-month trial period, we are moving to offering showers on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. We need church members to volunteer as ambassadors and help with laundry. Please consider helping with this impactful ministry. Together, we can help restore dignity to individuals, make connections with those on the margins, and show God's love one shower at a time