



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST IS PREEMINENT

May 31, 2026

582 Southwood Drive, Eden, NC, 27288
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IN PREPARATION

“Curse God and die,” declared Job’s wife. Job responded, “Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In Psalm 88, the man has come to the end of his rope. He feels so separated from God that all he sees is death. Life has become a bleak tomb for his soul. He cries out, yet there is no response. In these times, we can either respond with discontent, like Job’s wife, or we can trust that the light and love of Christ is near, like Job. How shall we respond to afflictions, trials, tribulations, and sufferings?

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Welcome, Announcements, & Congregational Greeting

Gospel Greeting

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come – this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Meditation: *Hebrews 6:19–20*

(Recite in Unison)

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Introit & Silent Preparation

* Call to Worship: *Isaiah 34:1*

Leader: Draw near, O nations, to hear, and give attention, O peoples!

All: Let the earth hear, and all that fills it; the world, and all that comes from it.

* Prayer of Invocation

* *Doxology* – Trinity Hymnal #731

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Please stand if you are able.

* *Great is Thy Faithfulness* – Trinity Hymnal #32

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove, join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide, strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

REFRAIN

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

morn - ing new mer - cies I see: all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro -

vid - ed— Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10.ref.
William M. Runyan, 1923

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* *He Will Hold Me Fast* – Sing! Hymnal #598

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
 2. Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;
 3. For my life he bled and died— Christ will hold me fast;

when the tempt-er would pre - vail, he will hold me fast.
 pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.
 jus - tice has been sat - is - fied; he will hold me fast.

I could nev - er keep my hold through life's fear - ful path;
 He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;
 Raised with him to end - less life— he will hold me fast,

for my love is of - ten cold: he must hold me fast.
 bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
 till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last!

He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;

for my Sav - ior loves me so— he will hold me fast.

Reading of Scripture: *Romans 3:1-8*

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, “That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.” But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Corporate and Personal Confession of Sin

(Recite in Unison)

O Father in Heaven, I am a poor sinner who has rebelled against you in thought, word, and deed. My conscience accuses me. The Devil accuses me. The Law accuses me. Yet, I come to your throne through Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, seeking pardon. I abhor my sin and beg of your grace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 2:1-2

(Recite in Unison)

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Giving of Tithing & Offerings

Choir: Anchored to the Rock

*** Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

The Pastoral Prayer: Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

The Lord's Prayer

(Recite in Unison)

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Reception of New Members

* 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus – Trinity Hymnal #679

1. 'Tis so sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to take him at his word;
 2. O how sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to trust his cleans - ing blood;
 3. Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je - sus, just from sin and self to cease;
 4. I'm so glad I learned to trust thee, pre - cious Je - sus, Sav - ior, Friend;

just to rest up - on his prom - ise; just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
 just in sim - ple faith to plunge me 'neath the heal - ing, cleans - ing flood!
 just from Je - sus sim - ply tak - ing life and rest, and joy and peace.
 and I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

REFRAIN
 Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!

Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust him more!

* Prayer of Illumination & The Reading of God's Word

The Preaching of God's Word

PSALM 88 – CHRIST, THE ANCHOR IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS

* *Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor* – Sing! Hymnal #606



1. Christ, the sure and stead-y an-chor, in the fu - ry of the storm;
2. Christ, the sure and stead-y an-chor, while the tem-pest rag-es on.
3. Christ, the sure and stead-y an-chor, through the floods of un-be - lief.
4. Christ, the sure and stead-y an-chor, as we face the waves of death.



when the winds of doubt blow through me and my sails have all been torn.
When temp - ta - tion claims the bat - tle and it seems the night has won,
Hope - less, some-how, O my soul, now lift your eyes to Cal - va - ry!
When these trials give way to glo - ry, as we draw our fi - nal breath,



In the suf - f'ring, in the sor - row, when my sink - ing hopes are few,
deep - er still then goes the an-chor, though I just - ly stand ac - cused.
This my bal - last of as - sur - ance, see his love for - ev - er proved.
we will cross that great ho - ri - zon, clouds be-hind and life se - cure.

Tag: Christ, the shore of our sal - va - tion, ev - er faith - ful, ev - er true.



4th time to Tag

D Bm7 D/A A D

I will hold fast to the an - chor— it shall nev - er be re - moved.
 I will hold fast to the an - chor— it shall nev - er be re - moved.
 I will hold fast to the an - chor— it shall nev - er be re - moved.
 And the calm will be the bet - ter, for the storms that we en - dure.
 We will hold fast to the an - chor— it shall nev - er be re - moved.

*** Benediction: Romans 8:38-39**

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*** Threefold Amen – Trinity Hymnal #740**

A - men, a - men, a - - - men.

DANISH
Anon.

*** Postlude & Dismissal**

While the gathering has ended, service to Christ continues; let us go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit, serving our Lord as His ambassadors!

PRAYER REQUESTS

****If you have a prayer request, please submit it to Jeni Hartley at jbartley@fpcden.org****

Our Congregation

- Frank Parker
- Stuart Peele
- Jonathan Smith
- Rick & Debbie Taylor
- Tristen Wittman and the 109th MP Battalion

Our Missionaries

- Stephanie Black – Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- Ben and Ellie Childs – Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- Al and Joy Doomy – Outreach to Asia Nationals
- Bradley and Jessica Long – Frontier Fellowship
- Brent and Marianne Pilson – Café 1040

Operation World – Germany

Germany's wealth, influence, and location in the EU and Europe could be of great value for the Kingdom of God. This would require strong, courageous leadership based on Christian values, but the spiritual health of Germany is currently in decay. Destructive criticism of the Bible in the 19th century weakened the Church, and opened the way for pagan Nazi rule in the 20th century. Like much of Europe, Germany faces a crisis of spirituality. New Age, the occult, Satanism, and new forms of the old pagan religions all gain followers, but none grow as quickly as the group claiming "no religion". Migrants bring their own versions of faith with them – including vibrant Christianity. Pray for God to raise up leaders who will love righteousness and strong moral values, even when they face temptation to compromise.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Question & Answer #1

Question: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Answer: That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with his precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins, and redeemed me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me, that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation. Wherefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

The Lord's Supper

Our next celebration of the Lord's Supper will be on June 7.

Session

Paul Sasser (2026)
Bruce Nooe – Stated Clerk (2027)
Kenny Mabe (2028)
Everall Peele (2028)
Bill Robertson (2028)
Carter Combs (2029)
Pastor Brad Milks

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bradley Milks
Pastor's Email: brad@fpceden.org
Church Admin Email: office@fpceden.org

Committee Leaders

Building: Bruce Nooe
Missions/Outreach: Paul Sasser
Congregational Life: Pat Smith

Contact Information

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www.youtube.com/@FPCEden

Ministries

Sunday School | Sunday 9:00am
Public Worship | Sunday 10:00am
The Pastor's Study | Wednesday 10:00am
Church Prayer | Wednesday 6:30pm
Choir Practice | Wednesday 7:00pm
Puritan Fellowship | Thursday 7:00am
Women Bible Study | Thursday 6:45pm
Romans Bible Study | Saturday 7:15am

Stewardship – Thru April

Operational Budget

YTD Received \$93,597.15
YTD Expenses \$110,556.36
Budget YTD -\$16,959.21

Building Fund

Building Need: \$55,554.69
Building Received: \$48,640
Building YTD -\$6,914.69

Pennies for Hunger Offering (Missions/Outreach)

Sunday, June 7

Sign Up for Our Emails

Scan the code with your phone and sign up to receive our emails.



NEW TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

We are thankful that you have gathered with us this morning to worship the living triune God, seeing and savoring His glorious grace in the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We pray you encounter the Lord's presence and glory through singing, the fellowship of God's people, and the preaching of His Word.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Block Party! The Missions and Outreach Committee is thrilled to announce that we will have a block party on Saturday, August 1, from 4:00-8:00pm. Our desire is to reach the apartment complexes behind our property; to show them we love them, and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. We will have more details coming in the near future, but for now, put aside this date!

July Discipleship Nights. We are excited to once again provide Wednesday evening discipleship nights during the month of July. We will provide more information in June. If you would like to help, please contact Jennifer Shafer.

To parents with children: We are glad you, your family, and your children are here this morning. Children are a blessing from the Lord. Sometimes they wiggle and squirm throughout the service. Children are not a distraction to the church. They are a gift from the Lord.

To children: If you want to doodle all over this bulletin – go for it! We are glad you are with us.