



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.

August 3, 2025

8th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music *Allemande* from Suite No.1 in G Major J.S. Bach
Lisa Liske, cello

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Introit *Will You Come and Follow Me* (see Hymn 726) arr. Tom Trenney
Tom Trenney, conductor

Call to Worship

Sisters and brothers, we have been raised with Christ to new life,
freed from every fear,
and granted every grace.
With songs of praise, let us worship God.

*Hymn 612 *We Praise You, O God* KREMSER

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you lavish us with good gifts, yet we persist in seeking after that which robs us of abundant life. We hold fast to our anxieties and give in to our greed; we desire the very things that harm us. Forgive us, purify us, and sustain us by the strength of your Holy Spirit, we ask in Jesus' name.

(Let us continue our confession in silence)

Anthem *My Hope Is Built* (see Hymn 353) arr. T. Trenney
Tom Trenney, piano; Mark Woodcock, tenor

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.

Worship begins best with a prayerful spirit. Use the gathering music to center yourself and open your heart and mind to the worship of God.

In a culture that avoids talk of sin and culpability, regular prayers of confession foster honesty and openness in our relationship with God.

In deep gratitude for the gift of pardon from our sins, we are called to respond with renewed commitment to the way of Jesus.

This traditional Gloria Patri (Glory to the Father) or “minor doxology” as it is sometimes known, is by the British born composer Henry W. Greatorex. He came to the U.S. in 1839 and eventually settled in Charleston, SC.

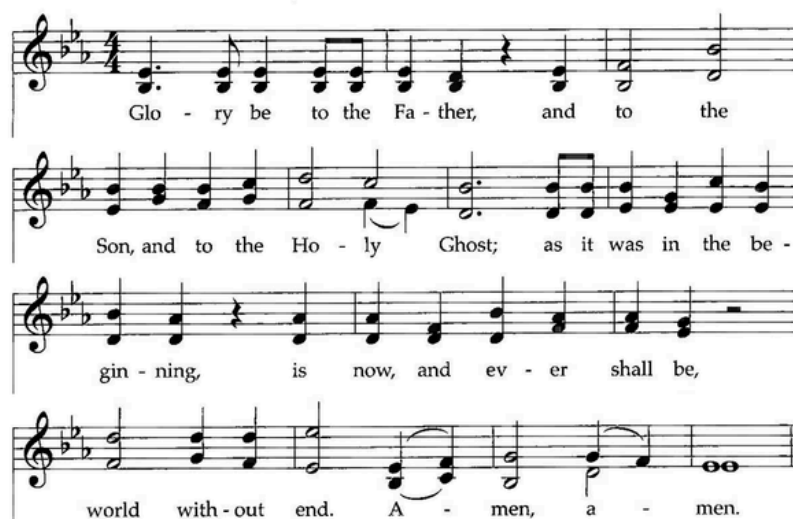
A prayer for illumination calls on the Holy Spirit to empower the reading, understanding, and living of God’s word.

During our time of Silent Reflection ask yourself, “Given what I have heard and experienced today, is God calling me to change or grow in any way?”

*Response of Gratitude

SERVICE MUSIC

Glory Be to the Father 581



We Listen and Respond to God’s Word

Children’s Moment

Beth Thaxton

Children ages 4 - 2nd gr. are invited to the Library for Children's Church and will return to their pews during the hymn following the sermon.

Prayer for Illumination

John Burns

Scripture Readings Psalm 107: 1-9; Luke 12: 13-21

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Silent Reflection

*Hymn 716 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* BEACH SPRING

*Affirmation of Faith from a Declaration of Faith

God created human beings with a need for community and with freedom to enter into it by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience and to one another with love and helpfulness. We believe that we have been created to relate to God and each other in freedom and responsibility. We may misuse our freedom and deny our responsibility by trying to live without God and other people or against God and other people. Yet we are still bound to them for our life and well-being, and intended for free and responsible fellowship with them. Since every human being is made for communion with God and others, we must treat no one with contempt. We are to respect and love all other people and ourselves as well. 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.

Another way we respond to the Word is by lifting up to God our Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession.

Response to Prayer | Hymn 600

AMEN

Amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

For Everyone Born(see Hymn 769) arr. T. Trenney
Lisa Liske, cello; Tom Trenney, piano

Having prayed for the world, we put ourselves where our prayers are. In grateful response for the abundance of God’s grace, we offer ourselves and our gifts to be used for God’s kingdom.

*Doxology | Hymn 609

**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

Stanza 1: All, 2: Women, 3: Men, 4: All (Choir in canon), 5: All arr. T. Trenney

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response | Hymn 541, stanza 1

RANDOLPH

**God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd’s care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

The charge at the end of the worship service commissions us to obedient and grateful service as God’s agents to heal life’s brokenness.

*Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

In dir ist freude (In Thee is Gladness)
Tom Trenney, organ

J.S. Bach

Our guest musician today, Tom Trenney, is a composer, conductor, organist, preacher, teacher, and highly regarded in the sphere of American sacred music. He holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Eastman School of Music. He has served as Minister of Music to First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, since 2009 and is in great demand as a performer and presenter at churches, colleges, and concert halls across the country. Tom is a featured clinician this week at the national conference on Worship and Music for The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. He will be leading a Hymn Festival on Wednesday evening at The Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. This event is open to the public.

We are honored to have Tom with us today!



The Chancel flowers are given by Dan and Kathy Roebuck to the glory of God, and in appreciation of our Church Congregation.

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ministries.



On the Calendar This Week August 3 – August 9

Today – Sunday School 9:00am | Worship Service 10:00am | Community Building Activity 11:00am

Monday, August 4 – Staff Meeting 1:00pm

Tuesday, August 5 – CDC Chapel 10:30am

Wednesday, August 6 – Early Birds 6:30am | CDC Board 7:00pm

Thursday, August 7 – No activities or events scheduled.

Friday, August 8 – No activities or events scheduled.

Saturday, August 9 – No activities or events scheduled.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For Everyone Born, A Place At The Table

Following worship this morning, we'll continue with our community building activity in support of our mission partner, A Place at the Table (APATT). Their food truck will be parked just outside in the parking lot, offering delicious lunch options available for purchase. To help beat the summer heat, Memorial Hall will be open and set up as a cool, comfortable space to enjoy your meal with fellow church members and friends from the surrounding community. We hope you'll make plans to join us for this special day of worship, fellowship, and outreach. Your participation will help support APATT's mission to ensure everyone has access to a dignified dining experience, regardless of means.

Hymn Festival at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, 8/6 at 7:00pm, free

On Wednesday, August 6, at 7:00pm there will be a Hymn Fest held at the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral as a part of the Associate of Lutheran Church Musicians' national conference. The Hymn Fest will be led by the headlining musicians Tom Trenney and Voces8 and includes 20 singers from FPC Raleigh. Doors open at 6:30pm for the public to come to this spectacular free event.

PW Horizons Bible Study Books and Yearbooks 2025-2026 Distribution

Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ by Rashell D. Hunter

On Sunday, August 17 and Sunday, August 24, Bible Study Books and Yearbooks will be available in the Edge Lobby from 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. for distribution to Circle members who requested printed copies. Bible Study Books are \$12 for regular print and \$18 for large print. Please pay only by cash or check payable to First Presbyterian Church with Circle number and "Study Book" in the memo line. Remaining books will be distributed to Circle leaders at the PWCT August 24 luncheon meeting for leadership. Further distribution and payment will be made at Circle meetings. FPC PW Yearbooks (printed) are available for no charge, if you ordered one. Also available digitally.

One Book One Church | Wonder by RJ Palacio

The Christian Education committee is going to sponsor a 2nd all church read for this summer with the book Wonder by RJ Palacio. Join us for a discussion on Sunday, August 17 at 11:00 a.m.

This novel, which is geared toward young adults, is the story of a boy born with facial deformities who goes to school for the first time. Although it is not a true story, it was inspired by the author's interaction with a young girl in an ice cream shop, and the title was inspired by the Natalie Merchant song "Wonder."

We hope that you will join us to discuss this uplifting story of kindness, acceptance, and humanity.

There are five copies of the novel in the library for those who might be interested.

FPC Shares Item for August

This month's FPC Shares item is Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salad dressing, etc.)! 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

A Place at the Table Cafe (APATT) is our neighbor pay-what-you-can cafe right around the corner at 300 W. Hargett St! APATT aims to provide community and healthy food for all, regardless of means. The cafe was founded in 2015 by Raleigh native Maggie Kane, who grew up attending St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and participated in Presbyterian Campus Ministry during her collegiate years at NC State. In her experience working in a food shelter after graduating from college, Maggie saw the need for community spaces that served not only those experiencing food insecurity but everyone, regardless of background.

A Place at the Table is committed to ensuring that every person has dignity and choice. It is Raleigh's first-ever pay-what-you-can café, and it aims to allow those who can afford a meal to dine alongside those who are unhoused and food insecure. It is a model that allows all people to have the ability to choose from the same menu of breakfast, brunch, and lunch options, and eat in a community-centered environment that promotes a dignified sense of welcome and radical acceptance for all.

At the cafe, each person has the option to pay a minimum of \$3 for their meal, pay the suggested price, pay it forward to offset the cost of a meal for a person who may not be able to afford a meal, or volunteer an hour for their meal.

Since January 2018, APATT has served over 250,000 meals to folks in need. And, over 2,000 community volunteers help with operations each year. While A Place at the Table has offered a sense of community as well as healthy food options for all since 2018 at its brick-and-mortar location on W. Hargett St, this year, the cafe launched a new addition to the cafe: a food truck! "The Travelin' Table" is an exciting expansion of the non-profit cafe, which will help to spread the mission of community and good food for all beyond the walls of their W. Hargett St. location.

The FPC Mission budget supports the work of APATT, the FPC youth support APATT through the Souper Bowl of Caring each Super Bowl season. And, did you know that their new food truck uses the FPC kitchen as a commissary prep site? We welcome the food truck to First Presbyterian today. Hope you will grab lunch and support this wonderful mission.