



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.

January 11, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Introit

Duo, Op. 6 no. 1

Franz-Anton Hoffmeister 1754-1812

Owen Beal, violin; Joshua Hall, cello

Call to Worship

We gather to praise the God who is with us, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.

In gratitude and joy, let us worship God!

*Hymn 2

Come, Thou Almighty King

ITALIAN HYMN

Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Ever-present God, we long to be close to you, but live lives that encourage our distance. We are distracted by unimportant things and often do not slow down enough to bring to you the significant events of our lives.

Forgive us, God of grace, and fill us with the conviction to live our lives close to you.

(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 we gather to worship, we are bearing witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world.

In confessing our sin, we are first reassured of God's initiative in calling for repentance and promising forgiveness in Christ. We then confess the reality of sin, captivity, and brokenness in personal and common life and ask for God's saving grace.

*Response of Gratitude | Hymn 582

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.
World with out end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

We Listen and Respond to God's Word

Children's Moment

Beth Thaxton

After the Children's Moment, 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.

Our scripture lesson
from the Gospel of John
tells the story of the
Word of God, which
brought all things into
being, becoming flesh in
Jesus of Nazareth.

Prayer for Illumination

Luke Poisson

Scripture Reading John 1:14, 16-18

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

Anthem

Come Down, O Love Divine

Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Scripture Reading Matthew 3:13-4:1

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

Sermon

The First Heart to Break

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Silent Reflection

Ordination and
installation of church
officers have to more
with the ministry of
the whole church than
with any individual.
While the officers
make promises for
their leadership, the
church also promises
to respect and support
their leadership.

*Hymn 459

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

Ordination and Installation of New Church Officers

An Invitation to Give An Offering

Offertory

Duo , Op. 6 no. 1
Owen Beal, violin; Joshua Hall, cello

Franz-Anton Hoffmeister

*Doxology | Hymn 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(The bread is gluten free and the cup contains juice.)

Prayer after Communion

We Carry God's Word into the World

*Hymn 634

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response | Hymn 295 stanza 4

SINE NOMINE

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude

Postlude on ITALIAN HYMN

Albert L. Travis

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper offers an abundant feast of theological meaning, including thanksgiving to God the Father, remembrance of Jesus Christ, invocation of the Holy Spirit, communion in the body of Christ, and a meal of the realm of God.

Anthem

Come down, O Love Divine; seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be
and lowliness become my inner clothing,
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humble part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling.
For none can guess God's grace, till Love creates a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

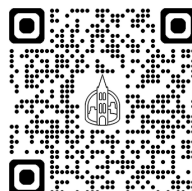


The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of
Lindsey and Evelyn Hopkins and their son, Bob, by Bob's wife, Mary Ann, and his children,
Lindsey and Britt.

Staff Directory (919) 821-5750

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



On the Calendar This Week January 11 – January 17

Today – Early Worship 8:30am | Sunday School 9:45am | Late Worship 11:00am
Congregational Covered Dish Lunch 12:00pm | Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Roger Punt 2:00pm
Circle 9 5:00pm | Pathfinders & ROCK Stars 5:00pm | Youth Group 5:30pm

Monday, January 12 – Staff Planning Meeting 9:30am | Circle 4 10:30am | Staff Meeting 1:00 pm
Circle 8 via Zoom 7:00pm

Tuesday, January 13 – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00am | CDC Chapel 10:30am
Staff Lunch w/Tara 12:00pm | Circle 6 at Glenaire 3:00pm

Wednesday, January 14 – Early Birds 6:30am | JobStart Worship Service 12:00pm
Committee Meetings 6:00pm

Thursday, January 15 – Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

Friday, January 16 – No activities or events scheduled.

Saturday, January 17 – No activities or events scheduled.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

FPC Congregational Covered Dish Luncheon

Join us for a joyful time of fellowship as First Presbyterian Church celebrates its 210th Birthday! Immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, the congregation is invited to gather for a covered dish luncheon in Memorial Hall. This special celebration will also include the recognition of incoming and outgoing FPC officers, as we give thanks for faithful leadership and welcome those called to serve in the year ahead. Dessert will be extra sweet—the 210th FPC Birthday Cake will be provided by the FPC Foundation. All are welcome to attend! This event is co-sponsored by Presbyterian Women, the Congregational Life Committee, and the FPC Foundation. We look forward to celebrating God's faithfulness and our shared life together as a church family.

Inquirer's Class

If you've been worshipping with us and want to learn more about the church and our ministries, we hope you'll join us for an inquirer's class on Sunday, January 18 at 9:45am. We'll meet in the parlor, the room just off of the gathering space and sanctuary. This one-week class is great for those ready to join FPC, as well as those who simply want to learn more. Folks who would like to become members will be welcome to join on the following Sunday, January 25. Email Laurie Taylor Weicher (lweicher@fpcraleigh.org) for more information or with any questions. We hope you'll join us on the 18th!

FPC Shares Item for January

This month's FPC Shares item is Canned Fruit | Applesauce! 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

Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO), the largest food pantry in Eastern NC, is celebrating 48 years of serving the Triangle community. CPO is a program of Catholic Charities, a 501c3 non-profit organization. In 1977, Sister Ann Joseph and Sister Louise Hill, from the Order of the Daughters of Charity, were sent to Raleigh to start a Catholic Charities program to provide direct services to the poor in downtown Raleigh. Recognizing the need for assistance was greater than two individuals could provide, they enlisted the support of the local Catholic community. As a result, St. Joseph, St. Rafael, Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. Mary parishes joined to form Catholic Charities.

What began in a converted barbershop moved in 2008 to a 16,000 sq. Ft. warehouse at 2013 Raleigh Blvd. to accommodate growth and demand. CPO provides emergency food assistance and, when possible, small children's clothing (newborn – preschool) and maternity clothing. In 2024, CPO served approximately 125-150 families per day with 1,900 volunteers, 3 full-time, and 2 part-time employees. They distributed over 3 million pounds of groceries to residents of Wake, Franklin, and Johnston counties.

Their mission is to serve our community's needy families and help combat food insecurity. Recent local hunger statistics indicate that 25% of NC children under 5 go to bed hungry, 2,200+ children are registered in Wake County public schools as homeless, 170,200 people in NC receive emergency food assistance every week, and 80% of NC households with children who receive food assistance do not know where their next meal is coming from.

CPO is open from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Families receive approximately one week of groceries and are eligible to receive assistance once every 30 days. No referral is needed.

FPC supports CPO with food donations from FPC shares, which John Thomas faithfully delivers monthly. To volunteer or learn more about this great ministry, visit <https://www.cporaleigh.org/>.