



# 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.*

July 27, 2025

7th Sunday after Pentecost

## We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music    *Theme and Variation on SURSUM CORDA*    T. Trenney

Chiming of the Trinity

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

Introit    *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*    arr. Tom Trenney  
Kathy Johnson, mezzo soprano

### Call to Worship

In beauty and mystery, **we see the face of God.**  
In the common and the ordinary, **we know the love of Christ.**  
In the bread and the cup, **we taste the presence of God.**  
In the song and in the embrace, **we share the joy of faith.**  
Come! Let us worship God!

\*Hymn 643    *Now Thank We All Our God*    NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Prayer of Confession    The Rev. Dr. Ernie Thompson

**Great God of love, you are lavish in your care for us, stunning us with beauty, answering our prayers, giving us ideas and friends when we are in need of help. Yet, how little we take notice of your care, how rarely we offer thanks, how quickly we think we are the only ones concerned. We easily get overwhelmed and overburdened, we seldom feel praise welling up in us, we let whining and grumbling have their way with us. God of great love, let us breathe deeply this day and experience your presence, as fresh as cool water. Amen.**

*(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.**

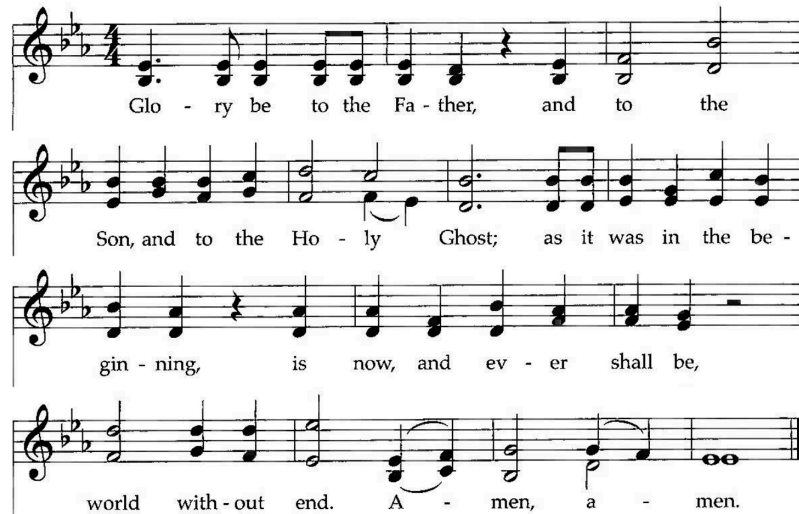
Hymn #28 is set to the tune played in our gathering music today.

In worship a congregation is called to listen to God and to respond in faith and prayer. The Call to Worship states our intention to make this worship time solely about the Lord God.

No matter what we bring before God, we have confidence in God's mercy and grace which forgives our darkest sins and our deepest hurts.

Our response to the gift of forgiveness is one of renewed commitment to live as Jesus has taught us.

# Glory Be to the Father 581



The "Glory Be to the Father" is a Trinitarian doxology. Doxology simply means a hymn expressing praise or honor to God.

## 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

Mary Jo Littlewood

In the reading from Psalm 85, all good things come together in God's salvation of God's people.

### Scripture Readings Psalm 85:1-13; Luke 11:1-13

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

*"The Door Will Be Opened"*

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

### Silent Reflection

### \*Hymn 175

*Seek Ye First*

LAFFERTY

### 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 God's Word is by lifting up to God our Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession.

AMEN

Offertory                      *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*                      Peter Lutkin  
arr. William Stickles

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

**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!**

Each time we gather at the Table for communion, we:

- (a) are united with the Church in every place, and the whole Church is present;
- (b) join with all the faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God;
- (c) renew the vows taken at Baptism;
- (d) and we commit ourselves afresh to love and serve God, one another, and our neighbors in the world.

\*Prayer of Dedication

## Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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...**

## Distribution of the elements and prayer after communion

## We Carry God's Word into the World

\*Hymn 728    *Somebody's Knocking at Your Door*    SOMEBODY'S KNOCKIN'

## \*Charge and Benediction

**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.**

\*Chiming of the Trinity

Postlude                      *Toccata on SURSUM CORDA*                      T. Trenney

As our time of worship  
comes to an end, our  
lives of service begin.

# Offertory Lyrics

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
the Lord lift His countenance upon you;  
and give you peace,  
the Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you.  
Amen.



The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of Clarence Frizzell by his wife, Janice Frizzell.

## 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 July 27 – August 2**

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

Monday, July 28 – Staff Meeting 1:00pm

Tuesday, July 29 – CDC Chapel 10:30am

Wednesday, July 30 – Early Birds 6:30am

Thursday, July 31 – No activities or events scheduled.

Friday, August 1 – No activities or events scheduled.

Saturday, August 2 – No activities or events scheduled.

## **Announcements and Upcoming Events**

### **A Most Beautiful Thing: The True Story of America's First All-Black High School Rowing Team**

Please join us this morning at 11:00 a.m. in Memorial Hall to talk about the book *A Most Beautiful Thing: The True Story of America's First All-Black High School Rowing Team*. This book is the true story of the life changing experience that participating on a crew team had on several young Black men from Chicago's South Side. We learn of the obstacles they overcome, and we will have an opportunity to discuss how their story can both inspire and challenge us in Raleigh, North Carolina.

### **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.

### **Why are Librarians AWESOME? (Other Than They Are Smart And Fun And Helpful)**

We are looking for a new Librarian! The FPC Raleigh Christian Education Committee is seeking a successor to our beloved Edna Hensey in leading our Library Program into the future. How fun would that be! A chance to serve your Church, and serve Others. If interested, or if you know of someone that might be a great fit, contact Becky Brown at [beckybrown1965@gmail.com](mailto:beckybrown1965@gmail.com), Babs Nichols at [babsnichols@gmail.com](mailto:babsnichols@gmail.com), or Ian McCaslin at [ianmccaslin@gmail.com](mailto:ianmccaslin@gmail.com).

### **Special Guest Musician, Tom Trenney, for 8/3 Sunday Service**

We are very excited to have Tom Trenney join us as our special guest musician on Sunday 8/3. Tom is a leading voice for church music in the US and is lauded for his outstanding skills as an organist, pianist, improviser, composer, arranger, conductor, preacher, and clinician. He serves as the minister of music at First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln Nebraska and we look forward to highlighting several of his compositions and arrangements as he will help to lead our service's music directing the choir and playing both piano and organ.

### **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.

### **FPC Shares Item for July**

This month's FPC Shares item is Powdered Milk/Juice! 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**

Arise Collective is a Raleigh-based non-profit whose mission is to equip women with the tools they need to heal, grow, and thrive, both in prison and in the communities to which they return.

Arise Collective (formerly Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women) was started by women at First Presbyterian Church Raleigh in 1980 when a Presbyterian Coordinating Committee of Presbyteries across the state came together to fund the first female chaplain in the North Carolina prison system. Over the next four decades, the organization has provided chaplaincy services and, more recently, transition education and reentry support for women, primarily in and around the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women (NCCIW) and its minimum-security Canary unit, but now, supporting women incarcerated across the State. The organization became a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 2004.

Ultimately, Arise Collective envisions women who are thriving in communities that embrace their value and potential. Through empowerment as well as providing resources, opportunities, and support, Arise Collective believes in journeying with both incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women with compassion and fairness. By walking alongside women during their imprisonment as well as their reentry process, Arise Collective hopes that women can successfully reintegrate into society and lead fulfilling lives.

Serving prison time is often both traumatic and transformational. Women leaving prison face challenges such as health issues, substance use, lack of adequate education and job skills, limited housing options, and unreliable transportation as they reenter society. Even after women leave prison, they confront countless barriers to vote, access housing, and find employment. Arise Collective serves incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women in 4 program areas: chaplaincy services, transition education, reentry support, and community engagement.

The FPC Mission budget supports the mission and ministry of Arise Collective.