



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.

October 5, 2025

World Communion Sunday

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Obangiji

Fela Sowande (1905-87)

Call to Worship

New every morning is God's love,
poured out upon us,
washing away the past,
giving us hope for the future.
Great is the loving faithfulness of God!
Let us worship in gratitude together!

*Hymn 311

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

TOKYO

Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

Look deep, loving God, and see us as we really are--yearning to be close to you but fearful of what you may ask. Our desire to be faithful is woven with our hesitancy to go the extra mile; our wanting to be loving is diluted by our resistance to caring in particular situations. Loving God, we are tangled vine. Prune us and train us to grow in your holy way.

(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.

Fela Sowande was a Nigerian musician and composer. He was considered the father of Nigerian modern art music.

The silent confession is a time to review our week and ask for forgiveness for the ways we have strayed from God's intentions for our lives.

The Assurance of Pardon declares the reality of God's forgiving mercy to all who earnestly repent and turn to God.

The proper response to the pardon of our sins is always one of gratitude. Therefore, we sing our praise.

Philippians 2:1-11 is an early Christian hymn or confession of faith, describing Christ as an obedient servant.

The hymn is not strictly a call to imitate Christ, which would be humanly impossible, but a call to believers to live in the identity of who they are in Christ. Of course, this Christ-centered identity includes striving toward Christlikeness in mind, heart, and behavior.

We don't just pray the Lord's Prayer for ourselves, we pray it on behalf of the world—those who don't have their daily bread and those who are burdened by debt. We are called to be God's answer to this prayer.

*Response of Gratitude | Hymn 581

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

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.

We Listen and Respond to God's Word

Children's Moment (11:00)

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Kathy Johnson

Scripture Reading Philippians 2:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The Lord is My Shepherd

John Rutter

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

Scripture Reading Luke 17:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

In Christ, Like Christ

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Silent Reflection

*Hymn 523

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

BICENTENNIAL

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 544

BLESS THE LORD (Taize)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

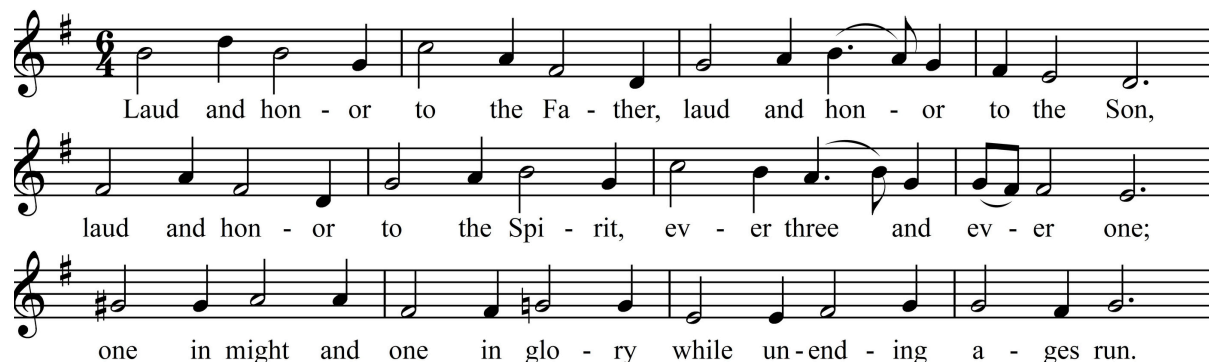
Sonata No.2 from 18 Canons Melodieux,
TWV 40:118-23

G.P. Telemann

Ann Poisson, flute and Owen Beal, violin

*Doxology | Hymn 394, stanza 4

WESTMINSTER ABBEY



Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or to the Son,
laud and hon - or to the Spi - rit, ev - er three and ev - er one;
one in might and one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run.

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

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

We Carry God's Word into the World

*Hymn 691

Lord, When I Came into This Life

LAND OF REST

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response | Hymn 541 stanza 1

**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

In Christ There Is No East or West

Charles Callahan

Scripture tells us that we are able to love ourselves and to love others, because we have first been loved by God. So, too, we give of ourselves and our resources out of gratitude to God for what God has already graciously given to us. We give because God has first given to us.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who desire to follow Christ, remembering that access to the communion table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who has doubts or whose trust is wavering is invited to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus.

Anthem

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture:
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul:
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me:
Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord, for ever.



The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory
of Micou Metcalf Browne, and Cou and Kay Browne, by Martha Luella Browne and
Mary Anne Gregory Browne.

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



On the Calendar This Week October 5 – October 11

Today – World Communion Day - Early Worship 8:30am | Sunday School 9:45am
Late Worship 11:00am | Pathfinders (K-2) & ROCK Stars (3rd-5th) 5:00pm | Youth Group 5:30pm

Monday, October 6 – Staff Meeting 1:00pm

Tuesday, October 7 – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00am | CDC Chapel 10:30am | Glenaire Lunch 12:00pm

Wednesday, October 8 – Early Birds 6:30am | CDC Music 10:00am | Committee Meetings 6:00-9:00pm

Thursday, October 9 – Bible Study at Glenaire 2:30pm | Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

Friday, October 10 – No activities or events scheduled.

Saturday, October 11 – No activities or events scheduled.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Save the Date: Pig Pickin' Generosity Kickoff

Join us Sunday, October 12 for a celebration of fellowship, food, and faithful giving at our Pig Pickin' Generosity Kickoff! This church-wide event marks the start of our fall generosity season; a time when we come together to reflect on God's abundant blessings and how we're called to share them with joy. After worship, we'll head to Memorial Hall to enjoy a traditional Southern Pig Pickin' complete with pulled pork, homemade sides, sweet tea, and desserts. Bring your appetite, your friends, and your open hearts! This is more than just a meal, it's the beginning of a season where we'll explore how our generosity helps support the mission and ministries of our congregation, both locally and globally.

Sunday Suppers

Each Sunday night our youngest Pathfinders through our High School Youth break bread together as part of our evening programming. We need your help to make that happen! Menus are planned and groceries are purchased ahead of time. You are invited to team up with another family or sign up as a Circle, Sunday School class, or other group to help prep and serve dinner. You can also support financially to offset the cost of meals provided by the Christian Education budget. Contact Betsy Williams or Beth Thaxton for more information.

Youth Retreat & Trip Registrations

All overnight retreats and summer trips are open for registration! If your youth is going on the Middle School Retreat in November, be sure to register by October 12. Check out the details and registration links at fpcraleigh.org/youth.

Lay Readers Needed

Would you like to be more involved in Sunday worship service? Sign up to be a lay reader and contribute in a deeply meaningful way as a voice of the congregation. What will you do? As a lay reader you will be reading the opening scripture in your choice of either 8:30 am or 11:00 am service. Scared of those crazy Bible names? Don't be! You've got this and we've got you! Contact Melani Willhite at 919-821-5750 to sign up or scan the QR Code.

FPC Shares Item for October

This month's FPC Shares item is Canned Meat! 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

MADAGASCAR – Dan and Elizabeth Turk (Presbyterian Missionaries)

Presbyterians do mission in partnership. We believe that doing mission in partnership broadens our awareness of how interconnected God's mission is at the local, national, and global levels. The one table around which we gather is God's table, and the one mission to which we are called is God's mission.

Despair, poverty, and violence are being overcome in the name of Jesus Christ. Hope is being restored, and new life is springing forth. True mission partnership is about building relationships, learning from one another, and walking together in faith and friendship. Together, we can build the body of Christ around the world.

For several decades, First Presbyterian Church Raleigh has been in partnership with the Turk Family in Madagascar. The Turks are US citizens who have devoted their lives and expertise to helping the Malagasy people. Additionally, they raised their own children in Madagascar alongside the people they've helped.

Dan and Elizabeth Turk (Presbyterian Mission Agency) serve with the PC(USA)'s partner church, Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy Eto Madagasikara (FJKM), in the areas of health, environment, agriculture, and safe drinking water in their efforts to improve the lives of the Malagasy people.

Madagascar, located in the Indian Ocean, remains one of the world's poorest countries. The majority of Malagasy citizens are Christian, a large percentage adhere to traditional beliefs, and less than 10 percent are Muslim.

Elizabeth trains village health workers, helps communities develop safe drinking water sources, and educates church leaders and youth about AIDS prevention. Dan has helped the FJKM develop an extensive fruit tree program, which includes a fruit tree nursery, extension work with farmers, and environmental education.

As part of Elizabeth's program, more than 150 community health volunteers from rural areas are receiving training in health education techniques and basic health messages. Dan's program helps communities improve food security and nutrition.

First Presbyterian Church's Mission Budget annually supports the wonderful work of Dan and Elizabeth Turk in Madagascar. In 2022, the FPC Foundation awarded the Turks a grant to provide irrigation for the fruit tree farms. And in 2025, the FPC Foundation awarded a \$16,000 grant to launch fruit tree growing programs in three new Malagasy communities.