



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.

September 14, 2025

14th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Introit

In Quiet Mood

Florence Price (1887-1953)

Call to Worship

The steadfast love of God never ceases.

Great is your faithfulness, O God.

So we will praise you and not be silent.

We will worship this day in gladness!

*Hymn 625

O Lord My God

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Verse 1: solo in Korean

Verse 2: choir in Spanish

Verse 3: Congregation in English

All Refrains together

Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that we are too easily content with ourselves.

We think if we are reasonably good people that we should be satisfied. Help us to remember that you call us to the perfection that we find in Jesus Christ. Help us to not settle for "good enough" but to strive for being more like Jesus with every passing day.

(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.

Good Reformed worship is personal, but not private. Worship may touch us personally, but it happens in the corporate atmosphere of worship. This time of worship is our collective offering to God.

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.

Christ helped the blind to SEE. Our vision clinics at Eden helped 14,000 Bolivians to SEE with their eyes AND their hearts.

The Apostles Creed is one of the earliest and most ecumenical creeds of the church.

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

*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) Kathy Johnson
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

Scripture Readings Phillippians 1:3-11
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Be Thou My Vision*
(8:30) Kathy Johnson Arr. Sally DeFord
(11:00) Chancel Choir; Sue Sager flute Arr. Kyle Pederson
The Anthem lyrics may be found on the back page of the bulletin.

Sermon *A Work that Begins and Ends with Grace* The Rev. Ik Bai Moon

Silent Reflection

*Hymn 649 *Amazing Grace* AMAZING GRACE

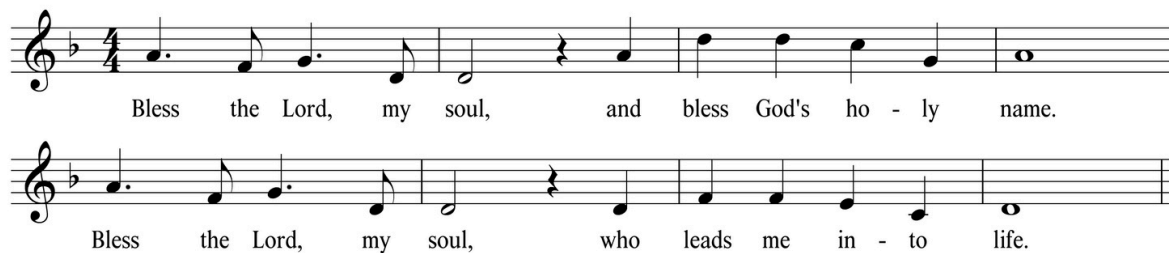
*Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles’ Creed) The Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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.

Response to Prayer | Hymn 544

BLESS THE LORD (Taize)



On the far right of each hymn or musical piece, written in all capitals, is the title of the hymn tune. If the name is not in capitals, it is the composer's name.

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

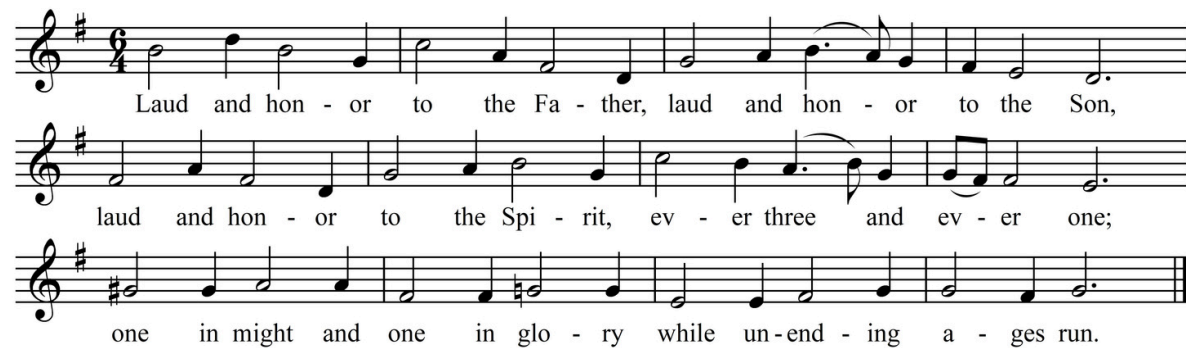
Called As Partners in Christ's Service
(See Hymn 761)

BEECHER

The Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. In worship the people are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, are claimed and set free by him, and are led to respond by offering to him their lives, their particular gifts and abilities, and their material goods.

*Doxology | Hymn 394, stanza 4

WESTMINSTER ABBEY



*Prayer of Dedication

We Carry God's Word into the World

*Hymn 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

*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.**

*Chiming of the Trinity

The question we should ask ourselves at the end of worship is not "what did I get out of worship today?" but rather, "what did we offer God and each other in our worship?"

Postlude

All Glory Be to God on High

Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

Offertory

Give us your vision, Lord, this is our prayer.
Oh, help us to see when the way is not clear.
Gift us with wisdom and lead us we pray;
let grace be our calling, our strength for today.

Send us in power so we may be
all you intended, your hands and your feet.
A gift freely given, the hope for rebirth;
the kingdom of heaven, at work on the earth.

All of creation with one voice declare,
“Hope, love, and mercy dispels our despair.
As we bear your image to all humankind,
waking and sleeping, your presence, our light.”



The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given by Dr. and Mrs.
William L. Miller in loving memory of Laura's parents, Charles and Elizabeth
Sanderson, and her brothers Hugh and Charles Sanderson.

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ways to become
connected to our
ministries.



On the Calendar This Week September 14 – September 20

Today – Early Worship 8:30am | Sunday School 9:45am | Late Worship 11:00am
Congregational Lunch 12:00pm | Pathfinders & ROCK Stars 5:00pm | Youth Group 5:30pm

Monday, September 15 – Staff Meeting 1:00pm

Tuesday, September 16 – Enough for Today Podcast 8:00am | CDC Chapel 10:30am

Wednesday, September 17 – Early Birds 6:30am | Diaconate Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday, September 18 – Staff Volunteer Event at the Green Chair Project 10:45am
Bible Study at Glenaire 2:30pm | Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

Friday, September 19 – No activities or events scheduled.

Saturday, September 20 – Choir Retreat (Memorial Hall) 9:00am

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Guest Preacher, The Rev. Ik Bai Moon and Congregational Meal

Help us welcome Rev. Ik Bai Moon, this morning as our guest preacher. Rev. Moon is retiring after 40 years of service as a Presbyterian Missionary and 25 years of partnership with First Presbyterian Church and the Bolivian Eden School. Following the 11:00am worship service, join us in Memorial Hall for a Congregational lunch. All are welcome. There is no charge and reservations are not required.

Save the Date!

Please join us on Sunday, September 28, at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, for the Installation Service of The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger. Guest preacher is The Rev. Alan Dyer, Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, SC. Reception to follow.

Habitat for Humanity

We need you to help in fighting the affordable housing crisis in Wake County. Please consider signing up to volunteer at our next workday. We are scheduled to work at the Old Poole Place site. Contact Kathryn Johnson for more information. All skill levels welcome.

FPC Shares Item for September

This month's FPC Shares item is Diapers and Toilet Paper! 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

Bolivian Mission

What started as a cultural exchange between members of the Suhnam Presbyterian Church in Kwang-Ju, Korea, and First Presbyterian Church has grown into much more over the years. Rev. Ik Bai Moon, a native South Korean, felt called to become a Christian missionary in Bolivia. He established twenty-five churches in Bolivia and helped to train native Bolivians to lead those congregations. He also started the Eden School, educating native Bolivians in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Starting in 2005, FPC began sending medical, dental, and vision mission teams to the Eden School Campus and has treated more than 32,000 individuals.

Our Vision Mission team last went to Bolivia from May 15th – 25th of 2024, and operated a Vision clinic at the Eden School. Sixteen individuals carried seventeen extra suitcases containing several thousand pairs of sunglasses, readers, and prescription glasses. For eight days, they operated the clinic and served hundreds of people each day, many of whom came to Santa Cruz from many miles away and waited in line for the chance to get glasses.

For most, this was their only opportunity to get glasses so that they could see well enough to read, drive, and navigate their surroundings. It's an amazing feeling to see someone try on a pair of glasses and finally be able to read a sign on the wall. The smile that forms on their face is priceless.

In 2019, FPC helped Rev. Moon purchase an auto refractor. This enabled the Vision team to get an accurate reading of someone's prescription. The machine produces a piece of paper with the measurements, and a team member pulls about ten pairs of glasses from our inventory that come closest to the needed prescription. Working with a translator, the vision team member helps each Bolivian find the right pair of glasses from both an aesthetic and vision perspective. We also took eye drops.

Culturally, we shared meals with the Bolivians, attended worship services, interacted with the Eden School children, and visited some local landmarks. But mostly our work days were filled with working at the clinic.

2024 was the first year we had so many Spanish and Korean-speaking team members. Additionally, two team members (April Park and Jiyoung Ahn), plus Rev. Moon's daughter, Susana (who met us in Bolivia), all participated in a cultural exchange program with FPC to obtain higher education in the USA. April graduated in Integrated Health Sciences. Dr. Jiyoung Ahn is an optometrist, and Dr. Susannah Moon is a dentist. Susana Moon joined the team in 2024 to help operate a small dental clinic at the Eden School.

One of the biggest joys of the First Presbyterian Church and Bolivian partnership has been the impact on and support of the Eden School. Over the last 25 years, more than 230 church members, as well as the FPC Mission Committee, have helped more than 2,000 young Bolivians obtain an education.

Today in worship, we are pleased and honored to welcome Rev. Ik Bai Moon, his wife Maria, his daughter Susana, his son Abraham, his daughter-in-law, Sung Hee, and his grandson Yohan. Abraham Moon will serve as his father's interpreter during worship.

We are extremely grateful and proud of this amazing partnership and celebrate the incredible ministry and legacy of Rev. Ik Bai Moon. We wish him much joy in his retirement.