

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRIST IS PREEMINENT

December 28, 2025

582 Southwood Drive, Eden, NC, 27288
www.fpceden.org | 336-623-3962

Welcome, Announcements, & Congregational Greeting

Gospel Greeting

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come – this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Meditation: *Romans 5:1-2*

(Recite in Unison)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Introit & Silent Preparation

* Call to Worship: *Psalm 113:1-2*

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

Congregation: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!

* Prayer of Invocation

* Congregational Hymn: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness". It is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of a treble staff and a bass staff. Above the treble staff, the following chords are indicated: D, G, A7, Dsus, D, and G. The lyrics are written below the treble staff and are numbered 1 through 3. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment.

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

* Please stand if you are able.

D A⁷ D E B⁷ E⁷ A A⁷ D

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove, join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide, strength for to - day and bright

Em D Gmaj⁷ Em⁷ Bdim D A⁷ D

pas - sions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

REFRAIN
A D B⁷ Em A⁷

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

D Bdim A E⁷ A A⁷ D Em D

morn - ing new mer - cies I see: all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro -

vid - ed— Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

* Congregational Hymn: *Before the Throne of God Above*

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove, I have a
 2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me
 3. Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect,

strong and per - fect plea, a great High Priest whose name is Love,
 of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see him there,
 spot - less righ - teous - ness, the great un - change - a - ble I AM,

who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
 who made an end to all my sin. Be - cause the
 the King of glo - ry and of grace! One with him -

grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
 sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
 self I can - not die. My soul is pur - chased by his

heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can
free; for God, the just, is sat - is - fied to look on
blood! My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my

bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
Sa - vior and my God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

Charitie Bancroft, 1863; alt.

BEFORE THE THRONE 8.8.8.8.8.8.8.8.
Vikki Cook; arr. Ruth Coleman

Reading of Scripture: *Ephesians 1:11-14*

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Corporate and Personal Confession of Sin

(Recite in Unison)

O God the Father of heaven, have mercy upon us. O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us. O God the Holy Spirit, have mercy upon us. Be merciful to us and spare us, O Lord. Be merciful to us and deliver us, O Lord. From all sin, from all error, from all evil—deliver us, O Lord. From the wiles of the devil and from everlasting death—deliver us, O Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: *Psalms 130:7-8*

(Recite in Unison)

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Giving of Tithing & Offerings

* The Doxology

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.

The Pastoral Prayer: *2 Corinthians 1:20*

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

The Lord's Prayer

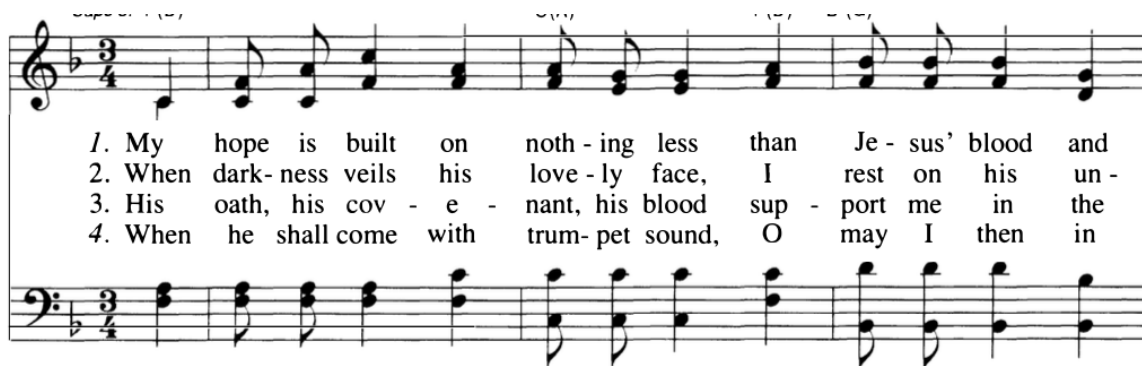
(Recite in Unison)

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Children's Sermon

*** Children Dismissed for Children's Bible Study***

* Congregational Hymn: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*



The image shows a musical score for the hymn "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less". It features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are:

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
2. When dark- ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

righ - teous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found; dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

B \flat (G) C(A) F(D) REFRAIN B \flat (G)

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

F(D) C(A) F(D) B \flat (G) F(D) C⁷(A⁷) F(D)

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Edward Mote, 1834

SOLID ROCK L.M.ref.
 William B. Bradbury, 1863

* Prayer of Illumination & The Reading of God's Word

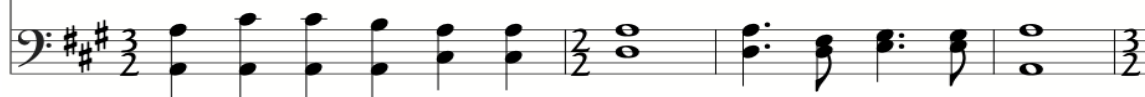
The Preaching of God's Word

PSALM 73:21-28 – CHRIST IS OUR EVERLASTING ASSURANCE WHO HOLDS US

* Congregational Hymn: *He Will Hold Me Fast*



1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
 2. Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;
 3. For my life he bled and died— Christ will hold me fast;



when the tempt-er would pre - vail, he will hold me fast.
 pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.
 jus - tice has been sat - is - fied; he will hold me fast.



I could nev-er keep my hold through life's fear-ful path;
 He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;
 Raised with him to end - less life— he will hold me fast,



for my love is of - ten cold: he must hold me fast.
 bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
 till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last!



He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;

for my Sav - ior loves me so— he will hold me fast.

A Bm7 A/C# D D E A

Words: Sts. 1–2, Ada Habershon, 1906; alt. st. 2, st. 3, ref. Matt Merker | Music: Matt Merker
 © 2013 Getty Music Publishing / Matthew Merker Music

HOLD ME FAST
 75 75 D

* **Benediction:** *Numbers 6:24-26*

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

* **Gloria Patri**

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.

* **Postlude & Dismissal**

While the gathering has ended, service to Christ continues; let us go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit, serving our Lord as His ambassadors!

PRAYER REQUESTS

****If you have a prayer request, please submit it to Jeni Hartley at jhartley@fpceden.org****

Our Congregation

- Mike & Martha Corum
- Pat Morris
- Frank Parker
- Stuart Peele
- Jonathan Smith
- Rick & Debbie Taylor

Our Missionaries

- Stephanie Black – Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- Ben and Ellie Childs – Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- Al and Joy Doomy – Outreach to Asia Nationals
- Bradley and Jessica Long – Frontier Fellowship
- Brent and Marianne Pilson – Café 1040

*Father, help us to be a God-glorifying, Christ-exalting, Spirit-led, Bible-saturated,
Mission-driven, and Fellowship-focused people.*

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

The Lord's Supper

Our next celebration of the Lord's Supper will be on January 4, 2025.

Session

Paul Sasser (2026)
Bruce Nooe – Stated Clerk (2027)
Kenny Mabe (2028)
Everall Peele (2028)
Bill Robertson (2028)
Jennifer Shafer (2028)
Pastor Brad Milks

Ministries

Sunday School | Sunday 9:00am
Public Worship | Sunday 10:00am
The Pastor's Study | Wednesday 10:00am
Church Prayer | Wednesday 6:30pm
Choir Practice | Wednesday 7:00pm
Puritan Fellowship | Thursday 7:00am
Romans Bible Study | Saturday 7:15am

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Bradley Milks
Pastor's Email: brad@fpceden.org
Treasurer's Email: beth@fpceden.org

Stewardship (12/01/25)

Operational Budget

YTD Received: \$262,800
YTD Expenses: \$267,241
Budget YTD: -\$4,441

Contact Information

582 Southwood Drive, Eden, NC
Office: 336-623-3962
Website: www.fpceden.org
www.facebook.com/FPCEden

Building Fund

Building Need: 166,441
Building Received: \$155,107
Building YTD -\$11,334

Pennies for Hunger Offering (Missions/Outreach)

Sunday, January 4, 2025

Session & Committee Meetings

Session – 2/3 at 7:00pm
Missions – January
Congregational Care – January

NEW TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

We are thankful you have gathered with us this morning as we worship the living triune God! We pray you encounter the Lord's presence and glory through singing, the fellowship of God's people, and the preaching of His Word.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement from Session. As we have done in the past, the church will be collecting your gifts for our wonderful, dedicated, hard-working, committed, friendly, helpful, and exuberant staff. If you would like to contribute, please make your check out to First Presbyterian Church and write "staff" on the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Robertson. Merry Christmas!

New Sunday School Class! We will begin a new Sunday School class on Sunday, January 11, 2026. The class will study Joel Beeke's latest book, *Essentials of Reformed Systematic Theology*. Theology is not meant to be an academic subject. This book intentionally ministers to the mind, heart, and hands. Do you want to learn more about our great God and what Scripture teaches? Join us at 9:00am in the Adult Discipleship Room. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Brad before the class begins.

New Ladies Bible Study. Ladies, join us for Women's Bible Study on Thursdays at 6:45PM starting January 15th at FPC! We are beginning a brand new study through the book of Acts using the study "Saved: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Acts," by Nancy Guthrie. Study books are \$8. For more information, contact Kristin Milks at milksfam10@gmail.com.

Church Office Closed. The Church office will be closed from December 24, 2025, to January 1, 2026.

Christmas Cards. Envelopes will be available for pickup until January 5 at the information desk after the worship service.

Tithing Books. 2026 tithing books are on the table near the exit to the covered porch. If you need a tithing book, please contact Beth Chandler.

To parents with children: We are glad you, your family, and your children are here this morning. Children are a blessing from the Lord. Sometimes they wiggle and squirm throughout the service. Children are not a distraction to the church. They are a gift from the Lord.

To children: If you want to doodle all over this bulletin – go for it! We are glad you are with us.