



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Established 1817

March 17, 2024 – The Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:30 am & 11:00 am Worship

*Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes a covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership, regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.*

*Building Community ~ Transforming Lives ~ Engaging the World*

**WELCOME!** Members and visitors are invited to sign the Worship Register during the service.

**NAME TAGS** are available in the narthex and vestibule. Everyone is invited to wear a name tag so we can greet one another by name! Want a permanent name tag or need a replacement? Contact church@firstpresnb.org

**RESTROOMS** (including a family restroom) are available in the Ministry Center.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES** are available in the narthex. Ushers are available to help if needed.

**CHILDREN** are welcome here! The nursery is available for infants, toddlers, and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center from 8:15 am to 12:15 pm.

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AND WONDER** follows the Children's Moment during the 11:00 am service; 2nd grade or younger may follow Ms. Kerri to the Ministry Center, across the hall from the Nursery. For all children in worship, there are Worship Bags available at the front and back of the Sanctuary.

## Prayer of Preparation

*You, who teach us a new song, and train our feet to follow: meet us in our searching and turn our eyes and hearts to the one who gives his life for the world; through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God we pray. Amen.*

## Welcome

## The Chiming of the Trinity

**Prelude** *Intermezzo (Founded upon an Irish Air)* C.V. Stanford

**Introit** *We Will Glorify* Paris

**\*Call to Worship** from Psalm 23

The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want.

**He makes us lie down in green pastures; he leads us beside still waters;**

He restores our souls. He leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole life long.**

Let us worship God!

**\*Hymn 159** *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* Benson/R.V. Williams

## Call to Confession

## Prayer of Confession

**Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the fullness of life with you, but we are slow to abandon the comforts of the life we know. We seek the fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to ourselves. Yet you offer grace, even and especially when our best efforts fall short.**

*(we pause for a time of silent confession)*

**Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be. Amen.**

### Where did the color go?

During this Lenten season we're fasting from color in our bulletins and the art that is at the top of the bulletin and are looking forward to the color returning at Easter!

#### Luke 8:23-25

<sup>23</sup> and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. <sup>24</sup> They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. <sup>25</sup> He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

#### Mark 6:30-32

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

What does it mean when we are called to **give God's Tithes and our Offerings**? Biblically, tithes are 10% of all that we receive -the goal we set for ourselves. Practically, it is the % you set aside first and give in recognition of the centrality of your relationship with God. Offerings are what we give on top of that, recognizing that the world needs to know generosity and love that exceeds expectation.

## Assurance of Pardon

### Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

**"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

### Children's Moment

Anna Pinckney Straight

### Anthem

*There Is a Place of Quiet Rest*

McAfee

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Gospel Readings

Luke 8: 23-25

New Testament pg. 67

Mark 6: 30 -32

New Testament pg. 41

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

*Cultivating Space Apart*

Anna Pinckney Straight

*(after the sermon we pause for a time of silent reflection)*

### \*Affirmation of Faith

from a Declaration of Faith, 1977

**The Spirit helps believers grow in the new life. The Christian fellowship was not a society of perfect people. The struggle between the old way of life and the new was severe. Yet the Spirit produced among followers of Jesus love, joy, peace, and victories in the battle against evil. We believe the Holy Spirit works today whenever believers grow toward maturity in Christ. As long as we live we struggle with sin, but the Spirit's presence assures us God will complete what he has begun in us.**

### \*Hymn 803

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Watts/1828

### Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

#### Offertory

*Peace Like a River*

spiritual/arr. Donald Moore

### \*Doxology

Hymn 606

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God,  
and in honor of John Robert Mattocks by Alison, Wood, and James Mattocks.*

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Anna Pinckney Straight**

Pastor

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Associate Pastor

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**Catherine Campbell**

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Director of

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**Louis Foye**

Sexton

**Richard Colflesh**

Maintenance

**Pastor on Call**

pastoroncall@firstpresnb.org

**Vance Harper Jones**

Organist Emeritus

... 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.

**Benediction**

**Response**

*Go Now in Peace*

Natalie Sleeth

**Postlude**

*Canzona in D Minor*

J.S. Bach

*Liturgist:* Patrick Ryan

*Musicians:* Resurrection Singers; Winston Dixon, bass

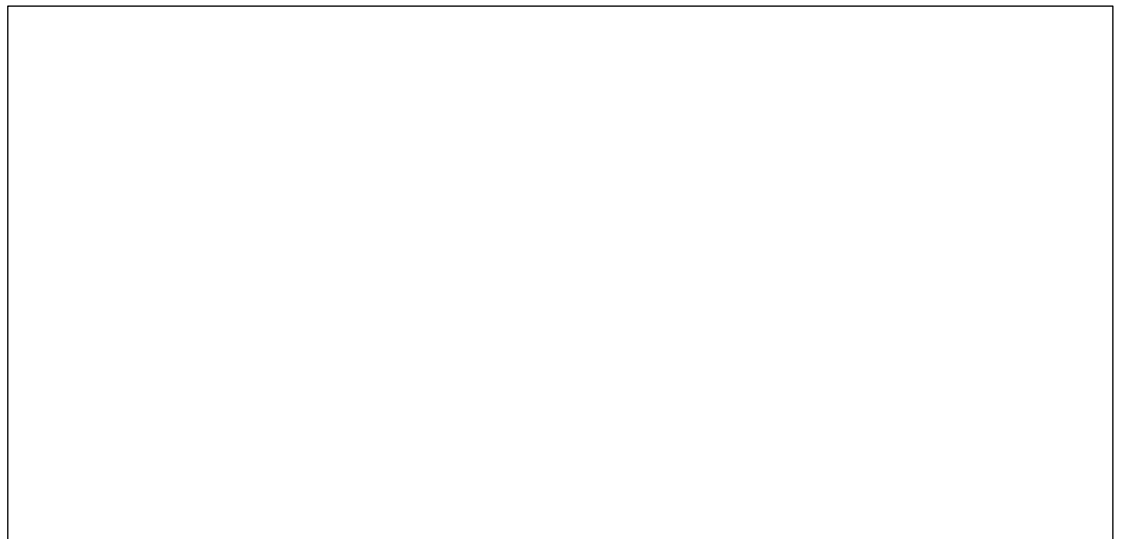
*Ushers:* (8:30am) Marc Dabagian, Mark Dail, Jay Haggard, Janelle Haggard,  
(11:00am) Tim Elliott, Bob Little

Supporting "One Great Hour of Sharing" is one way our congregation celebrates Lent each year. This special offering enables us to share God's love through three life-saving programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. If you would like to give, there are special envelopes in the narthex and vestibule, or you can use the envelopes in the pews (just write OGHs on the envelope) or you can give online via our regular online giving page.

Are you interested in becoming a member of the First Presbyterian Church congregation? The next new members' classes will be April 7, 14, and 21. Reach out to Anna Pinckney Straight to sign up or learn more!

This year, our Lenten Lunches are exploring the Melodies and Harmonies of the Lenten Season. **Tuesday's Lenten Lunch (3.19.24 from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm)** will include a brief worship service, Pat Kerr Rowlett will present the **Choral Music of Lent**, and a delicious lunch will be prepared by the Presbyterian Women. Lenten Lunches continue through Tuesday, March 26.

Today's sermon is a part of our Lenten sermon series, all about "Cultivating Space." As a part of this series there has been an empty box in each bulletin- space to clear your mind, take notes, write a prayer, draw a picture, or something – anything – else. How are you cultivating space for God? How is God cultivating space in your life?



The prayer of preparation is reprinted by permission of Church Publishing, Inc. from Prayers for an Inclusive Church, by Steven Shakespeare, ©2009. The prayer of confession is from Ginna Bairby and the Presbyterian Outlook

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Sunday, 3/17</b>	3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal	<b>Thursday</b>	12:00 pm	Life of Prayer
	4:00 pm	Calvin and Hops (Brewery 99)		5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship
	5:30 pm	SALT (Grades 3-5)		2:30 pm	Pickleball
	5:30 pm	Youth Group (Grades 6-12)		5:00 pm	Pickleball Introduction
<b>Monday</b>	1:30 pm	Knit 4 Others	<b>Saturday</b>	5:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	3:45 pm	Covenant Choir Rehearsal		9:30 am	Women at the Well (Harris Teeter on MLK)
	4:00 pm	Outreach Commission		10:00 am	Pickleball
	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom)		5:45 pm	T-Ball Practice
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am	Staff Meetings	<b>Sunday, 3/24</b>	8:30 am	Worship
	12:00 pm	Lenten Lunch		9:30 am	Fellowship Café
	2:30 pm	Pickleball		9:40 am	Sunday School
	5:30 pm	Worship Commission		11:00 am	Worship
	5:30 pm	Care Commission		3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:30 am	PW Circle 3		5:30 pm	Youth Group (Grades 6-12)
	11:45 am	Preschool Choir Rehearsal			



### Holy Week

March 24 - 31, 2024

**You are invited ~ you are welcome  
As you are, who you are**

**Palm Sunday: March 24**

Worship at 8:30 am & 11:00 am  
In the Sanctuary and streaming live at 11:00 am  
Hosanna!

**Maundy Thursday: March 28**

Worship at 7:00 pm  
In the Sanctuary and streaming live  
Celebration of Communion.

**Good Friday Tenebrae: March 29**

Worship at 7:00 pm  
In the Sanctuary and streaming live  
We recognize the darkness of the day.

**Easter Morning: March 31 - Christ is Risen!**

Worship at 8:30 am and 11:00 am.  
In the Sanctuary and streaming live at 11:00 am  
Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30 am on the lawn.  
You are invited to bring cut flowers for the flowering cross.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

For full class descriptions, locations, and more, visit the website ~ [www.firstpresnb.org](http://www.firstpresnb.org)  
or pick up a brochure in the Sanctuary or church office.

Present Word	Session House Parlor	Genesis 1-11	Owl Room
The Story	Conference Room	Grades K-5	Worship and Wonder Room

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[www.firstpresnb.org](http://www.firstpresnb.org)

**Office Hours:**

Monday – Thursday  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm