

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Established 1817

March 24, 2024 – Palm/Passion Sunday

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



Cultivating Space

Words in Preparation for Worship

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel!"

John 12:12-16

Welcome

The Chiming of the Trinity

*Call to Worship

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips; we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts. Hosanna!

Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow, for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

We wave palm branches in anticipation, we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk. Hosanna!

Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes: modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Let us worship God!

*Hymn 196

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

820/Teschner

The entire congregation is invited to join this morning's procession and wave palms!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, as we enter this holy week of Lent, solemnly gathered at your house of prayer, we turn our hearts toward Jerusalem. We want to

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.

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. Color returns at Easter!

Mark 11:1-11

¹ When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it." ³ If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately." ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

What are **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 above 10%, recognizing that the world needs to know generosity and love that exceeds expectation.

walk the way with Jesus, to be present each step from the Mount of Olives to the cross to the empty tomb. And yet we fall away.

(we pause for a time of silent confession)

Forgive our stubborn resistance to Christ's work and witness. Inspire us by your Spirit to follow in his way, until we enter with him into the city not made by human hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

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."

Anthem

Shout Hosanna!

Vicki Hancock Wright

Children's Moment

Catherine Campbell

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Readings

Mark 11:1-11

New Testament pg. 47

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Path We Follow

Anna Pinckney Straight

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

*Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him, all things were made. For us and our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Anna Pinckney Straight

Pastor

anna@firstpresnb.org

Patrick Ryan

Associate Pastor

patrick@firstpresnb.org

Catherine Campbell

Director of Children, Youth,
and Family Ministry

catherine@firstpresnb.org

Pat K. Rowlett

Director of Music

pat@firstpresnb.org

Daniel Sansone

Associate Director of Music
and Organist

daniel@firstpresnb.org

Susan Mabie

Director of Resurrection
Singers

Tim Elliott

Facilities Manager

property@firstpresnb.org

Dawn Inglis

Office Administrator

church@firstpresnb.org

Kerri Wheeler

Preschool Director

kerri@firstpresnb.org

Summer Hough

Financial Administrator

summer@firstpresnb.org

Sarah Ross

Director of

Communications

comms@firstpresnb.org

Louis Foye

Sexton

Richard Colflesh

Maintenance

Pastor on Call

pastoroncall@firstpresnb.org

Vance Harper Jones

Organist Emeritus

The call to worship, confession,
and prayer of great thanksgiving
were written by the Rev. Thom
Shuman were found at
liturgylink.

***Hymn 223**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Watts/Mason

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Hosanna! Blessed Is He

Ralph E. Marryott

***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 memory of parents, Bin and Mary Elizabeth, and sister the Rev. Dale Walker,
long-time members of First Presbyterian Church, by Trudy Martin.*

Recognition of Worship and Sacraments Class (11:00 am)

Sampson Crum

Ava Dunn

Gregory Edmister

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Morning by morning, creation's voices join in praising you, God of every goodness. The forests form a festal procession, the heavens reflect your glory's light. Though we were formed by you, we looked around at everything sin and death had to offer, and followed them through the world, thinking they could protect us. You gave prophets the tongues of teachers, to comfort our weariness and teach us the way back to you, but we turned our back on them. When judgment did not lead to redemption, you sent Jesus to reach out in love, to bring us home to you. So with those who spread cloaks before you and those sustained by your love, we join our voices, singing,

**Holy, holy, holy, God of enduring love. From every part of creation
come glad songs. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes
in humility and hope. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, Sustainer of the weary, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your love becomes human. He emptied himself of glory, to be filled with our broken hopes and hearts. He chose the path of suffering love, so that we could run through the streets of the kingdom waving branches of joy. He walked the sin-cold stones into the tomb which could not hold him, so we could join our voices together, "He is risen!" As we journey through

Jerusalem and beyond, as we struggle with death, loss, and grief we would ponder that mystery we call faith:

In trust, Christ died.

In joy, Christ was raised to new life.

In hope, Christ will come again.

Here at the Table graced with creation's gifts, we discover the world you intend. Here where your love enlivens the bread and the cup, we are given more than enough of everything we need. Sharing deeply in the Spirit, we can give hope its wings, as it carries us to serve the broken all around us.

Strengthened by the grace with which you feed us, we can join together to sustain the weary of the world. And when the gates of joy have been opened to us, we will spend moment by moment singing our praises to you, God in community, Three in One, hear us as we pray, **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**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

The elders will pass the communion elements through the pews. We invite you to hold the bread and then the cup until all have received so we can, at the invitation of the worship leader, partake together. All of the elements are gluten-free.

Prayer After Communion

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26: 1-14

New Testament pg. 29

Benediction

Response

Jesus, Remember Me (sung twice)

Taizé/Berthier

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Postlude

O Welt, ich muss dich lassen (opus 122, no.3)
(O World, I must now leave thee)

Johannes Brahms

Liturgist: Patrick Ryan

Musicians: Preschool (11:00), Covenant, Daybreak, and Sanctuary Choirs

Ushers: (8:30am) Mark Dail, Mara Edmister, Marc Dabagian, Yvonne Olmstead, Judith Rosseth
(11:00am) Pat Avery, Margaret Pritchett, Linda Staunch

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 during the Sunday School hour in the Session House. 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 (3.26.24 from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm)** will include a brief worship service, Daniel Sansone will present **Organ Music of Lent**, and a delicious lunch will be prepared by the Presbyterian Women.