



Hosios Loukos Monastery, Boeotia, Greece  
Byzantine

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Established 1817

April 7, 2024 – The Second Sunday of Easter

8:30 am & 11:00 am Worship

*Building Community ~ Transforming Lives ~ Engaging the World*

*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.*

**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! For name tag assistance, 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 Pastor Catherine 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.

## Words in Preparation for Worship

*God of new life, move through the locked doors of our hearts. Open us to your love moving in the world. Instruct us as you taught the disciples.  
Make a new church of us, a blessed place where we live in unity.  
As we gather in this space today, move through us  
so that we may proclaim you as Lord in all spaces of our lives. Amen.*

## Welcome

## The Chiming of the Trinity

**Prelude** *Sheep May Safely Graze* Johann Sebastian Bach

**Introit** *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!* Alington/Vulpus

## \*Call to Worship

This is the good news which we proclaim to you.

**Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!**

Walk in the light of his love.

**Live in the light of his teachings and healing mercies.**

Come, let us worship the One who overcame death.

**Let us celebrate the triumph of our Lord. Amen.**

Let us worship God!

\***Hymn 246** *Christ Is Alive!* Wren/1778

**Psalm of Praise** from 1 Chronicles 16

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Share the news of his saving work every single day! Declare God’s glory among the nations; declare his wondrous works among all people because the Lord is great and so worthy of praise. He is awesome beyond all other gods because all the gods of the nations are just idols, but it is the Lord who created heaven! Greatness and grandeur are in front of him; strength and joy are in his place. Give to**

Through his resurrection, Jesus comes to his disciples and gives them a tiny Pentecost, he breathes into them.

In so many ways we are held up in tiny rooms of our own making—the lung-restricting reality of our present moment holds us tight. It is there that Christ comes to us.

### John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you."

<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you. <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

<sup>24</sup> Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

<sup>26</sup> After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

<sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll.

<sup>31</sup> But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name. (Common English Bible)

**the Lord, all families of the nations— give to the Lord glory and power! Give to the Lord the glory due his name! Bring gifts! Enter his presence! Bow down to the Lord in his holy splendor! Tremble before him, all the earth! Yes, he set the world firmly in place; it won't be shaken. Let heaven celebrate! Let the earth rejoice! Let the nations say, "The Lord rules!" Let the sea and everything in it roar! Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate! Then the trees of the forest will shout out joyfully before the Lord, because he is coming to establish justice on earth! Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love endures forever.**

### Children's Moment

Catherine Campbell

### Anthem

*We Walk by Faith*

Alford/McFarland/Kosche

### Prayer for Illumination

### Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

New Testament pg. 115

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

*Don't Forget to Breathe*

Patrick Ryan

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

### \*Affirmation of Faith

from A Declaration of Faith

**We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.**

### \*Hymn 255

*O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing* Tisserand/French melody

### Giving of God's Tithes, Our Offerings, and Our Coins for Hunger

### Offertory

*Prayer of St. Francis*

Harry Banks

### \*Doxology

**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 to celebrate Willa Mae's first birthday by Ben and Nicole Avolis.*

### Prayers of the People 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.**

## Our Staff

### Anna Pinckney Straight

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### Patrick Ryan

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### Catherine Campbell

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### Richard Colflesh

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### Pastor on Call

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### Vance Harper Jones

Organist Emeritus

\*Hymn 238

*Thine is the Glory*

Budry/Handel

Benediction

Response

*Be Not Afraid*

Taizé/Berthier

Postlude

*Fanfare*

William Mathias

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*Liturgist:* Anna Pinckney Straight

*Musicians:* Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs; Pat K. Rowlett, soloist

*Ushers:* (8:30 am) Leslie Pinkston, Mark Dail, Barbara and Sam Bidwell,

Janelle Haggard (11:00 am) Pat Avery, Nancy Melling, Linda Staunch

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## What does it mean to be a part of a family of faith?

What does it mean to be a part of the Body of Christ?

First Presbyterian Church is a historic congregation, but our faith is not in the past.

We are a people who pray, listen, laugh, weep, feast, study, seek, and serve.

If you know something about Jesus but want to know more, if you have experienced God's love and want to share that love, too, please consider if now is the time for you to explore membership.

New Member Classes are scheduled for April 7, 14, and 21 and you are invited!

Childcare is provided. If you missed today and want to start next week, just get in touch with Anna Pinckney Straight ~ 252.637.3270 ~ anna@firstpresnb.org

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## A New Adult Education Session Begins Today!

We invite you to find a place to grow your faith. Pick up an Adult Education brochure to find out about weekly opportunities for gathering and growth.

*Creation Care: Exploring Ways to Talk and Act with Love* - Many of us are concerned about the environment, and most of us are weary of the fractious debates often associated with this topic. If you are interested in learning more about how to understand, communicate about, and meaningfully address the challenges of climate change, join us for this spring class taught by Helen Robinson and Sara Schweitzer. This class will discuss Katharine Hayhoe's 2021 book, *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*. You can pick up a copy of the book in the office workroom. This class meets in the Owl Room (Ministry Center, second floor).

*The Present Word* is an in-depth Bible study for adults that dives deep into God's Word, studying the Bible over a six-year period and focusing on a specific theme each quarter. The goals of *The Present Word* curriculum are to engage in a serious study of Scripture to discover its deeper meaning and how it is relevant today. In the Spring quarter, we explore the fullness of faith as a response to God's desire to be in relationship with us. It meets in the Session House Parlor and is led by George Evans.

*The Story* condenses the Bible into 31 accessible chapters and sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Using the clear, accessible text of the New International Version (NIV) Bible, it allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel, opening participants' eyes to God's master plan, unfolding in the lives of the Bible's characters as well as their own lives. This class is led by Dick Betts and Lana Brunk, and meets in the Conference Room (Ministry Center, first floor). Everyone is welcome!

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Sunday, 4/7</b>	8:30 am	Worship		5:00 pm	Contemplative Worship
	9:30 am	Fellowship Café		5:30 pm	First Presbyterian Foundation
	9:40 am	Sunday School			
	9:40 am	Confirmation Week 1	<b>Thursday</b>	2:30 pm	Pickleball
	3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal		5:00 pm	Resurrection Singers
	5:30 pm	Youth Group (Grades 6-12)	<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 am	Pickleball
<b>Monday</b>	12:00 pm	Divine Sleep Yoga	<b>Sunday, 4/14</b>	8:30 am	Worship
	1:30 pm	Knit 4 Others		9:30 am	Fellowship Café
	3:45 pm	Covenant Choir Rehearsal		9:40 am	Sunday School
	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (Zoom)		9:40 am	Confirmation Week 2
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am	Staff Meetings		11:00 am	Worship
	12:00 pm	Grief Support Group		3:00 pm	Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal
	2:30 pm	Pickleball		5:30 pm	SALT (Grades 3-5)
<b>Wednesday</b>	11:45 am	Preschool Choir Rehearsal		5:30 pm	Youth Group (Grades 6-12)
	12:00 pm	Life of Prayer			



This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, which means we collect our **Coins for Hunger!** Coins for Hunger is about how a small act of gratitude – one or two coins at each meal – can be transformative. Your coins turn into funds that are sent to Religious Community Services in New Bern where feeding people is one of the things they do. RCS served 94,520 meals in 2023 at a cost of \$2.75 per meal. There are plenty of jars available in the narthex for those who want them, and for those who would rather not bring in their coins you can make your gift for this project using an RCS envelope (if you use giving envelopes) or simply write “RCS” or “Coins for Hunger” on your check or memo on your offering.



**Join us for this month's Fellowship Dinner** on Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 pm in the J. Murphy Smith Center, 508 Middle St. We'll be enjoying a chicken burrito bar including chicken, rice, black beans, and tortilla chips. Please use the QR code to RSVP and let us know how many will be joining us for this evening of food, fellowship, and fun.

**First Presbyterian's 34th Annual Spring Ring** will be presented at 7:00 pm Wednesday April 17 following the Fellowship Dinner. The concert will take place in the Sanctuary, and will include performances by the Covenant Choir, Preschool Choir and the Sanctuary Bells. Special guests will be the Craven Ukes, a ukelele club that rehearses in our Choir Room. The concert is open to the public and free of charge.

### 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	Creation Care	Owl Room
The Story	Conference Room	Grades K-5	Worship and Wonder Room

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**Office Hours:**  
Monday – Thursday  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm