



During the Sundays we will not be worshipping in person,
the congregations of First Presbyterian and First United Presbyterian Churches
will be worshipping together.

Many years ago, our churches shared a history as one congregation
before our ties were broken by racism and sin.

Years later, we rejoice that we can participate in Christ's ministry of reconciliation
as we bear witness to God's faithfulness and grace.

Order of Worship

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2020
11 a.m.

Preparation

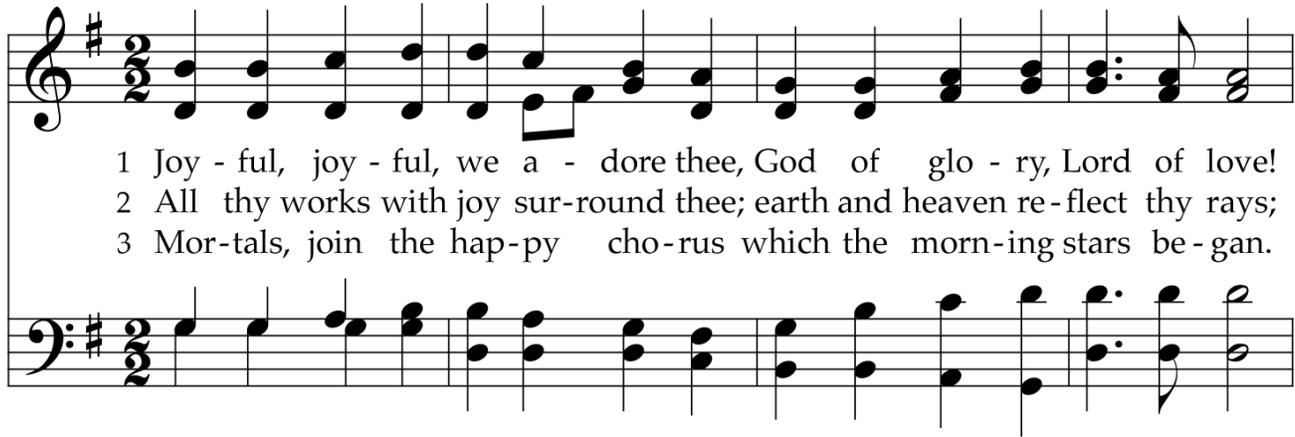
Prelude From "Water Music," *Allegro Vivace and Air* G. F. Handel

Words of Welcome The Reverend Pen Peery

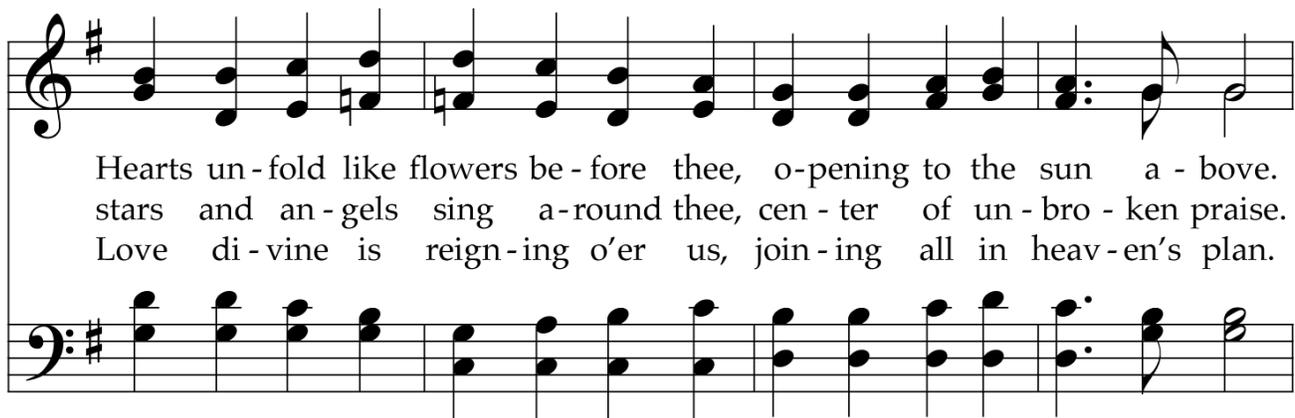
Chiming of the Trinity

Adoration

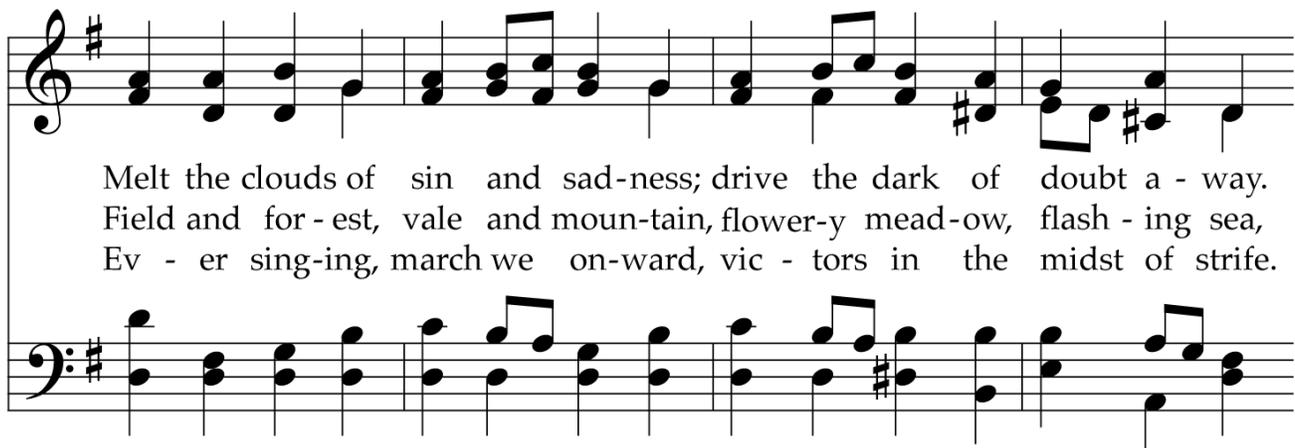
Choral Call to Worship G. Hamilton Smith
He shall rule from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth. Alleluia!



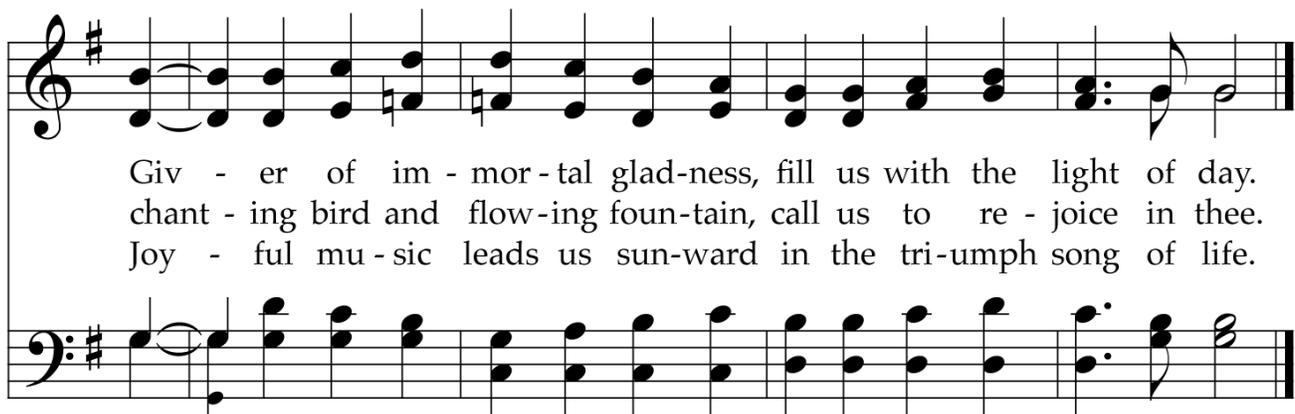
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-lect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.



Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a-bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

Confession

Call to Confession

The Reverend Mary Margaret Porter

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion, we must confess that our love is not always what we might hope it would be. We focus so much on ourselves, the needs of others pale in significance. Too often we find ourselves rejoicing in the miseries of others, believing they must have done something to deserve what comes their way. We continually push our families and friends away from us, simply by insisting that everything be done our way.

For these sins, forgive us and have mercy on us. As you rescue us from ourselves, may we become your people. As you touch us with faith, may we be witnesses to the world of your dreams. As you pour out hope upon us, may we be your compassion to those who hurt. As you drench us with your love, which comes to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, may we be made whole.

Response (Hymn No. 551)

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*Response (Hymn No. 33)

LLANFAIR

Praise the Lord! God's glories show, Alleluia! Saints within God's courts below, Alleluia! Angels round the throne above, Alleluia! All who see and share God's love. Alleluia!

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Psalm 71:1-6

Anthem

"Jesus Loves Me"

William Bradbury/arr. Nelson

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so. Jesus loves me. He will stay close beside me all the way. If I love him when I die, he will take me home on high. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 13

Sermon

"Enduring"

The Reverend Pen Peery

The 11 a.m. service is televised over WAXN-TV, Channel 64 this morning and streamed live at www.firstpres-charlotte.org and on Facebook Live.

We are grateful to Hank Griffin, Molly Johnson, Sara Kidd, Kelly Potts, Charlie Weeks, and David Williamson for sharing their musical talents in worship today.

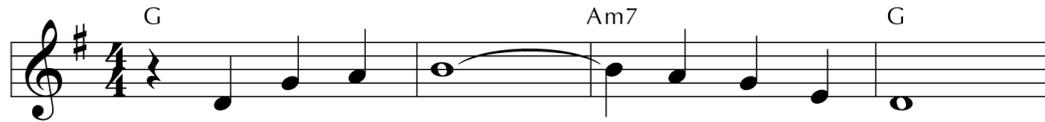
The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of Dorothy Lucille Jones, daughter of Julie and Kevin Jones.

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Rolaine Vandenburg on the death of her mother, Clara Spencer Vandenburg.

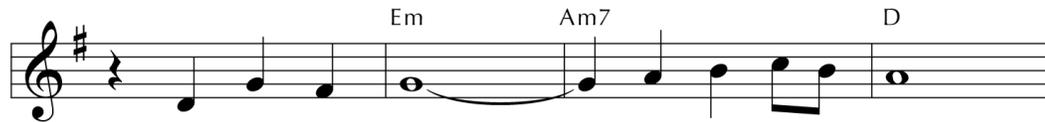
The defining characteristic of God's relationship with God's people is steadfast love. Each week we will explore a different dimension of the love that God has for us, and the love that God expects us to offer to one another.

The Session has called a congregational meeting following worship today for the purpose of acting on the Session's recommendation to sell a piece of real estate that has been left to the church.

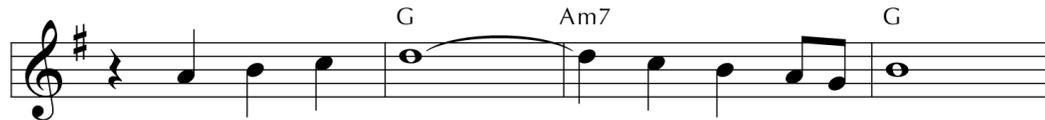
Even though we are not meeting in person, we ask for your continued support. We encourage you to give by text, online at www.firstpres-charlotte.org, or by mailing a check to 200 W. Trade Street, Charlotte, NC, 28202. Your gift will support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.



1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

Response

*Affirmation of Faith

The Reverend Lorenzo Small, Sr.

Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers of the People & 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.

Stewardship of Life

Offertory Anthem

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

John Rutter

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

*Doxology (Hymn No. 606)

OLD HUNDRETH

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Sending Forth

Hymn No. 53

“O God, Who Gives Us Life”

NOEL

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Virtual Passing of the Peace

Benediction

“Amen”

John Rutter

Postlude

Toccata in Seven

John Rutter

First Presbyterian Church Congregational Meeting

We are glad you are worshipping with us today!

We welcome all to First Presbyterian Church as we worship together, knowing that each of us is a beloved part of the body of Christ.

Our Pastors

Pendleton B. Peery
Senior Pastor
ppeery@firstpres-charlotte.org

Robert L. Galloway
Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Young Adults
rgalloway@firstpres-charlotte.org

Anna R. Dickson
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
adickson@firstpres-charlotte.org

Mary Margaret Porter
Parish Associate
mporter@firstpres-charlotte.org

Charles C. Williamson
Parish Associate
cwilliamson@firstpres-charlotte.org

William P. Young, III
Director of Music Ministries
wyoung@firstpres-charlotte.org

Are you interested in joining our church?

Contact Jane Ives
Membership Coordinator
jives@firstpres-charlotte.org

Pastor on call

If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

200 West Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
www.firstpres-charlotte.org
704.332.5123

Announcements for First Presbyterian Church

Westerly Hills Academy Apple Tree

Our Westerly Hills Academy Apple Tree will be different this year, due to COVID-19. Instead of providing teachers with classroom supplies, Principal Malacy Williams has asked if the congregation would provide the staff with personalized masks along with cleaning and sanitation supply kits for the teachers. Kits would include large bottles of hand sanitizer, no-wipe disinfectant spray, and wipes and gloves. If you know of any place that is donating these, or if you have access to extras, please let us know! Contact Barbara Climer (bloveclimer@firstpres-charlotte.org) if you want to deliver supplies. You can also make a donation through Realm (<https://onrealm.org/firstprescharlotte/-/give/westerlyhills>).

August Formation: Manifestations of God's Love

Love, the focus of the current sermon series, is the primary way we understand God. In following God as disciples, we are called to model this love in the ways we treat one another. We invite you to explore manifestations of God's love. Our study will include gathering virtually and learning on our own.

- August 23: (Learn) *Flexible Faith* with the Reverend Mary Margaret Porter. Register for this Zoom session (<https://bit.ly/Aug23Formation>) with small group breakouts.
- August 30: (Grow and Do) Personal exploration via these resources: <https://bit.ly/FormationResources>. Children will continue with Faith at Home bags. Practice interacting with others in a way that honors our differentness.

New Book Discussion in August

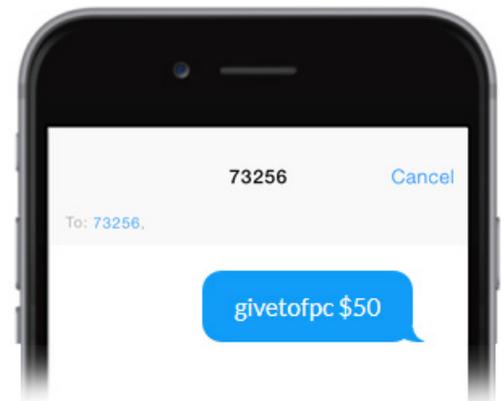
The discussion of the book *A Flexible Faith*, by Bonnie Kristian continues. What does it mean to be Christian today? How might we cultivate diversity instead of division in our faith? The group will meet for an hour via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays through September 24. If you are interested in joining or in hearing more, please contact the Reverend Mary Margaret Porter (mporter@firstpres-charlotte.org).

Two Positions Now Open at FPC

First Presbyterian Church has two positions now available in the Formation Department—Director of Youth Ministry and Director of Children and Family Ministry. Visit the Life at First page on the church website for details or contact the Reverend Robert Galloway (rgalloway@firstpres-charlotte.org) with questions.

TEXT GIVING – You can quickly donate to the church through TEXT GIVING. See the example below.

- Text to 73256
- Content of the text needs to be – givetofpc followed by a \$ and the dollar amount.
- You will be prompted to enter your payment information.
- You will receive an email receipt of payment.



Announcements for First United Presbyterian Church

FUPC members, please be sure to check your email daily for updates to our weekly schedule.

For the foreseeable future, First United Presbyterian Church will not have in-person worship due to concerns about the COVID-19 virus. We have also suspended all other programs and activities at the church.

Our new year of study kicks off Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 6pm via Zoom. We will continue the practice of linking our weekly studies to our weekly sermon for the first half of our study year. We open with love taken from the final installment of our current love series. Our text of focus will be 1 John 4:7-21. Hope to have you journey with us!

Donations can be made via the website at fupcc.org. Just click the “Give Now” button. Donations can also be mailed to First United Presbyterian Church, 406 North College Street, Charlotte, NC, 28202.