

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude Teresa de Freitas

Reflection on 'Attende Domine'
Paul Fey

French Meditation
Paul Fey

Welcome Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Procession of the Palms *Hosanna in the Highest*

* Call to Worship Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

For forty days and nights the rain fell,
and the waters covered the face of the earth.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Moses spent forty days on the mountain,
learning the commandments of God.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

For forty years the people wandered,
seeking the land of God's promise.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness
to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days
and was tested by the devil.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

* Hymn 197 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

* Confession of Sin

God of mercy,

you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.

**We confess that we have wandered from your way
and become lost in the wilderness of days and years.**

We are misled by pride,

**for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,
and great when we are small.**

**We have failed in love, neglected justice,
squandered time, and ignored your truth.**

Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sins.

**Return us to paths of righteousness and love
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response 581

Glory Be to the Father

**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.**

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message Tricia Johnson

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Luke 19:28-34

Scripture: Luke 19:35-43

Sermon Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

Near the Cross
Carol Tornquist

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith

Dr. Randy Kirby
The 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

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory Sanctuary Choir, First Kids Ensemble
Hosanna in the Highest
Craig Courtney

* Hymn 160

A Stable Lamp is Lighted
v. 2

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion of the People

"The body of Christ, given for you."

"The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Music during Communion

A Stable Lamp is Lighted

You are invited to sing as Communion is served.

* Prayer after Communion

Sending to share the Word

* Hymn 263

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

* Benediction

Jesus enters into Jerusalem riding a humble donkey.

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

What will this messiah king bring?

Peace on earth and glory in the highest heaven!

Then, the assembly rose

and brought Jesus before Pilate, saying:

**We found this man undermining our law and order
and saying that he is the Messiah, a king.**

Then Pilate said to the crowds,

"Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

**He stirs up the people with his teaching
and disturbs the peace everywhere.**

I have not found this man guilty of any charges against him.

Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!

Then what do you wish me to do with the man

you call the King of the Jews?

Crucify, crucify him!

Why? What evil has he done?

Crucify him! Crucify him!

Postlude

Praludium BWV 559
J.S. Bach

The living Christ encounters us in the ordinary elements of Communion. Christ extends the invitation to the Lord's Supper and is open to all – believers and doubters, young children and adults, members and non-members. To highlight this gracious welcome, only non-alcoholic juice is served, and gluten-free bread is available. If you would like to refrain from the feast, you may cross your arms, and a blessing will be offered. If you cannot come forward, a minister will serve you in your seat. If you feel so moved to respond, people often reply with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

*Those who are able are invited to stand.
Bold indicates words spoken in unison.

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in thanksgiving and celebration of the marriage of Santiago Meneses and Sarah Stewart Hoyle, daughter of Revs. William and Felicia Stewart Hoyle.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Hunter Thomas (Steve and Donna Thomas's grandson), Hank Chavis (Kathy Sanborn's grandson), Kenneth Alexander (Libby Fowler's son-in-law)

Eleanor Sandifer on the death of her sister, Jane Turner.

Bill and Felicia Hoyle, on the marriage of their daughter, Sarah, to Santiago Meneses.

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Melanie Sink Bailey, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Scott Hay, Richard Hudson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), Reba Parsons, Dottie Thomason, Ebbie Whisenant, Sharon Whittington, Gerhard Wolf

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: Teresa Williams, Harold Mesimer, Tim Smith, Glenna Todd, John Harrington, Carley Drye, George Damtey, Fletcher Busby, Vick Bost, Sharon Whittington, Evelyn Mead, Robert Ogden, Mike Farris

Anniversaries: Chris and Paula Mead, Colin and Cindy Dailey

First Presbyterian Church

April 13, 2025

11:00 am

Palm/Passion Sunday

The Digital Fast: 40 Days of Space for God



Mission Priorities

Spirit-Centered Discipleship
Hands-on Local Mission
Friendships Across Differences
Embracing the Unchurched



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CHURCH LIFE

MINISTRY FOCUS – DEEPLY ROOTED

Communion Elder: Del Denny

Baptism: This morning, Ryan and Bekah Summitt present their daughter, Birdie Kate, for baptism during the 8:30 service.

Worship: Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary, join us for a moving service with communion.

Worship: Good Friday, April 18, at 7:00 pm, in Lewis Hall, join us for worship and *The Seven Last Words*.

Grow in Friendship: Presbyterian Women are collecting diapers and wipes throughout April to help support One Church One Child. Drop off donations in the church office.

Grow in Faith: Vacation Bible School is coming soon! Register your children now (purple QR Code). We also need MANY volunteers (black QR Code)!

June 16-19, 5:00-7:30 pm, dinner included!

MINISTRY FOCUS – CORE

Maxwell Chambers Trust will meet on Tuesday, April 22, at 6:00 pm. All current and past Elders are needed to attend.

High School Senior & College Undergrad Scholarships:

All forms are due in no later than April 25!

STAFF: We are looking for a part-time Children’s Ministry Director. If you know anyone outside of the church who loves God, loves children, and might like to work at First Pres, invite them to apply! Contact Christine for the job description or look at our staff section on our website.

MINISTRY FOCUS – BRANCHING OUT

Seasonal Outreach: Our final Lenten Prayer Breakfast is Wednesday, April 16, at 7:00 am, in Lewis Hall. Guest speaker: James Harley, Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church.

Showing Up: Sign up now for our April 22 Red Cross Blood Drive. Appointments are available from 2:00 until 6:30 pm. Help give life to others!

Youth: Our annual TWAM 5K and Fun Run is set for Friday, May 2. Our Glow Kids Run is at 6:30 pm and our 5K Glow Run and Walk is at 7:00 pm. This year, we will meet at Overton Elementary and run on the greenway and part of the Catawba College Environmental area. Register now to run/walk!

Showing Up: The RSS Summer Meals program will begin Monday, June 2 and run through Friday, July 25. We need at least 2 volunteers each day, Monday-Friday. Greet guests and guide children and youth to the food truck and back into Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up now before your summer is too full. 11:15-12:15, just one hour a day!

THIS WEEK

April 13	8:30	Worship-Lewis Hall
	9:45	Unified Adult Sunday School, Children’s Sunday School, Elder Training
	11:00	Worship-Sanctuary
	5:00	Youth
	7:00	Race & Justice Book Study
April 14	9:30	MomCo
	10:30	Prayer Shawl
	5:00	Fund Team
April 15	10:00	Staff
	10:00	JOY w/Day School
April 16	7:00	Lenten Prayer Breakfast
	9:00	Randy Kirby’s Bible Study, Yoga
	11:00	Trevor Eppehimer’s Book Study
	5:00	Handbells
	5:30	First Kids, Property Team
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal, Race & Justice Book Study
April 17	6:30	Open Horizons @ RHM, LCW Rehearsal
	7:00	Maundy Thursday Worship-Sanctuary
April 18	7:00	Good Friday Worship-Lewis Hall
April 20	8:30	Worship-Lewis Hall
	9:45	Courtyard Celebration: Flowering of the Cross, Feed the Fish Finale, Butterfly Release
	11:00	Worship-Sanctuary