

First Presbyterian

FLORENCE SOUTH CAROLINA

11 a.m.

November 23, 2025



*We are called to love God
with our head, our heart,
and our hands*

LOVING *with* OUR HEAD

We are lifelong learners shaped by God's Word

OUR HEART

We commit to loving God and loving people

OUR HANDS

We use our God-given gifts to serve others

700 Park Avenue ✦ Florence, SC 29501

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www.florencefirst.org

Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Devoutly.
Leave Gracefully. Serve Christ Faithfully.

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God
from Cantata No. 79

Johann Sebastian Bach
setting by Virgil Fox

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Festival Hymn of Thanksgiving
We Gather Together

No. 81
NETHERLANDS
setting by Paul Sjölund

(Verse 4)

With voices united our praises we offer; to Thee in thanksgiving, glad anthems we raise.
Thy strong arm will guide us; Through all thou art beside us:
To Father, Son, and Spirit, forever be praise!
Julia C. Cory

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

in front of hymnal

*THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

No. 733
MEINEKE
Christoph Meineke

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.
second century Gloria Patri

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O Lord, that we want You first in our lives but we live as if You were
second or third. We want You to rule our hearts but our hearts tend to wander.
We long to be faithful, but we need Your power. Help us to trust You more and
more. (Time of silent prayer and confession). In Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

All: Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness.

Sing a song of redemption!

Let sorrow and sighing be no more. (Isaiah 35:10)

Pastor: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Canticle of Thanksgiving

John Rutter

Benedictus Dominus: Lord, we thank you for all creation,

We worship you, we honor you, we bless your Holy Name for ever.

Lord, you were there before the hills and mountains, You formed the earth,

You made the sea and sky; You are God, our strength and our salvation

Through a thousand ages passing by. The earth is yours, and all that is within it,

You gave it life and every gift so fair; In the wealth and wonder of creation

You were there, Lord, You were there.

Lord, we are called as servants in Your kingdom

To do your work, and not to seek for rest, Share each load,

and bear each other's burdens, that our lives may be forever blest.

Lord, You are there in gentleness and goodness, in kindly thoughts and quiet words of prayer: In the love which binds us all together You are there, Lord, you are there.

Lord, who can tell the greatness of Your glory, or who can sing the fullness of your praise? You are God immortal and eternal; Grant us strength to serve you all our days. Through all the years Your goodness never failed us: In times of joy and days of dark despair You were there, the One who never changes; You were there, Lord. You still are there, Lord; You will be there, Lord, You always will be there.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Kaiti Bryant

☞ Children in 3K-5K are invited to go with a worship caregiver to attend *Children in Worship*.

If this is your child's first visit, please fill out and follow the instructions on the

"First Presbyterian Church Loves Children" sticker located in the friendship pad.

Parents, please pick up your children at Children in Worship at the end of the service.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM/NEW COVENANT PARTNERS

Mary Elizabeth Hickey

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Elder Johnny Stoupenos

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Prayer of Gratitude

Mary McDonald

Father, we lift our prayer to thank You; We thank You for the love You gave.
For granting unto us Your blessing; strength and wonder beyond Your grace.

We thank You, Lord, for tender mercies; the comfort of Your peace.

May our lives reflect the joy in You we know; may Your love within us grow.

We offer You our prayer of gratitude, and to You, we lift our hearts in praise;

Father, hear our prayer; keep us in Your care. A prayer of gratitude we raise.

We offer You our prayer of gratitude, and to You, we lift our hearts in praise;

Father, hear our prayer; keep us in Your care.

A prayer of gratitude we raise, O Lord. Amen!

**The Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

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. Amen.

SERMON

Dr. Stuart Bond

Rebuilding Our Broken World: The Sound of Rejoicing

Nehemiah 12:27-37

(Pew Bible page 485)

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Thanksgiving

Early American tune

Arr. John Ness Beck

transcribed by Craig Courtney

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

MOMENT OF DEDICATION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Take My Life and Let It Be

No. 466

HENDON

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

*POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALL GOTT
setting by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

This morning's worship is led by
Dr. Stuart Bond, Senior Pastor
Mr. Johnny Stoupenos, Elder
Kaiti Bryant, Program Director of Children's Ministry
Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music and Organist
The Chancel Choir
Dr. Fran Coleman, soprano
Emily Lake, soprano
Laura Anne Hofler, alto
Daniel Hubbs, tenor
Dr. Curt Boswell, baritone
Jennifer Foxworth, violin
Kelly Jokisch, trumpet
Randy Oswalt, timpani and percussion

*Congregation is invited to stand if able.

† † † † †

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The harvest arrangement is given by Laura and Erik Marechal this morning to the glory of God and with thanksgiving for this new season in the life of our church under the pastoral leadership of Cindy and Stuart Bond!

Welcome guests! If you're visiting us for the first time this morning, we would like to give you a small gift. As you leave the sanctuary, deacons (with name tags on) will have a *Jesus Calling* book ready for you. We are glad you're with us.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer. Those in need of prayer include Bob and Melba Whitesides in the loss of his sister, Clara Williamson; Kent Caudle; Aubrey Crawford; Rainey Josey; Dave and Linda Lawson; Bob McLean; Lalla Saleeby; Ginger Sullivan; and Mary Lynn van Witzenburg.

Today is Commitment Sunday! As part of both worship services today all Covenant Partners will have the opportunity to come forward and place a stewardship commitment card on the Communion Table as a sign of our commitment to Christ and what He is doing through First Presbyterian Church. This act is about far more than collecting "pledge" cards, it is our opportunity to recommit our lives to Christ and be a part of what He is doing in our community and the world. Commitment cards and envelopes are at the end of each pew. Please prayerfully consider how God is leading you to financially support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Handbell Concert: Ring in the Advent season at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 3, with our talented Chancel Handbell Choir! This is a First Presbyterian tradition rich with Christmas melodies from around the globe.

Installation Service: Please join us at 4 p.m. today for Dr. Stuart Bond's Installation Service as senior pastor. Prior to the service, at 2:30 p.m., we will gather in the Welcome Center and break into small groups for a time of corporate prayer, thanking God for the gracious gift of Stuart and Cindy Bond joining our covenant family. Those who are able can walk our campus acknowledging the growth we have experienced and praying for wisdom to follow the Lord's guidance in the months and years to come. A reception will follow the installation service in the fellowship hall.

Hanging of the Greens: Women in Ministry members will decorate the church from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, December 1. Volunteers are needed and welcomed! Contact Beverly Everton at 919-741-2747 or Dottie Hail at 302-841-8781.

Thornwell Drive: Every year, First Presbyterian supports Thornwell by collecting quarters in turkey banks. We are taking it a step further by collecting new items needed to support Thornwell's mission to see hopeful, healthy, and empowered children and families fulfilling their God-given potential. Use QR code for list.



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Women's Christmas Wreaths Workshop: Join us from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, December 7, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall for a Christmas Wreath Workshop led by Maddelle Christian. The event is open to the first 25 registrants. *Cost to be paid at time of registration is \$15, which includes wreath wire, greenery, accessories, bow, light snacks, and fun! Register on Realm using QR code at right. *Cost of wreath is nonrefundable, but it is transferable to a friend.



Holiday Market: The youth are hosting their Holiday Market, which will be held before and after worship services today. The proceeds help offset the cost of big summer trips. The youth have come up with even more creative and fun gift ideas for this year. They look forward to your support.

Keenagers will be at noon Tuesday, December 2, in Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Come see what the staff has in store for us as we celebrate the holiday season. It is always fun. Meal will be ham, sweet potato casserole, pole beans, ambrosia salad with mint, and Merry Berry Cake. All those 55 and older are welcome. Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Cost of meal is \$6.

Living Nativity: Join us at 6:30 p.m. December 9 and 10 for the story of Christ's birth brought to life by our sixth-graders along with the 3K-fifth grade angel choir. Stay for cookies and hot chocolate afterward and the youth's holiday market.



CHRISTMAS GREENERY



As we prepare to decorate our Sanctuary for Advent Season, consider sponsoring our Christmas Greenery to honor loved ones or in memory of loved ones. The form is needed so acknowledgement can be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

In honor / memory of: _____

Given by: _____

The cost is \$12 per designated name or couple and should accompany your order.

Amount included: \$_____ Return form to the church office by Monday, Dec. 15.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal: Jenkins Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 2:30 PM Prayer walk
- 4:00 PM Installation Service of Dr. Stuart Bond and Reception
- 5:30 PM Youth: Small Groups

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- 9:30 AM CDC Chapel
- 12:15 PM CDC Bible Study
- 2:30 PM Prayer Group: Price Classroom
- 4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop Meeting
- 5:15 PM CDC Bible Study
- 5:30 PM Selah Yoga: CLC
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Meeting
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
- 3:00 PM CDC Music Time: JFH

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- 2:00 PM CDC closes early
- 4:45 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27 Thanksgiving

CDC, church office closed
Selah Yoga

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

CDC, church office closed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 First Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal: JFH
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 1:00 PM Living Nativity Rehearsal for Angel Choir and Cast
- 5:00 PM Youth: Outdoor Movie Night