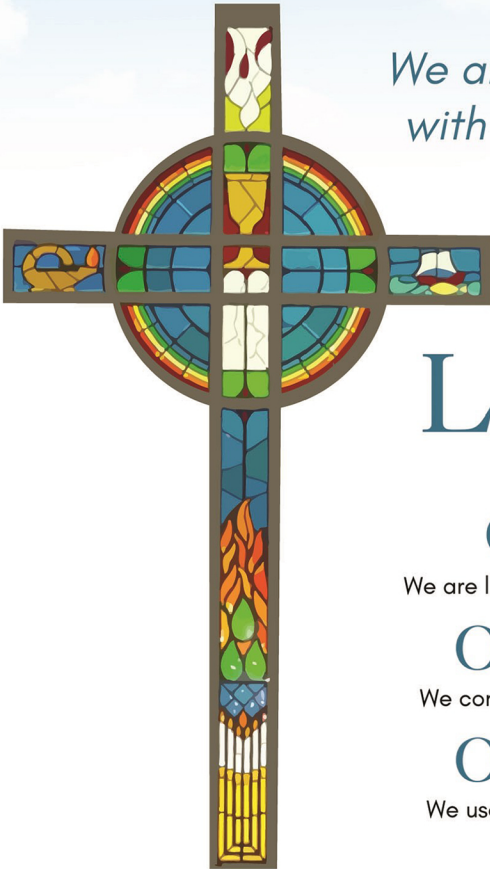


# First Presbyterian

FLORENCE SOUTH CAROLINA

11 a.m.

April 26, 2026



*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

843.662.2583 ✚ 843.662.1726 Fax

[www.florencefirst.org](http://www.florencefirst.org)

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

---

*Order of Worship*

**PRELUDE**

*I Know that My Redeemer Lives*

DUKE STREET  
John Hatton  
setting by Michael Burkhardt

**GREETINGS**

**INTROIT**

*This Is the Feast of Victory*

FESTIVAL CANTICLE  
Richard Hillert

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to  
God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
Revelation 5:12-13

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*I Know That My Redeemer Lives!*

No. 414  
DUKE STREET

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Apostles' Creed*

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**

Oh God, forgive us when we sink to the level of those around us. Forgive our meanness, our unkindness. Forgive us when we want to amuse those around us more than we want to be a reflection of your love. Hear us now in our time of silent prayer. ... Together we pray: **We ask these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor:** The Lord is near to all those who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.  
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear him.

**All:** He also will hear their cry, and will save them.  
The Lord preserves all those who love him. (Psalm 145: 18-20a)

**Pastor:** Friends, in Jesus Christ we are restored.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

# ANTHEM

*Lord of the Dance*

19th Century Shaker Tune

arr. John Ferguson

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I came down from heaven  
and I danced on the earth; At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance then wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said He, And I'll lead  
you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee, But they wouldn't dance,  
and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
They came with me and the dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame: The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
And left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black, It's hard to dance with the devil on  
your back, They buried my body and they thought, I'd gone.

But! I am the dance and I still go on. They cut me down and I leapt up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me.

I am the Lord of the Dance, said He. Dance then wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He, And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He, Dance! said He!

Sydney Carter

## 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.

## \*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

*Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA

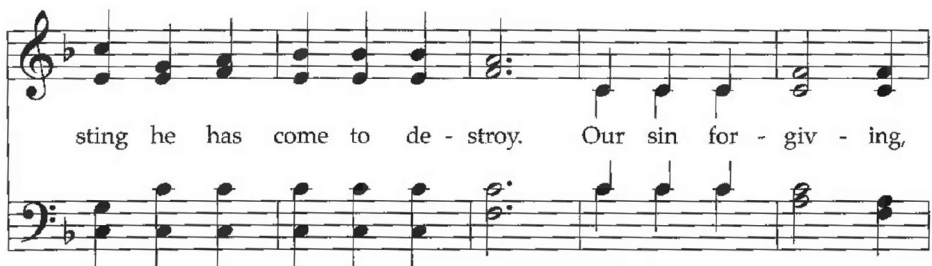
Tanzanian melody

# Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Refrain



Let us sing praise to him with end-less joy. Death's fear-ful



sting he has come to de-destroy. Our sin for-giv-ing,



al-le-lu-ia! Je-sus is liv-ing, al-le-lu-ia!

(Refrain)

**Congregation:** Let us sing praise to him with endless joy. Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy. Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

**Choir:** Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.  
For our redeemer burst from the tomb, even from death, dispelling its gloom.

**Congregation:** (Refrain)

**Choir:** "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save. Jesus' redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won."

**Congregation:** (Refrain)

**Choir:** Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly King.

**Congregation:** (Refrain)

Bernard Kyamanywa

## PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Elder Jayne Boswell

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*How Great Thou Art*

Swedish Folk Song  
arr. Dan Forrest

O Lord my God! How great Thou art! O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made! I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze, then sings my soul, How great Thou art!

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died, to take my sin,

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home,

what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration,

and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Stuart K. Hine

\*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

### The Hardest Command

Luke 6:27-36 (Pew Bible page 1021)

## \*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me*

No. 401

THREEFOLD GIFTS

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Dying, You Destroyed Our Death*

Joseph Roff

Dying, You destroyed our death; Rising, You restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

## \*POSTLUDE

*Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA  
Tanzanian traditional  
setting by Franklin D. Ashdown

This morning's worship is led by  
Dr. Stuart Bond, Senior Pastor  
Jayne Boswell, Elder  
Kaiti Bryant, Program Director for Children's Ministry  
Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music and Organist  
The Chancel Choir  
Emily Lake, soprano  
Lily Green, flute  
Christa Godwin, percussion  
Dr. Kristin Kiely, percussion  
Dr. Stuart Bond, hand drum  
Dr. Curt Boswell, conga drum  
\*Congregation is invited to stand if able.

† † † † †

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our son, Robert, by Bob and Betsy Olsen.

**The rose** on the chancel this morning is in honor of Laney Frances Spearman, born Tuesday, April 21, daughter of Bryan and Madisen Spearman.

**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 Pam Morgan for the loss of her brother John R. Hastings; Marie O'Harra for the loss of her husband, Bob; Aubrey Crawford; Henry Jenkins; Rainey Josey; Mary Kirkpatrick; Dave and Linda Lawson; Bob McLean; Jim Moseley; George Stuber; Ginger Sullivan; and Mary Lynn van Witzenburg.

### Children's Ministry

- **Children's Sunday:** 10 a.m. Combined Worship Service on Sunday, May 10. Our children will lead worship on Mother's Day!
- **First–5th Grade Rehearsals:** Today after the 11 a.m. service and May 3 after the 10 a.m. combined service and church picnic.

**Rummage Sale:** The Youth Group will be having a Rummage Sale from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 2, with an exclusive first look for \$10 at 5 p.m. Friday.

**Chancel Handbell Choir Spring Concert** will be held on Wednesday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. Come hear the sounds of the season with our talented group of musicians.

**Church picnic:** Please join us for the spring church picnic that will be held following the 10 a.m. Combined Worship on Sunday, May 3. Bring your favorite salad, vegetable, starch, or dessert. Bring blankets and chairs, if desired, for seating.

**Florence Symphony Orchestra:** Sunday, April 26, at 4 p.m. Free concert celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary at the Performing Arts Center.

**Combined Services Schedule:** One worship service will be offered at 10 a.m. on Sundays starting May 3. Two services will resume September 13.

**WiM Spring Celebration:** All women are invited to the Women in Ministry Annual Spring Celebration to be held at 6 p.m. May 12, in the CLC with the presentation of the Life Service Award. Bring a salad to share. RSVP to the church office or on Realm. Nursery will be provided with RSVP, 843-662-2583, by May 6.



## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, APRIL 26

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:30 AM Music Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:40 AM Congregational Meeting: Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 12:00 PM Children's Sunday Planning: CLC
- 2:00 PM Women's Hike
- 3:00 PM Healing and Wholeness Service: Lawson-Rain Chapel
- 5:00 PM Youth: Wheeldateens!

### MONDAY, APRIL 27

- 9:00 AM CDC Chapel
- 12:15 PM CDC Bible Study
- 2:30 PM Prayer Group: Price Classroom
- 4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop Meeting: Scout Room
- 5:15 PM CDC Bible Study
- 5:30 PM Selah Yoga: Jenkins Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 PM Confirmation Banquet: CLC
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

### TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Rummage Sale Prep: CLC

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Meeting
- 10:00 AM Staff meeting
- 11:00 AM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC
- 3:00 PM CDC Music Time: JFH
- 6:30 PM Session: JFH

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Rummage Sale Prep: CLC

- 5:30 PM Youth Group: Earth Day Project
- 6:15 PM Wednesday Night Parenting Class: JFH
- 6:30 PM Chancel Handbell Spring Concert
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts class: Scout Room
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Rummage Sale Prep: CLC

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: LR
- 7:00 AM Youth: Coffee at F.E. Pop's
- 7:45 AM Faith in Motion Men's Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Women's Bible Study: WOC

### FRIDAY, MAY 1

Rummage Sale Prep: CLC

- 5:00 PM Youth Rummage Sale First Look

### SATURDAY, MAY 2

- 7:00 AM Youth Rummage Sale
- 9:00 AM Session Retreat: Blackwater Farms

### SUNDAY, MAY 3

- 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 11:00 AM Church Picnic
- 11:45 AM Children's Sunday Planning