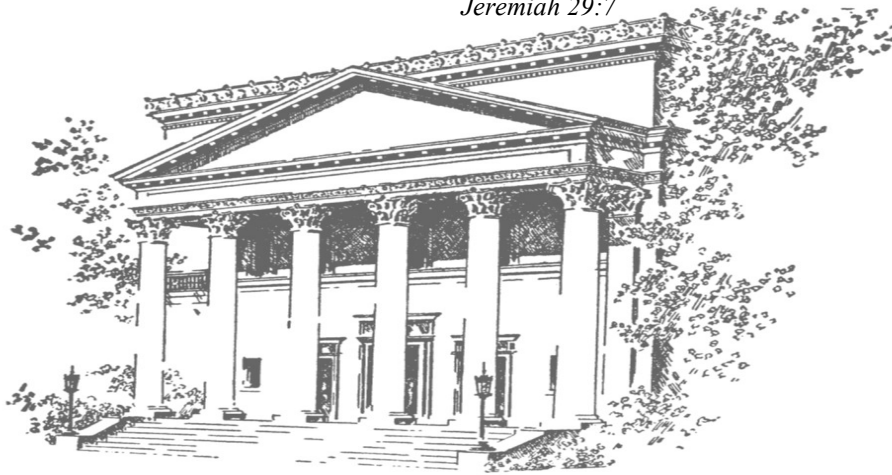


*Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...  
And pray to the Lord on its behalf*

*Jeremiah 29:7*



# First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way  
Charleston, WV 25301-2487  
304-343-8961  
[www.firstpresby.com](http://www.firstpresby.com)

Pastors:  
The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers  
The Rev. Marietta Macy

Ministers:  
All members of the congregation

## The Worship of Our Lord

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 28, 2024  
10:30 AM

*Welcome to First Presby! We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the end of the pews. We use this information for contact tracing and to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read the electronic newsletter "First Presby Press" and the weekly Green Sheet. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors. Thank you!*

### REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

*The following scriptures are provided for silent Meditation during the Prelude.*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

*The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members,  
a heart of grace and a soul generated by love.*

Coretta Scott King

\* indicates congregation standing, as able

### THE CHURCH GATHERS TO ...

#### PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN #70

What Does the Lord Require of You?

MOON

*ALL sing lines 1-3 in order*

*Outer Sections of Sanctuary sing 1, Inner Sections sing 2, and Choir sing 3, together*

PRELUDE

Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan

J.S. Bach

INTROIT

What Is This Place

KOMT NU MET ZANG, Hub Oosterhuis

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

#### PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Zinn

One: With what shall we come before the Lord?

All: Shall we bring burnt offerings or calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams? Or ten thousand rivers of oil?

One: Mortals, God has shown us what is good. What does the Lord require?

All: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

*ALL sing lines 1-3 in order*

*Outer Sections of Sanctuary sing 1, Inner Sections sing 2, and Choir sing 3, together*

### CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Macy

One: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus.

All: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Living God,  
in declaring the poor blessed,  
the outcast beloved,  
and the mighty powerless,  
your gospel message turns our world right-side up.  
Forgive us when we do not live in the light of your great reversal  
when we operate as if success were the highest goal  
and personal happiness the worthiest aim.  
Forgive us, Lord.  
Convert us, and heal us.  
Enlighten us to know your truth  
and empower us to try anew.

*(Silence is kept for personal confession)*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

All: God is doing a new thing, now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Thanks be to God!

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning (vss. 1 & 4)

MORNING STAR

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the east, the horizons adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

#### \*SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor Macy

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

### LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 111 (OT p. 562) & 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NT p. 171)

Chris Zinn

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### ANTHEM

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him

Charles Beaudrot

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:21-28 (NT p. 35)

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

*(Children in grades 1-5 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117 or  
they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.)*

#### SERMON

"The Limit of Our Liberty is Love"

Pastor Myers

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Macy

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Macy

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.

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER #688 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart (Vs. 1)

MORECAMBE

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,  
And make me love thee as I ought to love.*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory

Jesu, meine Freude

J.S. Bach

*(Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.)*

\*Offering Response #607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

\*HYMN #852

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

I'LL FLY AWAY

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

\*POSTLUDE

Allegro Maestoso

T. Mee Pattison

*Our worship continues in our service to others.*

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.  
May the gift of worship we offer today honor God and serve as a blessing to you.  
Worship is broadcast at 11AM on WCHS-580AM  
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel.

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

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#### WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers  
The Rev. Marietta Macy  
Chris Zinn

#### THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music and Organist  
The Sanctuary Choir

#### ALSO SERVING TODAY

Chiming the Trinity: David Cottrell  
Greeters: Bob and Jane McEldowney  
Steve and Barb Hopta

Audio & Video: Byron Goodew & David Cottrell  
Custodial Services: David Feibelman

#### WORSHIP NOTES

Please remember that we worship every Sunday Sabbath Day, and that is available via YouTube and the radio broadcast. Thank you for connecting for worship with First Presby.

#### Staff of First Presbyterian Church

William Myers, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff  
Marietta Macy, Associate Pastor of Christian Education  
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist  
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager  
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool  
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator  
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian  
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager  
Keith Avery, Custodial Services