

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026 | 10:30am

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way • Charleston, WV 25301 • 304-343-8961 • www.firstpresby.com

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers: All members of the congregation

*A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.
May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.*

We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the ends of the pews. We use this information to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read about news and events happening in the life of the church, found in the worship bulletin after this morning's order of service. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors!

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

A reflection for worship:

"Jesus' entry into Jerusalem shows that God's way of ruling is nothing like the way the world expects a king to rule."

– N. T. Wright

The following scriptures are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1-11 • Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion

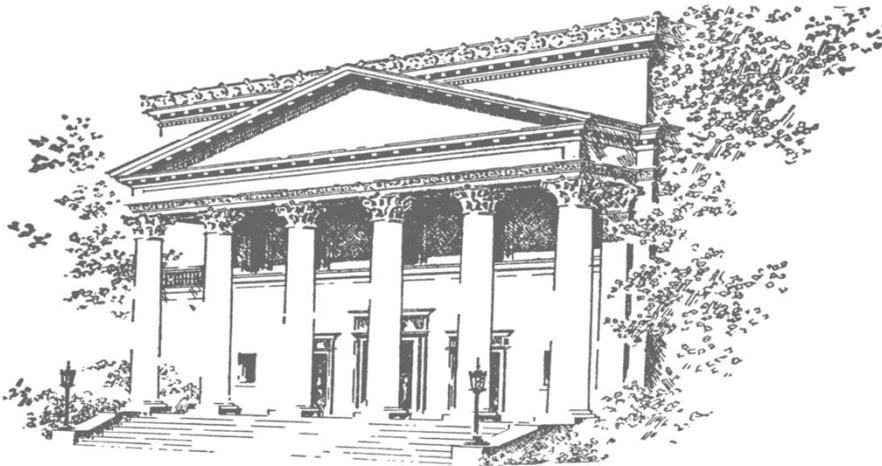
Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 31:9-16 • Philippians 2:5-11 • Matthew 26:14-27:66 • Matthew 27:11-54

Cover art:

Christ's Entry into Jerusalem (1876)

Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

A preparatory sketch for the final large version exhibited at the Salon in 1876.



*Seek the welfare of the city where I
have sent you...
and pray to the Lord
on its behalf for in its welfare you will
find your welfare.*

Jeremiah 29:7

The Worship of Our Lord

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

**indicates congregation standing, as able.*

PRELUDE	Fling Wide the Gates (from <i>The Crucifixion</i>)	John Stainer
WELCOME		Pastor Myers
MINUTE FOR MISSION	One Great Hour of Sharing	Barb Hopta
CHIMING OF THE TRINITY		

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Bob Welty

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: We have gathered to welcome the King... the king we thought we wanted.

One: See, the crowds cheer, waving branches, singing praises, expecting triumph and power.

All: We, too, come with hope and longing... sometimes hoping God will meet *our* expectations.

One: But this king is different – humble, gentle, self-giving, and obedient to God's will.

All: Hosanna! Save us not only from what we fear, but from our limited vision of your kingdom.

One: Let us worship the Lord who calls us into a love that transforms, a kingdom that surprises, and a story that redeems.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Bob Welty

All: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. We praise You, O God, for Your humility that confounds our expectations, for Your love that gives itself away, and for the courage to walk the path of obedience and trust. All glory and honor belong to You, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #196** All Glory, Laud, and Honor VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Myers

One: We long for a king who saves us on our terms. We cling to control, measure love by our expectations, and fail to follow the One who comes differently.

All: Let us confess our sin and turn to God.

**Merciful God, we confess that we reject You
when You do not meet our expectations.**

**We desire power, victory, and comfort,
yet You call us to humility, love, and trust.**

**Forgive us, and give us hearts willing to follow Your way,
even when it surprises or challenges us.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor Myers

One: Hear the good news:

The king the world crowns with power, wealth, and victory can't save. The King we follow, Jesus Christ, comes in weakness, humility, and love. He saves. In Him, your sins are forgiven. Follow Him with courage and hope.

All: Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
- gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with - out end. A - - men, a - - men.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, the third system covers the third line, and the fourth system covers the fourth line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, providing harmonic support for the vocal line.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor Myers

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21:1-11

Bob Welty
page 23, *New Testament*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Bob Welty
page 565, *Old Testament*

ANTHEM

Crucifixus

Andrea Gabrielli

*Crucifixus etiam pro nobis,
sub Pontio Pilato,
passus et sepultus est.*

He was crucified for us,
under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered and was buried.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 2:5-11

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Myers
page 197, *New Testament*

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

Birth – K may meet in the Nursery (Room 114) for a lesson and a snack.
Children in grades 1–5 are dismissed to Children’s Church in Room E–117/119
or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

SERMON

“When God Doesn’t Meet Our Expectations”

Pastor Myers

***HYMN #197**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

ELLACOMBE

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Myers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Myers

**All: 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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.
You may also text "firstpresby" to 73256 to give from your mobile device.

OFFERTORY	Interlude on HERZLIEBSTER JESU	John S. Dixon
*OFFERING RESPONSE #607	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow <i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.</i>	OLD HUNDREDTH
*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION		Pastor Myers
GO FORTH TO SERVE		
*HYMN #198	Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!	ST. DROSTANE
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Myers
POSTLUDE	Toccatina in D minor	J.S. Bach

OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS

Worship is broadcast on Sundays at 11:00am on WCHS 580AM
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel: First Presby WV
Follow us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Charleston, WV

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
Bob Welty

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelmann

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

Service music is reprinted under CCLI License No. 3604127.

THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

William Myers, Pastor/Head of Staff
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager
Susan Smith, Christian Education Coordinator
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator
Chelsea Greathouse, Office Assistant

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian
Curtis Allen, Preschool Custodian
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager

NO TIME FOR REFRESHMENT

Due to Holy Week services, there will be no Time for Refreshment with Pastor Myers on Thursday.

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Bring a side dish or dessert to the annual potluck Easter breakfast on April 5th in the Dining Room starting at 9am.

FLAT JESUS ADVENTURES

Grab a flat Jesus from the back table in the sanctuary, color him and take him with you on your spring adventures, sports games, recitals, etc! Then send your pictures to diana@firstpresby.com.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth group will meet every second Sunday from 3:00 – 5:00. There will be fun, food, fellowship, and Faith Formation. This group is for middle school and high school students. If you have any questions please feel free to talk with Susan. Our Next Meeting is Sunday, April 12th

FAMILY RESOURCES

Show them your faith matters even when you are not in church on Sunday. We have created two pocket sized resources for your family when you are not able to be in worship; “One Minute Sabbath” and “Devos on the Go.” Nurture their faith and yours; pick up one or both.

VBS SAVE THE DATE

This year’s Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 1st – Thursday, June 4th from 5:00 – 7:00. Come join us for “Kids Who Make a Difference to Neighbors Near and Far.” More information coming soon. To find out more or to volunteer contact Susan Smith, Christian Education Coordinator. You can reach Susan by email susan@firstpresby.com or phone 304-343-8961.

PRAYING FOR OUR PARTNERS IN CUBA

The PC(USA) Cuba Partners Network is asking for prayers for our siblings, congregations and ecclesial structures of the Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Cuba and for the people in Cuba.

“Our invitation is to let our requests be known to God for health and well-being of all who live in Cuba, for courage and strength for our siblings in their witness and community presence, and for wisdom and increased faith for those who lead and guide the Presbiterio del Centro, the Presbiterio de Matanzas, and the Presbiterio de La Habana.

May the example of God, who made the divine present with and alongside the disenfranchised of the world, make us resolute in our prayers, actions, and presence with and on behalf of the people of Cuba, and for a nation – theirs and ours – that truly lives up to its promises of solidarity, well-being, peace and dignity for all.”

EGG HUNT

The Christian Education Committee will host an Egg Hunt after church this Sunday, March 29th after worship. The children will hunt for eggs that contain Easter symbols. Each child will leave with six items that represent a part of the Easter story. If you forget to bring a basket, we have extra. If you have any questions please see Susan Smith.

MISSION UPDATE: 40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS Returns!

As of Monday, March 16, we have collected and delivered 2,266 food items to Covenant House! Thank you, First Presby, for addressing the hunger problem in our community as we continue to support 40 Cans for 40 Days.

Last year's **40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS**, our Lenten outreach, was a great success. Together, we collected and shared hundreds of canned goods that were delivered to Covenant House to help our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. Imagine the amount if each of us contributed 40 items during the 40+ days of Lent!

Use the following list to help organize your shopping, *and **please bring your donations to the church during the week or on Sunday mornings.**

OUR SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Week 1: Peanut Butter and Jelly

Week 2: Canned Soup and Canned Pasta, Sauce

Week 3: Canned Fruit and Dry Fruit (raisins, etc.)

Week 4: Canned Meat (Spam, sausage, chicken); Tuna

Week 5: Canned or Dried Beans and Rice

Week 6: Cereal, Canned/Dry Milk, Pancake mix, Syrup

DATES

Week beginning **Sunday 2/22**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/1**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/8**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/15**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/22**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/29**

***Suggestion from Covenant House:** *In order to maximize your shopping dollars, check the Dollar Tree for shelf-stable milk, cereal, pancake mix, syrup.*

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matt. 25:40)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The efforts supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees – serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are underway in more than one hundred countries, including the United States and Canada.

COFFEE FAIR TRADE

We are getting a new batch of Olive Oil! Equal Exchange has partnered with Sindyanna of Galilee, a non profit organization made up of women working together to foster education and economic opportunities to model mutual respect and collaborating between Jews and Arabs. Equal Exchange says this Sindyanna Olive Oil has received rave reviews with its rich herbal overtones and bold, fruity flavor. We will let you know when the new Olive Oil has arrived so you can try it for yourself!

The Hope and Justice Fair Trade Shop is open during office hours and on Sundays from 9:00-noon. During office hours, please see the office staff to shop. On Sundays, please put your cash or check in the provided envelopes on the table in the shop and put them in the drop slot in the door by the Panera table. We are keeping it stocked with all your favorites! Only cash and check are accepted at this time.

LENTEN MEMORIALS

First Presby is accepting contributions to our Worship Memorial Fund in honor or in memory of loved ones. Please look for the Lenten Memorial envelopes in your pew and designate checks for Lenten Memorial Fund. Contributions and names of loved ones received in the church office prior to Wednesday, April 1st will be printed in a special insert for Easter worship bulletins. These Lenten Worship Memorials are used to beautify the sanctuary with potted flowers for the Easter season and provide for special music. Thank you for your gift.

LIFT: WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

There will be no LIFT during Holy Week. Hope to see you for dinner and fun next Wednesday, April 8th!

ROBIN HARLOWS COFFEE CAKE RECIPE

To: First Presby
From: Jeff and Robin Harlow, with love

Robin's Kahlua Cake

350* 40-50 min.
1 box Devil's Food Cake Mix
1 pt. sour cream
4 eggs
1 3 ½ oz. Instant Chocolate Pudding
¾ C. oil
¾ C Kahlua
1 12 oz. bag chocolate chips

Mix. Bake in tube pan (greased). Cool in pan. Turn out.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, March 29

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Act. Bldg. Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Worship – Palm Sunday	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
11:30am	Egg Hunt	<i>Chapel</i>
6:00pm	GW Baccalaureate Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Monday, March 30

8:30 am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Tuesday, March 31

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
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Wednesday, April 1

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
1:00pm	Lenten Bible Study	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

NO LIFT THIS WEEK

Thursday, April 2

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
6:30pm	Maundy Thursday Service	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Friday, April 3

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
6:30pm	Good Friday Service	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Saturday, April 4

Sunday, April 5

9:00am	Easter Breakfast	<i>Dining Room</i>
10:30am	Worship – Easter Sunday	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>

DISCOVERY CLASS

Mar 29	HospiceCare – Sierra Jones, Community Liason
April 5	Easter Sunday – No Class
April 12	Red Cross

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, March 29	Zechariah 12:9-11
Monday, March 30	Mark 11:12-25
Tuesday, March 31	Mark 11:27-33
Wednesday, April 1	Mark 12:1-11
Thursday, April 2	Mark 14:12-25
Friday, April 3	John 13:36-38
Saturday, April 4	Romans 8:1-11



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**

