

# Palm/Passion Sunday

## March 29, 2026

### WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

*\*Rise in body or in spirit...(as indicated below)*

#### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Partita on All Glory, Laud and Honor*  
*Maestoso, Andante, Largo*

Michael Burkhardt

#### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Here, in this place, we prepare ourselves for the holiest of weeks.

**All: A week that ends one journey and begins another;  
a week of heartache and loss, with hope hidden in hearts.**

One: We will try to follow Jesus through this week,  
just as we have followed him to this day.

**All: We will wave our palm branches in joy;  
We will clutch nails in our hands hidden behind our backs.**

One: When he could have come with armies behind him,  
Jesus comes humbly, with children playing in the streets.

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

#### \*OPENING PRAYER WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

#### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 196

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

### WE CONFESS OUR SIN

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, sometimes we think you ask too much of us. Sometimes  
your will seems too hard. Sometimes your path looks too narrow,  
so we pray as Jesus did for you to allow us to avoid the cup of  
suffering. In situations where your way gives us pause to fear,  
embolden us with the faith of Jesus. Help follow obediently and  
trust in you to bring us to the good land and to your glory. For Jesus'  
sake,**

*Silent Prayer -How have you disappointed God, others, or yourself? AMEN.*

#### \*KYRIE ELEISON

*O Lord, Have Mercy*

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

**O Lord, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy,  
have mercy on us.**

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear this good news. Our Lord, who walked this earth and faced  
temptation, understands our struggles and temptations. Jesus stands  
ready to listen, to forgive, and call us to new life.

**All: We believe the Good News that in Jesus Christ, we are  
forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

#### \*RESPONSE (Hymnal 581)

*Glory Be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

**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.**

### THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Kara Wheeler

(Children through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are welcome in Children's Church with Ms. Kara.)

#### ANTHEM

*A Festive Hosanna*

James Barnard

The Cherub, Covenant, and Chancel Choirs

Handbells: Faye Ballard, Gary Johnson, and Chandler Thomas

Come, and sing this joyful day. Come, and wave your palms of  
praise. Come, and worship, honor, adore. Blessed is He who comes  
in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to the  
King! Lift your voices to the sky. Alleluia! Let praises ring! Jesus rides  
into the town, slowly passing by. Crowds are gathered all around.  
People are cheering and waving their branches on high! Hosanna in  
the highest! Hosanna to the king! Lift your voices to the sky. Alleluia!  
Let praises ring! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Alleluia!

#### SCRIPTURE READING

*Matthew 26:36-46*

(Pew Bible p. 29)

#### THE SERMON

*If It Is Possible...*

Dr. Lee Zehmer

#### TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

*What is God saying to you through Scripture, sermon and song?*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE 220 (vss.1 and 2)

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

REDHEAD 76

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### \*WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE – *A Declaration of Faith (4:4)*

**Religious leaders hated Jesus because he criticized their hypocrisy  
and reproved their neglect of justice and mercy.**

**They charged him with blasphemy and sedition  
when he claimed to speak and act with God's authority.**

**One of Jesus' followers betrayed him.**

**Others abandoned and denied him because they were afraid to  
stand with him.**

**Civil authorities condemned him because he provoked unrest  
among the people.**

**He was sentenced, mocked, beaten, and crucified as a common  
criminal.**

**We confess that in the execution of Jesus the sin of the human  
race reached its depths.**

**The only innocent One was condemned and put to death, not by  
the sinfulness of one nation, but by the sinfulness of us all.**

#### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Please touch the plate as it is passed to offer your time, talents, and tithes to God.*

#### OFFERTORY

*Voluntary on MARTYRDOM*

Emma Lou Diemer

#### \*RESPONSE

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures  
here below. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise Him above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia!**

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Hosanna to the Savior! We offer ourselves today in praise and  
thanksgiving for the One who saves us. Take and bless these gifts  
as tokens of our very lives, as we follow Jesus on the path to  
crucifixion and resurrection. In the name of our precious savior,  
Amen.**

### WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

#### \*CLOSING HYMN 216

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

ST. CHRISTOPHER

#### \*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymnal 541, v. 1)

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

RANDOLPH

**God, be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold  
you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we  
meet again.**

#### CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Toccata on All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Michael Burkhardt

---

We are very pleased to have the members of the Cherub and  
Covenant Choirs participating in our worship service today:

*James Allen Chubb, Taylor Chubb, Jase Johnson,  
Julia Kate Keener, Brynn Kirksey, Emma Kirksey, Alexander Roberson,  
Ava Smith, and Mary Catherine Wheeler*

Angela Harris and Don Rogers, Directors  
*Soli Deo Gloria!*

*The flowers today are given to the Glory of God  
by Cameron & Sarah Lawson and in  
celebration of their wedding anniversary.*

#### **Guests...WELCOME to First Presbyterian Church!**

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us and pray  
that you will discover anew God's love for you today.

Please sign the Friendship Pad with your contact information when  
it is passed. Church members and staff would be delighted to  
provide you with more information about FPC.

**Nursery Care April 5:** Joanne Lehman  
**Elder/Deacon on Duty Today:** Clair Roberts, Joan Musselwhite  
**Elder/Deacon on Duty April 5:** Cynthia Johnson, Dave Keely  
**Monitor/Greeter Today:** Craig Rollins **April 5:** Eric Park  
**Acolytes Today:** Penelope Zelinski, Cecily Zelinski  
**Acolytes April 5:** Ben Williams, Henry Goodner

**Remember the following in prayer:** Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Shirley Burton, Beth Easley, Michele Horne, Rev. Barry Lambert, Keira Esposito, Ashley Platts, Nancy Lowery, Colleen Lathan, Manfred Liewald, Donna Martin, Allen Tice

**Let's Light It Up Blue** We wear **BLUE** today in celebration of people with autism and those who love and support them. March 30 to April 6 is World Autism Acceptance Week. Let's stand together and pledge our support by helping people with autism reach their full potential.

**Our Maundy Thursday Service** with Communion and the Service of Tenebrae will be on April 2 at 6:30 pm.

**Flowering of the Cross and Easter Breakfast** Our Easter breakfast will be in Hopkins Hall at 10:00 am. Sunday School Classes will not meet. Bring blooms or greenery from your yard or your grocery floral shop to help adorn the cross in our annual tradition. A light continental breakfast will be served.

**Calling FPC Artists!** On Easter Sunday, artists (photography, paint, pencil, clay, cloth, yarn, etc.) are invited to share their works in thanksgiving and glory to God at the 10:00 am breakfast and Flowering of the Cross. Contact Kara by this Wednesday to share your art.

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** On Easter Sunday we join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need in over 100 countries by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Info: [pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing](http://pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing).

**Help for HOPE:** We collected 68 packages of grits in March. Thank you for your kindness and generosity from the Mission and Outreach Committee and the clients who receive our donations. Our **April Collection** is jars, cans, or packs of FRUIT. Any brand and variety (peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail, applesauce, etc.) is needed. Drop off your donations in the Narthex by April 19.

**Rolling in Rock Hill:** Join our team to paint a local family's home exterior on Saturday, April 18. Contact Richard Quandt or Ken Roberts to volunteer.

**A Mahjong Beginners Class** will be Monday, April 20. 5:30 pm: shared appetizers; 6:00 pm: instruction. Sets will be provided. Register with the QR code.



**The Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction** for the Youth Dominican Republic Mission Team will be on Sunday, April 26 at 5:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased today in the Narthex: \$15/Adult & \$8/Child. Silent Auction donations are being accepted now and donation request letters are available in the Church Office.

**Needed! Tomato cans and olive oil bottles!** Leave the labels on them. The decorating team will use them for the April 26 dinner! Place your clean cans and bottles in the kitchen or on the Italian Night table in the Narthex.

**Spring Fling 2026** We will once again host the Special Needs students from our three high schools with a Spring Festival on Friday, May 1. Contact Ann Hunsucker to help.

**FPC Women's Retreat** will be held at the SC Inn May 29 – 31. Priority registration through April 12 for those attending FPC. After April 12, any remaining spaces will be opened to friends of FPC. See QR code to register.



 This QR Code may be used for all online contributions to the church. There is a 1% processing fee for Checking/ACH transfers and 3% fee for Credit Card transaction.

**This Week's Calendar**

- Sunday, March 29**  
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship  
Noon Easter Egg Lunch and Hunt
- Monday, March 30**  
11:15 am Staff Meeting  
6:00 pm Nominating Committee  
7:00 pm Matthew 25 Lenten Study
- Tuesday, March 31**  
10:00 am Women's Bible Study  
2:30 pm HOP  
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
- Wednesday, April 1**  
6:00 pm Yoga  
6:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- Thursday, April 2**  
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class  
6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service
- Sunday, April 5**  
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Flowering of the Cross and Light Breakfast  
11:00 am Easter Worship

**Members of the Session**

Susan Roberson, Clerk

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
John Abernathy	Paul Horne	Clair Roberts
Jimmy Campbell	Ann Hunsucker	Bo Redmond
Scott Harris	Chip Hutchison	John Blackwelder
Elizabeth Owen	Julia Nichols	Cynthia Johnson
Susan Roberson	Sheryl Smith	Rob Joiner

**Members of the Diaconate**

Beth Janicke, Moderator

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Jennifer Abernathy	Beth Janicke	Cameron Lawson
Heather Dellinger	Allen Katz	Carolyn Johnson
Kathy James	Joan Musselwhite	Jonathan Nichols
Margaret Joiner	Steve Roberts	Richard Quandt
Dave Keely	Sherry Hutchison	Betsy Forrest

**Deacons of the Month for March**

Kathy James, Joan Musselwhite, Cameron Lawson

**Deacons of the Month for April**

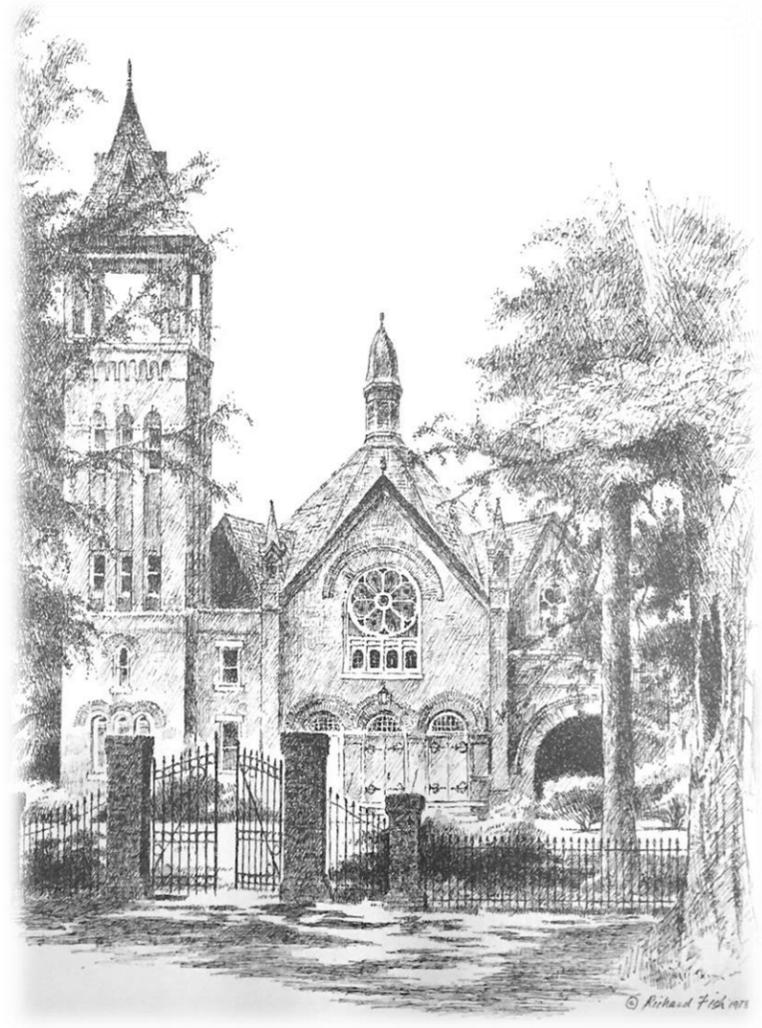
Margaret Joiner, Steve Roberts, Jonathan Nichols

**Office Staff and Contact Information**

Jonna Eichorn - Administrative Assistant – [jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org](mailto:jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org)  
Robyn Brown - Financial Secretary - [rbrown@fpcrockhill.org](mailto:rbrown@fpcrockhill.org)  
Mail to: Post Office Box 1011 - Rock Hill, S.C., 29731  
(803) 328-2467 - [firstpresrh@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresrh@gmail.com) - [www.fpc-rockhill.org](http://www.fpc-rockhill.org)

**Church Office Hours**

Monday – Wednesday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Thursday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Friday: Closed



**First Presbyterian Church**

234 East Main Street  
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730  
Organized 1869

We are a diverse family of believers in Jesus Christ, who seek to glorify God by celebrating and sharing God's renewing and transforming love as we:

- Worship* the living God with joy and thanksgiving
- Teach* the Word of God to deepen our faith and grow in our love of Christ
- Serve* others through sharing our unique gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Fellowship* with one another to energize our life together as a congregation
- Nurture and Embrace* all of God's children.

- Dr. A. Lee Zehmer – Senior Pastor
- Rev. Kara Wheeler – Associate Pastor of Family Ministries
- Dr. Donald M. Rogers – Director of Music
- M. L. Marley – Organist
- Angela Harris – Director of Cherub Choir
- Ashley Platts – Director of Handbell Choirs