

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are so happy that you are here today to share in our service of worship of the Living God!

Gathering Around the Word

The congregation is asked to make use of the prelude as a time of preparation, meditation, and prayer.

Centering Prayer

Almighty God, you have filled us with the light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of faith shine in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prelude *Baptized in Water* by Lani Smith

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome, Concerns and Celebrations of the Church

***Call to Worship:** (responsively)

Baptized to begin lives of faith,
we would witness to all you do in our communities, in our midst, in our world.
Baptized to serve,
we would speak up for the voiceless, we would bring justice to those who have none.
Baptized to speak,
we would heal, and not hurt; we would bless, and not curse.
Baptized to do what is right,
we would not play favorites, but treat each as your Beloved.

***Morning Prayer**

***Morning Hymn:** 265 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* DUKE STREET

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession:** (unison)

Almighty God, by water and your Holy Spirit you baptized us to be your own and called the Church into being. We confess that we hold back the love of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your Word of grace, speak the Good News of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our lives by the power of your Holy Spirit and make strong our common witness to one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Our prayer continues in silence)

***Declaration of Forgiveness** (responsively)

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel — and of Jesus’ solidarity in his own baptism by John with all who have been immersed in baptismal waters, repenting of their sin.

In his name, God has forgiven us of our own sins and set us on new paths.

Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God’s mercy to restore our right standing as God’s own.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Gloria Patri** *Glory be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI
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.

Proclaiming the Word

Time with the Young Disciples Charli Holder
All preschool and elementary children are invited to come down front.

Prayer for Illumination Bob Link

First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem *Come, Heavenly Dove* arr. Stan Pethel

Second Lesson: Matthew 3:13-17
Leader: This the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. Andy Chambers
“If You’re Gonna Be a Bear, Be a Grizzly”

Responding to the Word

***Hymn:** 688 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* MORECAMBE

Service of Installation for Elders

Austin Barnes, Cyndi Coker, Charlie Gustafson, Harold Nichols, Ashley Powell, and Jettie Young

A Litany of Gifts *(based on Romans 12)* Katherine Addison
As in one body we have many parts and each part has its own function, so all of us together with Christ are one body, and we all belong to each other.
We have different gifts according to the grace God has given us.

If your gift is to speak God’s word,
speak it out in faith.
If your gift is service,
live to serve others.
If your gift is the heart of a teacher,
teach what is true.
Let preachers preach with conviction, and givers give freely;
let elders work diligently for the people, and those who serve the poor, serve gladly.
Let us not lack for enthusiasm but be ardent in spirit,
serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, patient in suffering, constant in prayer, supporting one another and welcoming all.

Statement on Ordination and Installation Bob Link, Clerk of Session

***Affirmation of Faith** Rev. Andy Chambers

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the Communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Anointing of the Candidates

Constitutional Questions to the Candidates

Congregational Questions Van Mattison
Do we, the members of the church, accept these individuals as elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?
We do.
Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?
We do.

Prayer of Installation Rev. Andy Chambers

Prayer for Elders Jean Johnson

Declaration of Installation Rev. Andy Chambers

Charge to the Elders *(from 1 Peter 4:7–11)* Stan Walsh

The end of all things is near; therefore, be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Christ When for Us You Were Baptized* by Healey Willan

***Doxology** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* 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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

***Closing Hymn:** 634 *To God Be the Glory* TO GOD BE THE GLORY

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Benediction** Robert Lowry

Shall We Gather at the River

***Postlude** *Foundation* by Wilbur Held

Thank you to Bob Link for serving as liturgist and to Charli Holder for leading Time with the Young Disciples.

Morning Prayer for the week: God, you make old things pass away and declare new things to be. As I am renewed in my baptism this morning, help me to confirm my baptismal vows in my life today. Amen.

Evening Prayer for the week: Holy One, you stretched out the heavens and spread out the earth, and in that context I give you this small day that I have lived. Now may I sleep, safe and secure in your covenant promise to me that I am your beloved child, in whom you are well pleased. Amen.

Please Remember in Prayer		
Church Family	Friends of Church	Bereavement
Margaret Addison	Stuart Britt	The Frey family
Laura Ashley	Andy Dill	The Wardlaw family
Neile Chambers	Sherry Dishman	The Threatt family
P-Nut Dowdle	Nancy Hope	Lawrence Coleman & family
Steve Floyd	Julie Young Keadle	Latha Gearheart & family
Gin Jacobs	Moultrie Lanier	Cindy Jacobs & family
Liz Pinzon	Kim Purcell	Sonya Atkinson & family
Dot Smith		Pam Warren & family

Please continue to hold our Global Missionaries in prayer: Donald Marsden (US); Pam (Turkey); Ellen Smith (US); Larry and Inge Sthreshley (Congo)

The Session of First Presbyterian Church		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Derrick Adair	Marty Ademy	Lee Atkinson
Katherine Addison	Emily Holder	Danny Cook
Austin Barnes	Bob Link	Amanda Donley
Maecy Burton	Holbrook Raynal	Chad Gambrell
Cyndi Coker	Andy Sullivan	Jean Johnson
Van Mattison	Stan Walsh	Bob McLean
Harold Nichols		
Jackie Waldron		

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First Presbyterian Church

Clinton, South Carolina

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“Living, Loving, and Learning Like Christ.”