

*No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey,  
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

## Gathering Around the Word

### Centering Prayer

*Redeeming God, you call us to be one with you, as you are one with Christ. As his perfect love casts out fear, and changes it to love, unite us by your Spirit of peace, that we may be one with you, as you are one with Christ. Amen.*

**Prelude** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* JOHN TROUTMAN

### Chiming of the Hour

### Welcome and Announcements

#### \*Call to Worship: (responsive)

At the presence of God, we rejoice:

glorifying the One who is Parent of all orphans.

In the presence of Jesus Christ, we listen:

to the Voice who calls us to humbly serve others.

Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we speak:

making God's love known to the world-forsaken in our midst.

#### \*Morning Prayer

**\*Morning Hymn** *Joy to the World* #266 RICHMOND

#### \*Call to Confession

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

Eternal God, you have loved us from generation to generation. You have shown your faithfulness more often than we can recall. The Bible tells us of your steadfast mercy. You even pray for us. Yet we live holding on to past hurts; we are not open to your new creation. We prefer the safety of what we know to the excitement of discipleship. Forgive us, we pray, and make us again as you would have us be. We make all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

*(Our prayer continues in silence)*

#### \*Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Beloved, do not be surprised. Our God is gracious to all, restoring us to new life.

This is the good news, which is for us, and for everyone we will meet in the days to come. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven.

#### \*Gloria Patri

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

### Prayer for Illumination

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 4:16-21 pg. 835

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Choral Anthem** *God Knows* BY FAYE LÓPEZ

*When my heart has cause to sing, or when I mourn a broken dream, I need to just remember, God knows. Under peaceful skies of ease, or travel over troubled seas, always I remember my God knows. Nothing brings more joyful praise, hope to fill the heart with grace;*

*simple words within my soul, words of life, words of Hope, God knows. When I rest with Faith, secure, or when I struggle, so unsure, I need to just remember, God knows. When I rise, or when I fall, when I'm silent, when I call, always I remember my God knows!*

**Children's Sermon** Pastor Andy

All preschool and elementary children are invited to come down front.

**Sermon** Rev. Andy S. Chambers

*"Living, Learning, and Loving Like Christ?"*

## Responding to the Word

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (unison) *from A Brief Statement of Faith*

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Litany for Graduates and the Lord's Prayer** (Please see insert)

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** *More Love to Thee, O Christ* LANI SMITH

**\*Doxology** OLD HUNDRETH

*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

**\*Hymn of Mission** #488 WATERLIFE

*I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*

### \*Charge and Benediction

**\*Choral Benediction** *You Shall Go Out with Joy* #80/TREES OF THE FIELD

**\*Postlude** *Jesus Shall Reign* ARR. STAN PETHEL

*Thank you to Holbrook Raynal for serving as liturgist and to Ron & Nancy Dove for live streaming at Presbyterian Communities.*

*The flowers placed in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of our Clinton High School and Hathersham Central High School Class of 2026 Graduates.*

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## Sermon Notes

## Prayers for the Week

**Morning Prayer:** *Delivering God, you have safely brought me to this new day. Keep me free from all dangers, perils, and troubles. By the power of your Spirit, strengthen my focus as I seek to follow Christ and to humbly serve your truth. Amen.*

**Evening Prayer:** *Redeeming God, by your mighty hand you have safely brought me to this night, and for this and all other mercies, I give you thanks. Post your angels around me this night that I may rest in peace. Amen.*

## Please Remember in Prayer

<u>Church Family</u>	<u>Friends of Church</u>	<u>Bereavement</u>
Margaret Addison	Stuart Britt	The Wardlaw family
Laura Ashley	Neil & Lynda	The Threatt family
Neile Chambers	Counterman	Latha Gearheart & family
Sarah Tyler Cockrell	Andy Dill	Cindy Jacobs & family
P-Nut Dowdle	Julie Young Keadle	Sonya Atkinson & family
Kathy Hamer	Alan Pinson	Pam Warren & family
Linda Hunter	Kim Purcell	Marvine & Bill Tyler
Gin Jacobs	Trecie Davis Richey	Danny & Hunt Cook
Liz Pinzon		The Goodbar family
Kim Randall		The Stidham family
Dot Smith		

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

## Announcements



United Ministries needs *canned fruit* for its food bank supply. A collection bin is placed under the bulletin board in the church hallway. Please bring regular-sized (14 oz.) or larger canned fruit items to the church office and we will see that United Ministries receives them.



Scan the QR code with your mobile device to be directed to OnRealm, where you may make your offering or tithe. (Text/Data rates may apply)

## Church Staff

Rev. Andy S. Chambers, Pastor  
Lisa Keen, Office Manager  
Carolyn Payne, Financial Secretary  
Mac McDougal, Director of Music  
Dr. Karen Buckland, Organist  
Sheryl Owens, Custodian

## Email

achambers@fpcclinton.org X 102  
lisa@fpcclinton.org X 101/575-937-1641 (cell)  
carolyn@fpcclinton.org X 103  
macmcdougal@gmail.com 803-524-6101  
kbuck@presby.edu 864-833-8467

## Phone: 864-833-1062

First Presbyterian Church - 410 E. Carolina Ave. - P.O. Box 29 - Clinton, SC 29325

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

## This Week at FPC

### Sunday, May 17

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service – Baccalaureate Sunday  
5:00 p.m. – CE Committee meeting (library)

### Monday, May 18

9:30 a.m. – Staff meeting

### Tuesday, May 19

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. – The Classics gym walk (CLC)  
10:00 a.m. – Mah Jongg (Rm. 110 – CLC)  
5:30 p.m. – Congregational Care Committee (library)

### Wednesday, May 20

4:00 p.m. – *Deadline to submit items for the Sunday bulletin*  
5:30 p.m. – Budget & Finance Committee (library)  
6:30 p.m. – Choir practice (choir room)

### Thursday, May 21

4:00 p.m. – *Deadline to submit items for the emailed Worship News*  
Pastor Andy to Cornelia (Ellore's high school graduation)

### Friday, May 22 – Church office closed



*Pastor Andy and family will be making the big move to Clinton the **week of May 24<sup>th</sup>**. Please hold the Chambers family close for traveling mercies back and forth as they begin to settle into their new home!*

## Next Sunday we welcome Dr. Richard Burnett as our guest minister

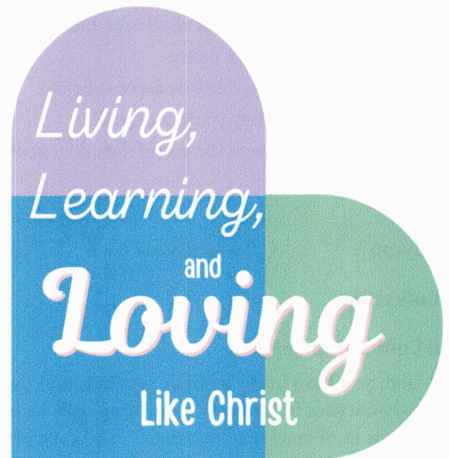


An ordained pastor, scholar, and author, Richard grew up in Charlotte, NC. He graduated from King College, Bristol, TN and received his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. He spent a year studying at the University of Tübingen, Germany, returning to be ordained as Assoc. Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Bristol. He later earned an S.T.M. from Yale Divinity School and a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Princeton.

In 2002, Richard joined the faculty of Erskine Theological Seminary, where he won the Allison Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006, was granted tenure in 2008, and served until 2016. He has also been Visiting Professor of Theology at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Adjunct Professor at Gordon Conwell, and Visiting Scholar at Princeton. For nearly two decades he has taught Reformed Theology and Church History in the Lay School of Theology sponsored by the PCUSA Presbyteries of SC. Currently, Dr. Burnett serves as the Managing Editor of Theology Matters (<https://theologymatters.com/>)

Richard is married to Martha, the daughter of a German Lutheran pastor whom he met in Amsterdam in 1986. They have four grown children.

# **First Presbyterian Church**



## **Baccalaureate Sunday**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**May 17, 2026**