

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Service of Divine Worship

VIVALDI'S

Gloria



11 a.m. | December 14, 2025
Dr. Mike Garrett, Senior Pastor

Service of Divine Worship

11:00 a.m. | December 14, 2025 | The Third Sunday of Advent
*Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Devoutly.
Leave Gratefully. Serve Christ Faithfully.*

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Mike Garrett

Prelude

"Hymn to Hope"
Kelli Partin, violin
Alice Ann Campbell, accompanist

Rolf Lovland

Call To Worship #95

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

PREPARE THE WAY

*Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.
(Repeat)*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Brian, Jacquelyn and Rush Ringrose

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in joy, the joy that we have in Jesus, our Savior.

All: Prepare, then, the way of the Lord!

Hymn #143

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

Call to Confession

Dr. Mike Garrett

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God we are created to praise and reflect your glory. Our sin causes us to seek our glory and deny yours. Forgive us, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Free us from self-centered lives so we can embrace Christ-centered purposes. Let your glory shine forth in us. Let our deeds reflect your love and our words reflect your grace. Enable us to grow more and more in your likeness and image. Hear now the silent prayers and confessions of our hearts. (We pray in silence.) **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Response #121

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Time for Children

Children are invited to Children's Church+

Morning Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Elder Maude Bledsoe

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.

Hymn #119

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

Offering

Offertory Anthem

"L'Inverno II"
Megan Kenney, violin
Alice Ann Campbell, accompanist

A. Vivaldi

Doxology, #150

"As with Gladness Men of Old" verse 3

DIX

*As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.*

Offertory Prayer

Gloria (RV 589)

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

- I. **Gloria In Excelsis Deo – SATB Chorus***
"Glory to God in the highest"
- II. **Et In Terra Pax Hominibus – SATB Chorus**
"And on earth, peace to people of good will"
- III. **Laudamus Te – Joyce Borum and Vicki Wells, soprano duet**
"We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you."
- IV. **Gratias Agimus Tibi/Propter Magnam Gloriam – SATB Chorus**
"We give you thanks – for your great glory."
- V. **Domine Deus, Rex Coelestis – Jennifer McFadyen Hammond, soprano solo**
"Lord God, heavenly King, O God, Almighty Father"
- VI. **Domine Fili Unigenite – SATB Chorus**
"Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son."
- VII. **Domine Deus, Agnus Dei – Evelyn McCauley, alto solo with SATB Chorus**
"Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father"
- VIII. **Qui Tollis Peccata Mundi – SATB Chorus**
*"You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us:
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer."*
- IX. **Qui Sedes Ad Dexteram Patris – Evelyn McCauley, alto solo**
"You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us."
- X. **Quoniam Tu Solus Sanctus – SATB Chorus**
*"For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ."*
- XI. **Cum Sancto Spiritu – SATB Chorus**
"With the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father. Amen."

Benediction

Benediction Response, #113

"Angels We Have Heard on High" verse 1

GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Postlude

"O, How Beautiful the Sky"
Alice Ann Campbell organ

Paul Manz

*SATB Chorus - Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass Chorus

+ Children's Church is available for elementary age children and younger, and meets in room 118 of the Nursery Wing. Childcare is available for all worship services in the Nursery Wing

**Join us for a time of fellowship immediately following the service in Eller Hall.
Thank you to today's hosts: Debra Chestnutt, Kellie Perkins, and Julie Dilts**

Today's Flowers

The sanctuary flowers this third Sunday of Advent are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Tom Stewart by his loving wife, Beverly Stewart.

Giving & Tithes

Contributions help us continue our ministry and mission to serve Christ and share His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach. Scan the code to the right to make a financial contribution -or- visit www.firstprez.com/give





Gloria

(RV 589)

Instrumentalists

Megan Kenney – Violin I
Kelli Partin – Viola
Julie Jordan – Oboe
Roger Holmes – Trumpet

Laurel Wachtler – Violin II
Paul Kirkpatrick – Cello
Zachary Keyes – Bassoon
Alice Ann Campbell – Organ

Chorus

Sopranos:

Joyce Borum
Sue Cartee
Jennifer Godman
Grace Hall
Jennifer McFadyen Hammond
Vicki Hogan
Kellie Pfaff Perkins
Diane Regensburger
Annalise Sears

Tenors:

Thomas Boyette
Drew Kramer
Tim Lloyd
Austin Taylor
Theodore Schwamm
Marty Sutherlin
Ross Wells

Altos:

Maude Bledsoe
Daina Byrd
Rachel Dixon
Kimberhly Hopkins
Erin Jackson
Evelyn McCauley
Sue Ellen Speicher
Martha VorderBruegge

Basses:

John Campbell
Joe Evans
Adam Farnham
Bruce McRae
Joseph Paris
Don Perkins

Directed by Dr. Marcia Heirman Mervin



Gloria

by Antonio Vivaldi



Vivaldi's *Gloria* is a beloved work for the Advent and Christmas season—truly fitting at any time of year. Antonio Vivaldi, a virtuoso violinist trained by his father, Giovanni Battista, who played at San Marco in Venice, was ordained a priest at age 25. Soon after, he was appointed violin instructor at the Ospedale della Pietà, a renowned orphanage for girls.

During his years at la Pietà, Vivaldi composed the *Gloria*. Although it is was likely first performed entirely by female voices, it is scored for SATB chorus, offering flexibility for performances beyond the orphanage.

A remarkably prolific composer, Vivaldi wrote more than 500 concerti—including *The Four Seasons*—along with over 50 sacred choral works and more than 40 operas. After his death, his music fell into private hands and disappeared from public view.

In the late 1920s, the *Gloria* was rediscovered in Turin, Italy, and received its first modern performance in Siena in 1939. Once published, its popularity quickly grew. Today, it is often associated with Christmas because its opening text echoes the angels' proclamation. It is sung regularly during the Catholic Mass:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father."

Interestingly, the *Gloria* is not sung by the Catholic Church during Advent and Lent. However, Presbyterians joyfully sing "Glory to God" year-round!

May this music inspire you to worship with renewed devotion, to offer thanks to God, and to enter the Christmas season with gratitude and joy.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Dr. Marcia Heirman Mervin

HAPPENING TODAY

- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Worship Service
- 12:15 p.m. Music Ministry Christmas Party
- 5:45 p.m. Caroling at Segra Stadium

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, December 15

- 11 a.m. Children's Ministry Meeting
- 12 p.m. Message Seekers
- 12 p.m. Personnel Committee

Tuesday, December 16

- 12 p.m. Finance Meeting
- 6 p.m. Joint Session/Deacons Meeting
- 7 p.m. Basketball in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 17

- 4 p.m. Men of God
- 5:30 p.m. Darkness to Light Fellowship Meal and Service
- 6:30 p.m. Best Christmas Pageant Ever FPC Social Hour
- 7:30 p.m. Best Christmas Pageant Ever Play

Thursday, December 18

- 6 p.m. Courtside Connections Pickleball

Saturday, December 20

- 9 a.m. Church Orchestra Rehearsal

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 22 • David's Mighty Men
- Dec 24 • Christmas Eve Services
- Dec 25 • Church office closed
• H3F Christmas Potluck Dinner
- Jan 1 • Church office closed
- Jan 4 • Kingdom Kidz & S.U.R.G.E. resume
• The Gathering: Foundations
- Jan 5 • Engagement Committee
• Mission Committee
- Jan 6 • S.A.L.T. Breakfast at JK's Deli
- Jan 7 • All In Fellowship Meals resume
• Adult Christian Education Class resumes
- Jan 8 • Tapestry resumes
• Hannah Circle
• Upwards Pickleball Youth League begins
- Jan 11 • Congregational Enrichment Event
• MomCo Meeting
- Jan 13 • Martha Circle
• Stated Deacons Meeting
- Jan 16-18 • Youth Ski Trip
- Jan 19 • Personnel Committee
- Jan 20 • S.A.L.T. Lunch at Sammios
• Stated Session Meeting
- Jan 25 • MomCo Meeting
- Jan 26 • David's Mighty Men
- Jan 27 • COAP Meeting (Zoom)

Stop by the volunteer desk in Eller Hall to pick up your Adult or Family Advent devotional resource.



THE Angel Tree

Please return gifts TODAY - Sunday, December 14 under the tree in Eller Hall or outside of Britany Spivey's office. Gifts may be wrapped—just attach the gift receipt and Angel Tag securely.

To give financially, contact Britany at britany@firstprez.com



Wednesday,
December 17
at 5:30 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall

Darkness to Light

A SERVICE OF
COMFORT & HOPE



Join us for a meal followed by a service of comfort and hope led by Rev. Chris Carson.

Please register by Monday, December 15 at 5 p.m.



Register online at bit.ly/FPCD2L or scan the QR Code.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

12 p.m. Noon in the Chapel
Christmas Eve Worship with Communion

5 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Family Friendly Lessons and Carols with Nativity

8 p.m. in the Chapel
Intimate Worship Service with Communion



Family Friendly Service & Nativity Pageant Christmas Eve at 5 p.m.

We're hosting a no-rehearsal Christmas Nativity Pageant! Children are invited to dress up as a shepherd, wisemen, sheep, or angel to help bring the story of Christ's birth to life. Volunteers will be there to guide them when it's time to come forward.

If your child would like to participate—or if you would like to volunteer to help—please let Britany (britany@firstprez.com) or Jess (youth@firstprez.com) know as soon as possible.

The Best★ Christmas Pageant ★ ★ Ever!

Wednesday, December 17th

Join us for a night at the theater and support several of our church members performing in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!*

Cape Fear Regional Theatre | Tickets \$15

Social Hour 6:30pm | Show 7:30pm

For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Ella Wrenn at wrenn.ella@gmail.com or 303.915.4034. Please contact Ella by end of day on Sunday, December 14.

H³F

Home & Hearth
Holiday Fellowship

Christmas Potluck Dinner

Thursday, December 25th at 12 p.m.

Your family looks forward to having you join them on Christmas Day!!

Join us for a warm and festive Christmas Day meal!

Invite a friend and bring a side, salad, bread, or dessert to serve 8–10. The main entrée and drinks will be provided by the Congregational Care Committee.

Please RSVP by December 21 at 3 p.m.

Scan the QR code or visit

bit.ly/H3FChristmas25

to let us know what you'll bring.



Scan Me



**KINGDOM KIDZ & S.U.R.G.E. WILL RESUME
ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 - 4:30 TO 6:30 P.M.
AND BEGIN THE BIBLELYMPICS!**

With the winter Olympics around the corner, our first night back will be the Bible Olympics! Kids are encouraged to come dressed to support the country of their choice. It's going to be a fun and energetic kickoff to the new year!

We had an amazing time at our Christmas celebration—keep an eye out for pictures in the January Newsletter.

**STARTS
JANUARY 2026**

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

**PICKLEBALL
YOUTH LEAGUES
ARE COMING
TO FIRST PREZ!**

UPWARD

**ONLY 2
SPOTS
LEFT!**



Grades 4-12. Register online.
Visit bit.ly/FPCPickleball
or scan the QR Code.





CHILDREN & YOUTH MISSION PROJECT

The Local Relief Ministry Team extends a heartfelt thank-you to Kingdom Kidz and SURGE for their wonderful help in assembling winter survival kits and food kits for the Myrover/Reese Homeless Outreach Program.

Representatives from Myrover/Reese joined us and shared powerful personal stories about their experiences with homelessness, both their own and those of the individuals they now serve. It was a meaningful day in the life of our church family as we continue to faithfully **Serve and Share** within our community.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Toddlers (Birth to 2): Room 128 (Downstairs in the Nursery Area)

Ages 3 to 5: Room 104 (Downstairs in the Nursery Area)

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade: Room 207

3rd - 5th Grade: Room 208

Join us as we learn about worshiping God with the following stories:

Dec. 7- Prepare a Road (Isaiah 40:3–11)

Dec 14 - Jesus' Family Tree (Matthew 1:1–17)

Dec 21- Joseph's Dream (Matthew 1:18–24)

Dec 28 - Grace in a Manger (Luke 2:1–7)

Jan 4 - Epiphany Gifts for the Baby King (Matthew 2:1–11)





First Presbyterian Church
102 Ann Street Fayetteville, N.C.

ARE YOU A FIRST TIME VISITOR?

We'd love to connect with you!

Be sure to fill out a Connect Card and put it in the offering plate or leave it with the pastor on your way out. We also have a gift for you!

PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Michael Garrett, Senior Pastor
Rev. Chris Carson,
Minister of Pastoral Care

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. Marcia Mervin,
Director of Music Ministry & Organist
Britany Spivey,
Director of Christian Education & Children's Ministry
Jessica Jones,
Director of Youth Ministry
Nichole Russ,
Director of Communications
Anji Martinez,
Office Manager

SUPPORT STAFF

Storie Smith, Administrative Assistant
Nina McLaughlin, Facility Supervisor

MUSIC SUPPORT STAFF

Alice Ann Campbell, Accompanist & Assistant Organist
Tim Lloyd, Section Leader
Joe Evans, Section Leader
Erin Jackson, Choral Scholar
Bruce McRae, Choral Scholar
Theodore Schwamm, Choral Scholar
Annalise Sears, Choral Scholar

CONTACT US

(910) 483-0121
info@firstprez.com

STAY CONNECTED!

WEBSITE

www.firstprez.com

LIVE STREAM

www.firstprez.com/worship-with-us

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/1stprez

INSTAGRAM

instagram.com/firstprezfay

AUDIO VISUAL

Don Perkins
Hoyt K.
Scott M.
Bruce McRae
Jacob Regensburger
Martha Vorder Bruegge

Sunday Services

9 a.m. Early Service, Chapel | 11 a.m. Service, Sanctuary

Our mission at First Presbyterian Church is to *serve* Jesus Christ and *share* His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach within our community and throughout the world.

#ServeandShare