WELCOME
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church - where faith is alive! Your presence here is our honor and joy. We pray that your heart is encouraged, that the Word is clear, and that you go from this place refreshed and renewed - in search of Easter!

WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN
A worship experience designed especially for children (Kindergarten through Grade 3) immediately follows the Time for Young Disciples in the Shalom Room located in the lower level of the Sanctuary Building.

NURSERY CARE
Professional nursery care is offered for infants and children up to four years old. The nursery is located on the first floor; please see an usher for directions.

TODAY’S ANTHEM
O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, 
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown.
How pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn; 
How does that visage languish, which once was bright as morn!
What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners’ gain; 
Mine was the great transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.

Lo, here I fall, my Savior; ‘Tis I deserve Thy place.
Look on me with Thy favor; Assist me with Thy grace.
What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest Friend, 
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever: And, should I fainting be, 
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for Thee.

Leading worship today are the Rev. Dr. John L. Frye, Jr., Senior Minister; Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore, Associate Minister; Pastor John H. Stanley, Minister of Visitation; Jill Kimbirl, Director of Children’s Ministries; Bethany Jennings, Interim Choir Director; and Johnny Bradburn, Interim Organist.

CARILLON PEAL
Please enter to worship in a spirit of reverence.

WORDS OF WELCOME AND INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP
Please sign the welcome pads.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY
Bethany Jennings

ORGAN PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION
Catch me in my anxious scurrying, Lord, and hold me this Lenten season: hold my feet to the fire of your grace, and make me attentive to my mortality, that I may begin to die now to those things that keep me from living with you, the grudges and the anger, the indifference and the pettiness, my insistence on my ways, my resistance to change, my resistance to the transformational spirit that comes through your Son. In this Lenten season grace me with renewed life through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively) Pastor John H. Stanley
O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy; you are generous to all who call upon you.
O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort, our life and our resurrection our peace and reconciliation; Save us, O Lord.
O Christ, Savior of all who trust in you, hope of all who die for you; Save us, Lord. We adore you. We worship you with prayer and praise.

FIRST PRESIDENTIAN CHURCH
1621 E. GARRISON BOULEVARD
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA
704.864.2651 • www.fpcgastonia.org
Faith alive!

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN 394 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” WESTMINSTER ABBEY
INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Collectively)

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sins. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ our Savior.

(A time of silent confession.)

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Be at peace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE 71

Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Jill Kimbirl

We Listen to God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Zechariah 14:18-21

GOSPEL LESSON

John 2:13-22

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

"Temple Tantrums"

A TIME FOR SACRAMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

Free Cents-a-Meal Offering

OFFERTORY

Hymn of Praise

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We Bear God's Word into the World

†HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP 213

In the Cross of Christ I glory

RATHBUN

†LIGHT OF CHRIST BORNE INTO THE WORLD

†CHARGE AND BENEDICITION

†ORGAN POSTLUDE

†If you are able, please stand.

ZECHARIAH 14:18-21

And if the family of Egypt do not go up and present themselves, then on them shall come the plague that the Lord inflicts on the nations that do not go up to keep the festival of booths. Such shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to keep the festival of booths. On that day there shall be inscribed on the bellies of the horses, "Holy to the Lord." And the cooking pots in the house of the Lord shall be as holy as the bowls in front of the altar; and every cooking pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be sacred to the Lord of hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and use them to boil the flesh of the sacrifice. And there shall no longer be traders in the house of the Lord of hosts on that day.

JOHN 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said thus, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

We Respond to God's Word

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN 417

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

SOUTHWELL

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THINE IS THE KINGDOM...