



**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
DECEMBER 28, 2025  
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
11:00AM - SANCTUARY

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND INVITATION

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Rejoice and Be Merry*

arr. Robert Powell

INTROIT

*Raise a Song of Gladness*

JUBILATE DEO

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ansley B. Page

Christ is born! **Alleluia!**  
Jesus is among us! **Alleluia!**  
Shout with joy, give thanks, and sing! **Christ is born!**

✦ HYMN 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

**Merciful God,**  
**in great love you have claimed us as your children.**  
**We confess that we have not loved you as we should.**  
**We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans;**  
**we grow weary and give up when the way is hard.**  
**We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend.**  
**Forgive our misuse of power against people, and against your creation.**  
**Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace.**  
**Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you.**

SILENT CONFESSION

The Christmas season extends from December 25 through January 5 and includes at least one and usually two Sundays. Celebrating Christmas as a season helps us both to enter into the meaning of the incarnation more fully than celebrating a single day and to focus on additional Scripture texts that explore the meaning of Christmas beyond the familiar words of Luke 2.  
- *The Worship Sourcebook*

✦ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

### ✠RESPONSE: HYMN 132

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

### ✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## LIFE OF THE CHURCH

# PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

In our baptism,  
God has called  
and sealed us.  
Baptism is an  
important event,  
not simply in  
the life of the  
child and family,  
but in the life  
of the whole  
church. We are  
baptized into  
a community  
and not in  
abstraction from  
the community.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Elliott Parks Strauss  
Son of Caroline and Matt Strauss*

De Calvert, Elder  
Bridge Strauss, Reader

### RESPONSE

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

JESUS LOVES ME

*Children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship;  
those second grade and older will return to the pews.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Sing Out, My Soul*

MAGNIFICAT

### FIRST READING

Psalm 148

### SECOND READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

### SERMON

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

# RESPONDING TO THE 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.**

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 TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*What Child*

Paul Lohman

✦ DOXOLOGY

HYMN 143, VERSE 4

REGENT SQUARE

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

Doxology, a Greek word meaning "saying of glory," is a brief hymn of praise that follows another hymn or Psalm or, as in our case, the offertory. Doxologies appear in many Christian traditions and have their origin in the Jewish kaddish, which concludes each portion of the synagogue worship service.

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN 110

*Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 123, VERSE 5

CAROL

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

arr. Wilber Held

*The Christmastide Flowers in the Sanctuary  
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of  
our granddaughter Ann-Pearson Collins  
by Cathy and Billy Bagwell.*

# LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CNC

The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking six members to replace those who will rotate off the CNC in June of 2026. Members will serve for one year and will be charged with the nomination of Church Officers. Use the QR code to submit a name - you may submit multiple forms and may even nominate yourself. The deadline for submittal is Wednesday, December 31, 2025.



## PASTORAL COUNSELOR

We're pleased to welcome Rev. Heidi Campbell-Robinson as a part-time Pastoral Counselor beginning in January. Appointments can be scheduled by emailing [hcrobinson@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:hcrobinson@fpcspartanburg.org).

## NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS JAN 4 MIGHTY WATERS: GOD'S CALL FOR JUSTICE, MERCY, AND HUMBLE DISCIPLESHIP

In a world marked by deep injustice, division, and suffering, the call of God still echoes through the voices of the prophets: Let justice roll down like mighty waters. This three-week series invites us to confront the brokenness around us - not with despair, but with a faith that does justice, loves mercy, and walks humbly with God. Rooted in Scripture and grounded in hope, we'll explore what it means to embody God's vision of justice in our time and in our lives.

## MEET MERIANNA HARRELSON

Youth and parents are invited to meet Rev. Merianna Harrelson, our new Director of Youth and Family Ministry, on **Sunday, January 11, 6:00-7:00pm**, in the Family Life Center. Students will enjoy games while parents gather for conversation and fellowship. Light refreshments provided. RSVP to Carrie Coleman ([ccoleman@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:ccoleman@fpcspartanburg.org)).

## DISCOVER FPC

Learn more about First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg at the **Discover FPC Class** on Sundays - **January 11, 18, and February 1**. The class will meet at 10:00am in the Large Private Dining Room.

## JOY FELLOWSHIP TRIP - JANUARY 22

The Just Older Youth Fellowship Committee has planned an outing to the Model Trains Station in Taylors on Thurs, January 22. Admission is \$8 per person. Sign up with the QR Code. Be sure to bring money for lunch!



## SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY 25, 2026!

Two worship services, at **9:00am and 11:00am in the Sanctuary**, will celebrate 100 years of First Presbyterian Church's location at 393 East Main Street - a century of faith, community, and God's steadfast presence. Between services, enjoy refreshments, warm fellowship, and shared memories at **10:00am in Fogartie Hall**. Mark your calendars now to celebrate this milestone!

---

## TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Holt Andrews and Marcia Andrews  
Chancel Choir

## LOOKING AHEAD

**JANUARY 1**

Church Facilities Closed

**JANUARY 7**

Wednesdays at First and Children's Choirs Resume

**JANUARY 25**

Celebration of 100 Years at 393 East Main!

---

Keep up with all Life of the Church events at  
[fpcspartanburg.org](http://fpcspartanburg.org).

Front Cover: "Untitled (Glory)" by Samantha Kadzban,  
watercolor on paper, 2020

Parts of today's liturgy are from *Feasting on the Word*.



393 East Main Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29302  
864/583-4531