



*The Wedding at Cana*

16 January 2022  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

# Worship for the Lord's Day

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## Prayer of Preparation

*O God of celebration, you have kept the good wine until now –  
the wine that we have longed for, but never thought to taste.  
Take the tap water of our lives – our struggles and our dullness –  
and with your grace make strong and dark and joyful all that our hearts contain,  
though Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

## Welcome

## The Chiming of the Trinity

### Prelude

*Wexford Carol*

arranged by Mark Hayes

### Introit

*O How He Loves You and Me*

Kaiser

### \*Call to Worship

from Psalm 36

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
**your faithfulness to the clouds.**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

**All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**

They feast on the abundance of your house,

**and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

**O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,**

and your salvation to the upright of heart!

**Let us worship God!**

### Anthem

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

Thompson

## Confession

Loving Lord, we long to be your faithful people, but our good intentions run out and we come up empty. For all the ways we fall short in our sin, forgive us, Gracious One. Change us - like water into wine - to become what the world lacks, that our community, our nation, our church, and all creation may know your justice and love.

*pause for a time of silent confession*

In your name, we pray. **Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

### Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”**

(11 am) **Children’s Moment**

The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

*2nd-grade children or younger may depart for Children’s  
Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center*

## Prayer for Illumination

### Lesson

John 2:1-11

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

from a Declaration of Faith (PC USA, 1991)

**The Spirit enables people to become believers. The Spirit enabled people of all races, classes, and nations to accept the good news of what God had done in Christ, repent of their sins, and enter the community of faith. We testify that today this same Holy Spirit makes us able to respond in faith to the gospel and leads us into the Christian community. The Spirit brings us out of death into life, out of separation into fellowship. The Spirit makes us aware of our sinfulness and need, moves us to abandon our old way of life, persuades us to trust in Christ and adopt his way. In all these things we are responsible for our decisions. But after we have trusted and repented we recognize that the Spirit enables us to hear and act. It is not our faith but God's grace in Jesus Christ that justifies us and reconciles us to God. Yet it is only by faith that we accept God's grace and live by it.**

**Anthem**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Chisholm/Runyan

**Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Diana Bennett to the glory of God and in remembrance of her nephew, Norman Hubbard.*

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

**Holy God, hear our prayer.**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

J. Hopkins, Jr.

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**If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the wooden collection boxes nearest the exit you use.**

Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Pianist: Cindy Sutton

Soloists: Tommy Hall, Susan Mabie

Worship Notes: The photo of the icon on the cover, "Wedding at Cana" is reprinted with permission. Original source: <https://flic.kr/p/7LY6dd>

The opening prayer is from *All Desires Known*, by Janet Morley (New York: Morehouse Publishing), 2006.

WELCOME VISITORS! Please write your name on a visitor's badge for your blouse or lapel. Along with our members, please sign the Friendship Pad when passed to you during the service.

CHILDREN are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. The nursery is available for infants and preschool children in Room 1.23 in the Ministry Center from 8:15 am-12:15 pm. Following the Children's Moment, those in the 2nd grade or younger may depart for Children's Worship and Wonder in the Ministry Center. For all children in worship, there are worship bags available at the front and back of the Sanctuary.

RESTROOMS are available in the Ministry Center, (including a family restroom), the Session House, and the Fellowship Center.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES with ear coverings are available. Please ask an usher if you have need.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY is provided by ramps between the Ministry Center and the Sanctuary, in the back of the Ministry Center, along the side of the Session house, and at the front and side entrances of the J. Murphy Smith Fellowship Center.

MASKS are required in the Sanctuary for the time being. At a meeting of the Worship Commission on December 22, it was decided to return to a mask requirement for worship and to put a pause on singing by the choir and the congregation. We hope that this will be a short-lived pause until we have a better grasp of the effects of the Omicron variant. As always, if you have had exposure to someone with Covid-19 or have symptoms that indicate possible Covid-19 infection, we hope you will either receive a negative test before coming to worship or choose to worship online via video or podcast.

These changes to our Covid-19 response are communicated by email and will be shared on our website and Facebook page. If you'd like to be added to this email list, please contact [cathy@firstpresnb.org](mailto:cathy@firstpresnb.org) or visit [firstpresnb.org/communications](http://firstpresnb.org/communications) (scroll to the bottom of the page).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **2022 Offering Envelopes in Narthex**

Next year's offering envelopes are in the Sanctuary Narthex **through TODAY, January 16th**. If you are not able to pick your envelopes up during that time, they will be available in the Financial Administrator's office. Remember to bring your remaining previous year envelopes to be recycled by the counting team. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the Financial Administrator, Amber Zapffel at [amber@firstpresnb.org](mailto:amber@firstpresnb.org) or 252-637-3270 ext. 105.

### **Youth Fellowship**

JOY (Just Older Youth), our youth fellowship for middle and high schoolers, and SALT (Serving and Learning Together) for 3-5th graders meet tonight 5:30-7:30 pm in the Session house.

**Adult Choir Rehearsals** are currently on hold until further notice. Pat and Susan will communicate with each choir about rehearsals. Thank you for your patience.

## **Time and Talents Survey – For Everyone!**



How are you giving of your time and your talents? Where is God calling you to serve? The Time and Talents Survey was mailed to you last month and extra print copies are available in the Church Office and Narthex. If you would like to complete the survey online, you can find it at [firstpresnb.org/time-and-talent-survey-2022.html](http://firstpresnb.org/time-and-talent-survey-2022.html) or use the QR code to the left.

## **Help Out with Habitat – Meals Needed**

Habitat for Humanity is excited to welcome the following schools this spring for Collegiate Challenge alternative spring break: Sacred Heart University (Connecticut), Franklin Pierce University (New Hampshire), Eastern Connecticut State University, Elmhurst University (Illinois), University of Delaware, and Hartwick College (New York). Help us demonstrate some southern hospitality through food and fellowship. Location will be updated closer to the date, but most likely all sites will be located in the Pembroke community. If you would like to provide lunch or dinner for these students, have a desire to host students at your home or a restaurant, or provide a gift card, you can reach out to Catherine Campbell directly ([ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org](mailto:ccampbell@cravencountyhabitat.org) OR 252-633-9599, ext. 104). If you are able, please plan to stick around for fellowship after dropping off a meal.

### **Education**

**Sunday School classes meet Sundays 9:40-10:40 am**

#### **Sunday School for Children**

**Preschool** – active play in the Nursery

**Kindergarten-5th Grade** – Ministry Center Room 1.27 (Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living).

**Middle & High School** – Ministry Center Room 2.23-24 (Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living).

## **Sunday School for Adults**

### **Guardian Ad Litem Presentation TODAY**

If you are interested in helping children in the foster care system, volunteering as a Guardian ad Litem might be right for you! A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) advocate is a trained community volunteer who is appointed, along with a Guardian ad Litem attorney, by a district court judge to investigate and determine the needs of abused and neglected children petitioned into the court system by the Department of Social Services. Throughout North Carolina, the Guardian ad Litem Program seeks to serve the best interests of thousands of children who find themselves the subjects of court cases. The program exists in every county throughout North Carolina, and with the help of more than 5,300 volunteers, serves more than 18,000 children a year. The presentation is **TODAY** during the Sunday School hour, 9:40-10:40 am in the Session House Main Room. Tracey Brenneman, district administrator for the GAL program, will share information about the program and how you can be involved. For more information visit: [volunteerforgal.org](http://volunteerforgal.org)

### **The Present Word/George Evans – Session House Parlor**

The class is currently studying the series “Justice, Law, History” in Old Testament texts. Please contact George Evans ([gkevans4@gmail.com](mailto:gkevans4@gmail.com)) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

### **Getting Old – Growing Gracefully/Lloyd Griffith – Ministry Center Room 2.21 and Zoom**

“The laws of nature that dictate sundown dictate our demise.” This final part of our journey raises inevitable questions: What is our relationship with the younger generation? What is truth? What is the connection between work and vocation? How can I stay engaged with the outer life? How can I stay engaged with the inner life? Where do I go when I die? How we respond to these built-in concerns is ours to choose. We can answer this inevitable aging process with denial or defiance and find ourselves on a passage of decline and inaction. OR...we can collaborate faithfully with this unique section on the arc of life and find ourselves on a different passage of engagement and discovery of a Holy

energy holding and guiding us along the path. This Sunday School class meets at 9:40 am in room 2.21 (large center classroom on the second floor of the Ministry Center) and **on Zoom**. We will be guided through these challenges of the journey by Parker Palmer's "On the Brink of Everything, Grace, Gravity and Getting Older." Please contact the church office or Lloyd Griffith to register for this class. Inquiries welcome!

### **Law and Religion/James R. Copland – Session House Main Room**

America's original constitution did not expressly cover the relationship between church and state. But the Bill of Rights—insisted upon by some states, including North Carolina, as a precondition for joining the union—led off with it: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This course will cover the historical background framing the First Amendment's religion clauses; the evolution of Supreme Court doctrine interpreting them, and modern cases and controversies. Copland is formerly a Coker Fellow in constitutional law at the Yale Law School, but the course is intended for a general, rather than a legal, audience. Where appropriate, Biblical interpretation and discussion will be incorporated to augment the discussion of law. This class meets at 9:40 am in the Session House Main Room. We **will not meet today, January 16. We will resume on January 23.**

### **Church Membership Class/Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight - Ministry Center Conference Room (in the Staff Office Suite)**

Whether you have been worshiping with First Presbyterian for one Sunday or one hundred, we'd welcome the opportunity to talk with you about what it means to be a part of a church community—what it might mean for you to take the joyful, faithful step of becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church. To help facilitate these conversations we have scheduled classes to be held on **January 16 and 23** (you are invited and encouraged to attend the class both weeks) during the Sunday School time with the opportunity to join and be welcomed in worship on the 23rd at 11:00 am or the 30th at 8:30 am. If these dates don't work for you, please get in touch with Anna so we can add you to the list for the next time we have these gatherings or so we can meet and find a pathway and timeline that works for you ([anna@firstpresnb.org](mailto:anna@firstpresnb.org) or 252-637-3270).

**Praying in Color/Sue Callahan – Library (Second floor of the Ministry Center)**  
Maybe you love color. Maybe you are a visual learner, a distractible or impatient soul, or a word-weary pray-er. Perhaps you struggle with a short attention span, a restless body, or a tendency to live in your head. The prayer practice “Praying in color,” by Sybil MacBeth, invites your hands as well as your mind into prayer and gives you a new way to be with God. Join us starting on **January 23** for a four-week class that explores various ways doodling can be used to pray for others and ourselves. No art experience is required, and supplies will be provided. For more information contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org)

### **Mid-Week Formation Opportunities**

#### **Monday Evening Women’s Bible Study**

The group meets on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM via Zoom. Join us as we read *It’s Not About Me* by Max Lucado, a well-known pastor and prolific author, familiar to many in our congregation. Lucado explores how “me-centric” tendencies natural to all of us (ever watch toddlers navigate their little “it’s all about me” worlds?!) get carried into adulthood where “my agenda”, “my schedule”, “my issues”, the things that make “me” happy may present in more sophisticated forms, but only serve to alienate us in our constrained “me-centric” universes from others and, most importantly, keep us from flourishing and helping others to flourish in the “God-centric” realm in which all of us are called to live and to serve. For more information or to get on our list, please call Marice Debruhl 637-5468 (h), Cathy Wingfield 828-767-0975 (c), or Wendy Moeller 876-7259 (c).

#### **Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support**

The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Chapel. This ongoing group provides its members with companionship, understanding, support, and guidance as we seek to go on living when someone we love dies. All are welcome. Come and bring a friend. Contact Lloyd Griffith for more information.

### **Life of Prayer: The Practice of Contemplative Living**

Led by Lloyd Griffith on Wednesdays noon-1:00 pm and meets in Ministry Center Room 2.21 and by Zoom in a hybrid format. The group will be studying "Soul Force" by Lloyd Griffith and "Immortal Diamond" by Richard Rohr.

### **Wednesday Evening Contemplative Worship**

Led by Lloyd Griffith and meets in the Chapel in the Ministry Center. This contemplative, or reflective, approach to worship is offered each Wednesday from 5 to 5:30 pm. This quiet service is focused on silence, prayer, and reflection on the Biblical text chosen for preaching the coming Sunday. The Lord's Supper is observed on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Come when you can and bring a friend.

### **Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study**

We are reading together, "Honoring the Body: Meditations on a Christian Practice" by Stephanie Paulsell. Our Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study meets weekly 10-11 am by Zoom. The book is available for purchase on Amazon (Kindle version also available). If you need help acquiring the book or want to be added to the email list for the class, please contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

**Sunday Afternoon Men's Beer and Theology** led by Ken Wilkins at Brewery 99 (1014 Pollock St) at 4:00 pm, Sunday, **January 23**. This will be a casual men's gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith. Don't let any bad weather stop you from coming – there is a nice indoor space for gathering!

### **Montreat Women's Conference 2022**

Join us at the Montreat Women's Connection Conference Friday-Sunday, August 12-14. The keynote speaker is author Sarah Bessey. More information at [montreat.org/women](http://montreat.org/women). We will register as a group again this year which means instead of registering on the Montreat website, you register with Maren Sonstegard-Spray (maren@firstpresnb.org). Rooms in the Assembly Inn (with air conditioning and elevator) go very quickly so please contact Maren by Sunday,

**January 23.** The deposit to hold your spot is \$100. Registration cost includes program, room, and meals (single and double occupancy options) and the prices range from \$391 to \$511 per person. Transportation is on your own and many arranged carpools in previous years. We are offering a discount on the cost of the registration from the McClary Scholarship fund to make it easier to attend the conference! Please contact Maren to learn more about the discount.

### **Looking for Reception Volunteers**

If you enjoy working with friendly people in a terrific environment and can volunteer your time on weekdays from either 9 am-1 pm or 1-5 pm, please contact the church office (252-637-3270). We are looking for a few more smiling faces to join our awesome group of volunteers!

### **Nametags**

We want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing their nametags again! If you have misplaced yours, Marcy, our Office Administrator, is happy to make you another one (marcy@firstpresnb.org). There is a board in the Narthex where you can leave your nametag at the end of the service, and it will be waiting for you the next Sunday.



**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**

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New Bern, North Carolina

*Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes a covenant with all believers,  
First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all.  
All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership  
regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity,  
economic or educational status, or political affiliation*