



*The Best Supper*

21 November 2021  
Christ the King Sunday

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Established 1817

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



# Order of Worship

## Prayer of Preparation

*Eternal God, you set Jesus Christ to rule over all things,  
and made us servants in your kingdom.*

*By your Spirit empower us to love the unloved,  
and to minister to all in need.*

*Then at the last bring us to your eternal realm  
where we may worship and adore you  
and be welcomed into your everlasting joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.*

## Welcome

## The Chiming of the Trinity

**Prelude** (8:30am) *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* Johns  
(11am) *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* arr. Dobrinski  
Sanctuary Bells

**Introit** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* Bateman/Spanish

## \*Call to Worship

Come! Behold the reign of Christ,  
**like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,  
gleaming from the dew on the grassy land.**

Come! Behold the reign of Christ,  
**a power that shall not pass away  
and a love that will never be destroyed.**

We belong to the reign of Christ,  
**the Alpha and Omega,  
who was, and is, and is to come. Let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn 263** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* Perronet/Holden

## Confession

**O Holy One, you showed us what it means to live by your  
reign: sharing food with the hungry, freedom with the  
imprisoned, justice with the oppressed, and presence with**

**the sorrowful. We ask your forgiveness, O God, for all the ways we fail to live as people who belong to your reign. Show us once more what our belonging means, for you are the beginning, you are the end, and, in every time between, you fill our lives with grace. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

**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.’”**

**(11am) Children’s Moment**

Lloyd Griffith

Hymn 175, verse 1

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!**

Lord’s Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

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

Hymn 175, verse 2

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;  
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!**

**Anthem**

*Canticle of Thanksgiving* Brokering/Welsh tune  
Arr. Dale Wood

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Lesson**

John 18:33-37

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 643**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Rinkart/Crüger

(8:30am) **Introduction of New Members**

**Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Denny and Margaret Colbert to the glory of God and in memory of Carolyn Colbert and Jim Copland.*

*The Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Ben Watford and his family on the death of his wife, Barbara Wilkinson Watford, on Thursday, November 11.*

*We celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Orell "O.V." Rowe (on November 23).*

## The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and (8:30am) Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. You fashioned this world in love, and govern all the earth with grace and peace. Nations and monarchs rise and fall, but your reign is for all time, and your mercy is without end. In love you made us to love and serve you. When we turned from you and bent our knees to gods of our own making, you spoke through prophets to bring us back to your ways. You gave us a vision of your holy kingdom that we might hunger after righteousness and thirst for justice, and long for the day when peace will triumph over the pride and greed of nations. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the servants around heaven's throne and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born as king in David's line, he lived with the lowly and cared for the least of your children. His power was revealed in weakness, his majesty in mercy. His captors knelt to mock him, giving him bruises instead of praise, and piercing thorns for a crown. His only earthly throne was a cross on which to die. Even there his arms stretched out to embrace friends and foes in love. From the grave you raised him to your right hand where he rules again from heaven, and commands true loyalty from peoples and nations. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this cup and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer

our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be communion with Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Help us to live as the Lord requires: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you, our God. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

## **Benediction**

**Postlude**      *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*      Nelson

**If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the wooden collection boxes nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.**

The image on the front of the bulletin is "The Best Supper," © Jan Richardson. [janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com)

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Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray  
Organist: Vance Harper Jones  
Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

**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 8:15am-12:15pm. 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** (as of November 14) are no longer mandated in our worship services here at First Presbyterian Church, however we hope that each person will make their own decision as to what is wise and safest for them in terms of wearing a mask or worshipping in person (the video service and podcast can both be accessed through the website). There may be some classes or rehearsals who choose to remain masked, and we are leaving that to their discretion. This move was made in response to rising vaccination rates and lowering infection and hospitalization rates in Craven County. The Worship Commission and Session will continue to monitor the data and consult with our wonderful physician members for advice on how to proceed. If a change is made, we will communicate this on our website and by email.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

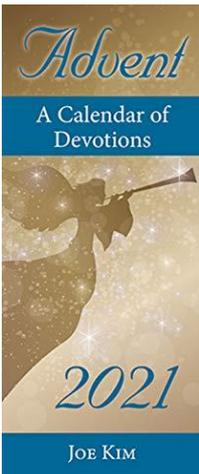
### **Fellowship Meal**

Mark your calendar for our December Fellowship meal to be served on Wednesday, **December 1, 2021**, in the Fellowship Center. A Bar-B-Que chicken meal will be served. The meal will be served starting at 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Take-out meals will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m. We ask that anyone requesting takeout meals come inside to pick them up. Please email or call the Church no later than Monday, **November 29<sup>th</sup>**, to indicate your intentions to attend. If you know that you would like take-out meals, please let us know. We look forward to seeing you on December 1<sup>st</sup>!

### **Hanging of the Greens**

Please consider volunteering to help make decorations for the sanctuary and grounds on **Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**, at 9:00 am. No experience is necessary! Even if you can't come, your donations of cypress, cedar, arborvitae, magnolia, boxwood and holly are needed to create the beautiful decorations! Call Jackie Pollock or Janelle Haggard if you have questions.

### **Advent Devotionals**



Advent devotionals (one with readings and prayers for each day and another that is more interactive and was created with families in mind) are available for pick up in the Narthex on Sunday and in the church office during the week.

There are also several devotionals available online and by email each day, if you are interested in one of those, please contact Anna Pinckney Straight at [anna@firstpresnb.org](mailto:anna@firstpresnb.org)



**Confirmation Choir** (grades 6-12) will meet this afternoon at 5:00 pm in the Choir Room. We are practicing music for the Candlelight Service December 12, and Christmas Eve.

### **Children's Choirs**

**Covenant Choir** (grades 2-5) will meet each Monday from 4:00-5:00 pm in the Choir Room.

**Kinderchoir** (Kindergarten and First Grade) will not meet this Tuesday, but will resume on November 30.

### **Youth Fellowship**

JOY (Just Older Youth), our youth fellowship for middle and high schoolers, and SALT (Serving and Learning Together) for 3-5th graders meets tonight 5:30-7:30 pm in the Session house. SALT and JOY Youth Groups and their families are having a Family Night Scavenger Hunt to benefit Religious Community Services (RCS).

### **Christmas Wreath Fundraiser**

We are partnering with Vermont Wreath Center, Inc. again this year to purchase live wreaths as a fundraiser for our youth ministry! We are using their online purchasing option again this year, and therefore will not be having a bulk order shipped to the church. You can access the online ordering site through the church website or by going to [www.vermontcenterwreaths.com/?ref=first](http://www.vermontcenterwreaths.com/?ref=first) OR you can still order through one of our JOY youth group members! **Ordering is open now until Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**, and wreaths will be shipped directly to your home.

### **Sock Tree**

During December, the Sock Tree will be in the narthex. Church members and friends are encouraged to donate new socks for men, women, and children. The socks do not need to be Christmas socks. After the holiday season the socks are donated to the homeless shelter at RCS. The staff at the shelter appreciates new socks as socks are seldom ever donated. Questions--please phone Norma Morra 636-1010.

## **Operation Jammies for Coastal Women's Shelter**

Each year we collect “new” pajamas for every mother and child receiving services from the Coastal Women's Shelter. For the children, size 6 months to 16 for both boys and girls are needed. The sizes needed for women range from small to XXL. There is a collection bin inside the main entrance to the Ministry Center. You can also drop off the pajamas on Sunday morning. Pajamas will be collected until **December 20, 2021**. Also, remember that you can always donate to Coastal Women's Shelter through Gifts of the Heart.

## **2021 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women**

In 1888, when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America as a “thank offering to her Lord,” women responded, and the Thank Offering was born. Women gave sacrificially and were credited with saving the worldwide missionary movement of the church at that time. Over the last 33 years, Presbyterian Women has granted \$27 million to more than 1,600 different projects at home and around the world through the PW Thank Offering. You do not have to be a woman or a member of Presbyterian Women to contribute. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries. First Presbyterian Church of New Bern has received grants from these offerings for Backpack Blessings and ESL lab equipment! We welcome contributions from anyone in the congregation who wishes to do so! Please make your checks payable to “Presbyterian Women” and write “Thank offering” in the notation line. You may drop off your contribution at the front desk of the church office by **November 30**. Many thanks!

## **New Hope Volunteer Village – Donation Needed**

The New Hope Volunteer Village (located at Neuse Forrest Presbyterian Church in James City) has begun hosting work teams from across the United States to repair homes damaged in Hurricane Florence. The Village is looking for two used or new stand mixers for use in the two kitchens at the village so that teams can prepare

meals. Contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org) with questions or to learn more about the work of the Village.

### **Books Needed for Oaks Road Academy**

There is a need at a local school, Oaks Road Academy Elementary School, which is supported by Congregations for Children, at Centenary United Methodist Church. Each year, Centenary provides each student at Oaks Road with a new book. This year the project has fallen short of the goal of one book for each student. We are supporting this good work of our sister church in our community by accepting donations of book(s) with the purpose of realizing the goal of one book for each child. We will have a bin in the workroom for your donations. We will be collecting from now through Sunday, **December 12**. Questions? Contact Carol Hale.

### **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**

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

The class is currently studying the series "Celebrating God," looking at passages in both the Old and New Testaments. The class will begin a new study on **December 5** "Justice, Law, History" in Old Testament texts. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office. *Not meeting November 21 and 28.*

## **Special Lecture TODAY during Sunday School**

The Education Commission is excited to announce a special lecture on the history of New Bern and how that history has shaped our community today. Local historian Bernard George will present a lecture entitled "New Birth of Freedom: The Early African American Experience in New Bern." Bernard George is a former member of the Board of Directors of the New Bern Historical Society and was awarded the Education Award which acknowledged all his work to share New Bern History, most especially our African American history. He was instrumental in the creation of the New Bern African American Heritage Trail. Bernard George's family has lived for nine generations in Craven County. This lecture, and accompanying time of questions and answers, will take place TODAY from 9:40 -10:40 am in the Session House.

## **Coming Soon! Advent Sunday School Class**

Led by Anna Pinckney Straight, beginning on Sunday, **November 28**, and running for the four Sundays of Advent. "I love Christmas. I like the candles. I like the trees. I even like the shopping. But I particularly like the stories." These are the words that Amy-Jill Levine uses to introduce her book on Advent. In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. What is Advent? For whom are we waiting? For what are we waiting? In our four weeks together, we will explore the season of Advent (Anna's favorite season of the church year). Books will be available in the church office or can be ordered. The class will meet in the Session House main room.

## **Mid-Week Formation Opportunities**

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

The group meets on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 pm, via Zoom. Join us as we accompany Amy-Jill Levine, one of our favorite authors and teachers, and author of "The Difficult Words of Jesus," as she guides us through that struggle to a place of greater understanding of what it is that our Lord is requesting of us. For more information, call Wendy Moeller 252-876-7259 or Marice Debruhl 252-637-5468 or Cathy Wingfield 828-767-0975.

## **Tuesday Afternoon Grief Support**

The group meets every 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 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 to begin the fall. The group will be studying “Soul Force” by Lloyd Griffith and “Immortal Diamond” by Richard Rohr. *The group will not meet this coming Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. They will resume the normal schedule again beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>. All are welcome!*

## **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 in the Chapel. 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. *The group will not meet this coming Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.*

## **Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study – Advent Book**

We will begin a new book for Advent on Thursday, **December 2**, “Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects” by Jill Duffield. 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, **TODAY** Sunday, **November 21** (on the third Sunday of the month). 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!

**Presbyterian (and friends) Wine and Theology** Open to anyone interested in wine AND theology! We will meet the first Sunday of the month, **December 5**, at Cravin' Wine (2500 Trent Rd Suite 16, located in Trent Road Plaza) at 4pm. This will be a casual gathering for fellowship and conversation around topics of theology and faith. Wine will be available for purchase for \$5 a glass with some small bites to go with it. Questions? Contact Maren (maren@firstpresnb.org).

### **Church Nursery**

Our Nursery, located on the first floor of our Ministry Center, has resumed regular hours (8:15 am-12:15 pm). We have a team of paid, trained, and background-checked nursery workers to care for infants and preschool-aged children during Sunday school and both worship services. Stop by and say hi to our new nursery workers Cindy, Kimberly, and Carolyn, and our nursery coordinator Bailey.

### **Fellowship Café**

Join us from 9:30 until 10:45 am in the Fellowship Café (on the first floor of the Ministry Center) for a cup of coffee, a bite or two, and to renew your church friendships, or stop by and grab a coffee on your way to Sunday School!

### **Church Email List and Church Newsletter**

We communicate a lot of things happening in the life of the church through emails through Constant Contact. If you would like to receive regular announcements or the newsletter, or both, please contact Cathy Wingfield (cathy@firstpresnb.org) or sign up on the church website!

### **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.

*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 people. 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.*