



“Faith grows when it is planted in the
fertile soil of God’s Word.”
– BILLY GRAHAM

August 3, 2025

WE GATHER IN HIS PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

“I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord” James Filmore

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known
Your faithfulness, your faithfulness;
With my mouth will I make known
Your faithfulness to all generations.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.
(x2)

“Jesus, Name Above All Names” Naida Hearn

Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.
(x2)

“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” Peter Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING THE TRINITY

PRELUDE “Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast”
Diane Combs arr. Jason Krug

***CALL TO WORSHIP, responsive**
What a delight to worship Almighty God!
We humble ourselves in joyful expectation.
We gather to be nourished by the Living Word.
**We come to encourage one another as we proclaim
our faith together.**
We gather knowing the Spirit of the Lord is in this place.
We rejoice in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!

***OPENING HYMN “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” #403**

- 1. Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace.**
- 2. Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
were we find thee and adore thee,
there a heaven on earth must be;
to my heart O enter thou;
let it be thy temple now.**
- 3. Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee;
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee,
while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes.**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, in unison
**Good and Gracious Gardener, forgive our hardened views,
gravelly hearts, and thorny ways. Break through the poor soil
of our souls. Till us, turn us, sift us, and nourish us. Make us
ready and willing to receive the seed of your life-giving Word,
through the fruit-bearing work of the Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit. Amen.**

:: A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION ::

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI**
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, 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, suf-
fered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He arose 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.**

:: PASSING THE PEACE ::

*And now, as people who are loved and forgiven by the grace of God,
we pass the peace of Christ, remembering God’s command to love
and forgive one another.*

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

ANTHEM “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”
Chancel Choir arr. John Carter

FIRST SCRIPTURE Proverbs 2:1-10 Lee Hutchison

SECOND SCRIPTURE Mark 4:1-20

SERMON “Good Soil”
Rev. Holly K. Davis

HYMN OF PREPARATION “I Come with Joy” #515

- 1. I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**
- 2. I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ’s communion bread,
in Christ’s communion bread.**



3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4. The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5. Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
The love that makes us one.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

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.

:: PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ::

THE LORD’S PRAYER, *sung*
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.*

:: HOLY COMMUNION ::

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE
GOD’S TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY “The Heart of Worship” *arr. Lloyd Larson*
Diane Combs

*DOXOLOGY
Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



*CLOSING HYMN “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” #829

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly thine!

2. May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire; as thou has died for me,
O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

3. While life’s dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow’s tears away;
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

4. When ends life’s transient dream,
when death’s cold, sullen stream shall o’er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE “Lead On, O King Eternal” *arr. Thomas Bliss*
Diane Combs

* Please stand as you are able for these portions of the service.

Our Deacons

Merry Matlock, Moderator	732-423-4713
Kate Bailey	434-242-2718
Sherry Blount	828-736-1449
Ann Kline	828-734-4310
Brenda Sites	954-675-6176
Sally Turner	727-743-4633

Our Church Elders

Clerk of Session	RON TINGLE	828-400-6900
Building & Grounds	EDDIE HENDRICKSON (2027)	828-283-1854
Discipleship	LAURA JANSON (2026)	828-712-7938
Elder for Deacons	MERRY MATLOCK (2027)	732-423-4713
Fellowship	MELONIE GROSS (2026)	773-405-5889
Finance	STAN BRIGGS (2026)	941-544-8100
Missions	PAT BRIGGS (2027)	828-550-8432
Personnel	RON TINGLE (2026)	828-400-6900
Worship	WES LEE (2025)	828-400-0037

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First Presbyterian Church

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1875-2025

150 YEARS OF
GOD’S
FAITHFULNESS



August 3, 2025



Waynesville, North Carolina