



May 3, 2026

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Jody Welker to the pulpit today!
WELCOME Merideth Sanders, Choir Director !

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC Merideth Sanders

"This Is the Day" Les Garrett

Leader: This is the day
People: This is the day.
Leader: That the Lord hath made
People: That the Lord hath made.
Leader: Let us rejoice
People: Let us rejoice
Leader: And be glad in it
People: And be glad in it.
All: This is the day that the Lord hath made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Leader: This is the day
All: This is the day that the Lord hath made.(2x)

"Here I Am to Worship" Tim Hughes

1. Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness.
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You.
Hope of a life spent with you.

CHORUS: So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're all together lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

2. (Choir)

CHORUS (all)

"Father, I adore You" Terry Coehlo

1. Father, I adore you, lay my life before you; How I love you.
2. Jesus, I adore you, lay my life before you; How I love you.
3. Spirit, I adore you, lay my life before you; How I love you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "Christians, We Have Met to Worship"
Sarah Cifani, flute Diane Combs arr. Brant Adams

CALL TO WORSHIP, responsive based on Psalm 31

Praise the Lord,
who has shown us the wonders of his unfailing love;
People: and who, for the sake of his name,
leads us and guides us.

In you, O Lord, we put our trust.
You are our God,
and our lives are in your hands.
People: Lord, let the light of your face shine on us
as we celebrate together in your presence. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**
"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" #645

1. Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love,
The God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!

2. What God's almighty power has made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might,
lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

3. The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay,
Our peace and joy and blessing,
As with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

4. Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
That all may hear the grateful song
My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;
Both soul and body take your part:
To God all praise and glory!

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, in unison inspired by John 14

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, you ask us not to let our hearts be troubled, but we admit we are often bound by chains of mistrust, fear, and worry. We allow the anxieties of this life to crowd you out and we fail to obey your teachings. Like the disciples, we struggle to grasp the peace you offer. Forgive our doubt, our apathy, and our resistance to your love. Come to us, flood us with your light, and strengthen our faith to trust that you are preparing a place for us. Through Christ, who is our way, our truth, and our life. **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, suffered 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 "Arise and Go (to Jesus)" arr. Patti Drennan
Sanctuary Choir Sarah Cifani, flute

FIRST SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 2:2-10 Laura Janson
SECOND SCRIPTURE John 14:1-14

SERMON "Left Behind"
Rev. Dr. Jody Welker



HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” #500

1. Be known to us in breaking bread
But do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us,
And spread your table in our heart.
2. Here share with us, in love divine,
Your body and your blood,
That living bread, that heavenly wine,
Be our immortal food.



:: HOLY COMMUNION ::

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Life 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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 king-
dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Please come forward to receive the bread and the cup as directed.
Gluten-free bread is available.*

COMMUNION PRAYER



GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “You Satisfy My Hungry Heart”
Diane Combs arr. Philip Gehring

*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 “O Jesus, I Have Promised” #724

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.
2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.
3. O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, thou has promised to all who follow thee
That where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end,
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Go In the Grace of the Lord” James Barnard

Go in the Grace of the Lord.
Walk in the way of His Word.
Stand in the strength of His promises,
And believe in your heart they are true.

Sit at the feet of the Savior.
Pray in the power of the Spirit.
Rise and run the race with patience,
And go in the Grace of the Lord.

*POSTLUDE “How Firm a Foundation”
Diane Combs arr. Anna Laura Page

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



**FIRST
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First Presbyterian Church

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA

MAY 3, 2026



“We love because he first loved us.”
— 1 John 4:19



Waynesville, North Carolina

If you are visiting today, we're delighted to have you!
Please stay on after worship for
coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.