



First Presbyterian
HICKORY NC



We're glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning at First Presbyterian! If you are visiting with us, we hope you'll find this church a place of welcome and spiritual growth. Here are a few things to help you worship fully with us!



Please sign the black Friendship Pad located in the pew and give us an outlet to reach out to you.



We are Presbyterians. We say "debts and debtors" in the Lord's Prayer, and we say "Holy Ghost" and "He descended into hell" in the Apostles' Creed. The congregation's responses are printed in bold. We usually sit to listen and pray and then we stand to sing. The asterisk invites the congregation to stand. Please use the red hymnal, Glory to God, in the pew rack. You are encouraged to follow the readings and the lyrics as they are printed in this worship guide.



Our restrooms are located in the hallway behind the choir loft-both on the left and the right sides. If you need to use the restroom we ask that you do this before worship or exit through the rear of the sanctuary while the congregation is standing.



Small children are always welcome in worship, although nursery care is available for children birth-4 years old. The Nursery is located in our Educational Building; one of our ushers would be happy to guide you there.



We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month. The Elders will pass plates of bread and trays of unfermented wine to each pew OR you will be invited to the closest station to tear a piece of bread and dip into the communion cup (intinction). Gluten-free bread is available from the ushers at the rear of the sanctuary.



First Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the PC(USA) denomination. For more information about our church, call us at 828-322-6343 or please visit our website, www.hickoryfpc.org.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Transfiguration of the Lord
February 11, 2018

PRELUDE

Jerusalem

Callahan

*Please remember
to silence all
electronic
devices.*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: Give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*For use as you
prepare for
worship.*

BIBLE READING

Mark 9:2-9

Pew Bible, pg. 42

*The
Transfiguration
of the Lord*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: The mountain top, the shining face, the glowing clothes,
the voice of God speaking from the cloud,
the commandments etched in stone.

P: **Sometimes God shows up in ways we cannot deny,
in a place we can go, a light we can see,
a voice we can hear, a stone we can touch.
Sometimes.**

**Sometimes there is the veil,
the overshadowing, terrifying cloud,
the questions, the appearing and disappearing,
the excitement, the wondering, the silence.**

L: Sometimes God shows up in ways we cannot deny.

P: **Always God shows up somehow.
So we have shown up, here, now.
God, give us eyes to see.**

*The hymn
reminds us of the
story of the
Transfiguration.*

***HYMN 193**

Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

UNSER HERRSCHER

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord Jesus Christ,
We call you Lord,
Yet it is so easy for us to worship other things.
Other activities, other relationships, other gods.

You tell us we cannot serve two masters,
Yet we try, focusing our energies elsewhere,
Diverting our time, our energy, our money,
our attention away from you.

Forgive us, gracious Savior,
When our hearts are led astray
When we serve other gods and worship them.

As we turn away from our distractions and sin,
Strengthen us to set our faces toward Jerusalem,
To take up our cross and follow you.

We pray this, counting on your grace.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***OUR RESPONSE HYMN 437** You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

WAYFARING
STRANGER

***SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE**

One: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

ANTHEM

Onward, Ye Peoples

Jean Sibelius

(The Exodus anthem uses the early name of Jerusalem: “Salem”)

Onward, Ye Peoples, strive for the Light that the Lord has given us for our guide,
Who, through murk and darkness of night, hath led us in safety unto our reward.

See how the fiery pillar is gleaming, lighting our steps when dark is the way,
And the Light of the World, cleaveth the gloomy blackness of night that else
would engulf us. See the cloudy pillar to shield us safe when the sun would blister us.

Then forward, where faith revealeth the way, for God is our guide and He will never fail.
Fires are gleaming, voices are singing forth from Mount Neboh’s heaven-storming height.
Hark, they call us upward and on, to our Father’s home.

Salem, Salem [Jerusalem] on the horizon, urging us on to God and our home,
And the heavenly choir doth ring from Mount Neboh, piercing the blue like a living light.

Salem, Salem.

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

Pew Bible, page 19

***PSALTER** Psalm 130 and 131 Hymn 791 For You, My God, I Wait

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 5:7

Pew Bible, page 4

SERMON

Close to the Heart of God: Rev. Whit Malone
Blessed are the merciful... for they shall obtain mercy.

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

Beatitudes

Mallotte

*Sophie Sauer,
Soloist*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

*The anthem
encourages
our Christian
lives by
remembering
God’s
leadership in
the Exodus
from Egypt.*

SPRINGTIME

OFFERING

Offertory

Air

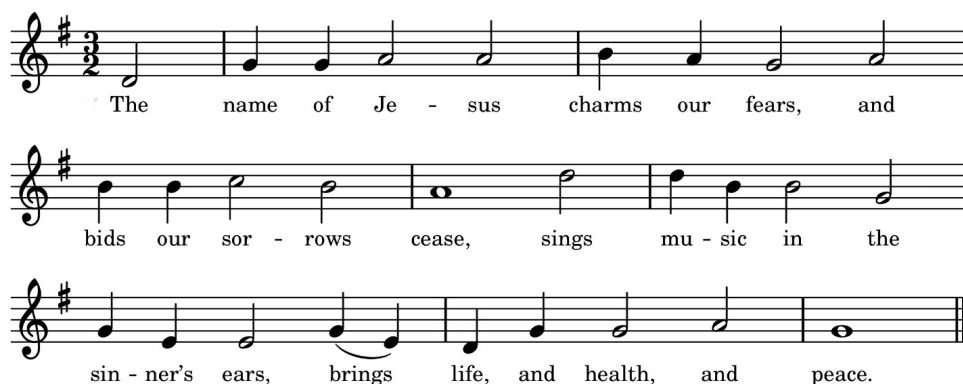
Handel

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE HYMN 610**

O For a Thousand Tongues

AZMON

The response is from the Wesleyan Tradition.



The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

***HYMN 156**

Sing of God Made Manifest

SALZBURG

To close the Epiphany Season, we sing a hymn of summary.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

The Heavens Declare

Marcello

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Whit Malone Liturgist: Rev. Cliff Moone
Director of Music: Dr. Steven Mowery Organist: Dr. Martha Geouge Hill
Musicians: Chancel Choir; Sophie Sauer, Soloist
Choral Scholars: Samantha Miller and Sophie Sauer, Soprano; Hailey Baskin and Rebecca Storie, Alto; Matthew Storie, Tenor; Carter Woolly and Skyler Villegas, Bass

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Willingham, Harriet Kirkland, Adelaide Silkworth, Ben Bost, Sean McGinnis, Rebeca Costa, Cathi Dillon, Bob and Susie Abercrombie, and the First Presbyterian Church of Forest City

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Please sign up as soon as possible!

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(JASON'S DELI) MENU: Penne Pasta with Tomato Basil or Alfredo Sauce, Grilled Chicken Breast, Focaccia Bread, Garden Salad and Cookies Sign up forms available on our website: www.hickoryfpc.org.

CATAWBA VALLEY INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Invites you to A Four-Part Study of the ABRAHAMIC FAITHS
Week 1: TODAY at 2:30 PM at Temple Beth Shalom, Hickory
Judaism: Rabbi Dennis Jones, Presenter

NEW LENTEN STUDY

Hosanna: A Spiritual Journey Through Holy Week (Kerygma Program)
Begins Sunday, February 18 at 9:45 AM (G.I.F.T. Sunday School Class)
Wednesdays beginning February 21 at 6:15 PM

HERITAGE LUNCHEON

Tuesday, February 20 at Noon - Fellowship Hall
Cost: \$5 per person
Guest Speaker: Dick Washer - Holy Land Presentation
R.S.V.P. online: www.hickoryfpc.org or by calling 828.322.6343

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Friday, March 2, 7 PM - Corinth Reformed Church
Questions? Call Carole Marmorato at 828.578.6801

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for the 2018-2019 school year are available at the church office. Application and required documents are due back to the church office by March 31, 2018.

2018 ADULT MISSION TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA

FPC Joining with the Presbytery of WNC
Sunday, May 20 - Saturday, May 26
Participant Contribution: \$125. Partial week participation is available.
Paperwork is available in the church office or by email.
Please return the completed paperwork to the church office with your contribution by April 27.
Space is limited. Direct questions to Melvin Meares at 828.244.4560.

WARMING CENTER DONATIONS

Our church's Warming Center opens 4 –10 PM to homeless and needy people during the cold months when the temperature in the evenings get down to 32°. A meal is served by volunteers in the Youth Center. Donations of gloves, handwarmers, solar lighting, and camping mats are items which could benefit these individuals. Anyone who would like to donate such items can leave them in the office. A box for this collection will be provided.

SUNDAY, February 11

Sr. Highs to see "Wonder" at Carolina Theater
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10 A.M.
Kairos & Sanctuary Worship Services 11 A.M.
Sabbath Soup Kitchen 12:30 P.M.

MONDAY, February 12

Bridge Club/Intercessory Prayer 9:30 A.M.
Women's Bible Study 10 A.M.
P.W. Circle 2/Staff Meeting 11 A.M.
Kerygma Bible Study 6:30 P.M.
Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet & Pack Meeting 7 P.M.

TUESDAY, February 13

Men's Gathering 8 A.M.
P.W. Circle 6 Meeting 9:45 A.M.
Family Ministry Committee Meeting 10 A.M.
Youth Council Meeting 5:30 P.M.
Women's Bible Study 6:30 P.M.
Boy Scouts 7 P.M.

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 14 - Happy Valentine's Day

Bridge Club 9:30 A.M.
Lenten Community Worship Service - Mt. Pisgah AME 12 P.M.
Wednesday Night Supper 5:30 P.M.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:15 P.M.
Ash Wednesday Worship Service 6:30 P.M.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, February 15

Literary
Art Class 9:30 A.M.
Program Staff Meeting 9:30 A.M.
Mission Committee Meeting 7 P.M.

FRIDAY, February 16

Young Men's Bible Study 6:30 A.M.
Pilgrimage Reunion 7 A.M.

SUNDAY, February 18

Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10 A.M.
Kairos & Sanctuary Worship Services 11 A.M.
Jr. High Bubble Ball 4 P.M.
Stephen Ministry Training 5 P.M.