



February 12, 2023

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Voluntary in C*

John Stanley

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**WELCOME**

John James

**INTROIT**

*O How Good Is Christ the Lord (Oh, Qué Bueno Es Jesús)*

OH QUE BUENO

Children's Choir

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader:* This is God's world! To us is given a vision of nations and races, lands and people, joined together in love.

**People: Praise be to God, the Creator, in whose image we are made.**

*Leader:* We come to celebrate and renew that vision, opening ourselves to the One who is its source and who sustains us all through the Holy Spirit.

**People: We affirm in Christ that we can be, and are, one world and one family, working together to manifest God's rule in the lives of all people and of all creation.**

*Leader:* Thankful to God for our church's two hundred years of service and witness, we gather to worship the Lord with joyful praise!

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE** 314 (V. 1, 2 and 5) *Christ, Be Our Light*

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*He's Got the Whole World In His Hands*

Arr. by Margaret Bonds

Michelle Blassengale, Soprano

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, you created all people in your image. We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ from us. We pray that knowledge of your love in Christ may grow our love for all your children throughout the world. Forgive us when we are small and self-centered, and we pray that you would heal us from all things that narrow our perspectives and limit our witness and compassion. Hear us, Lord, as we offer our needs and our hopes in prayer. Have mercy upon us.**

*(Silent Reflection)*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Leader:* For God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. In Jesus Christ we are a forgiven people.

**People: To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.**

**\* GLORIA PATRI**

**\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

*Jesus Loves Me!*

Rev. Bob Brearley

*Following the Children's Moment, children preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to Children in Worship. Parents can pick up their children from the third floor after worship.*

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Charles Langston Finley  
Son of Mary and Justin Finley

Presentation

Questions to the Parents

Questions to the Children of the Church

Question to the Congregation

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Charlie by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of this church?

**We do.**

## 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 rose 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.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Baptism

Congregational Response      *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*      KINGDOM

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

\* **HYMN**      307      *God of Grace and God of Glory*      CWM RHONDDA

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**      Psalm 98:1-9      Edmunds DuBose  
(Pew Bible, pg. 551, Old Testament)

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**      Mark 8:22-26      Rev. John McCall  
(Pew Bible, pg. 43, New Testament)

**SERMON**      "Eyes Touched by Grace"      Rev. John McCall

**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.**

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem      *Serve the Lord with Gladness*      Rollo Dilworth  
Chancel Choir

\* Doxology      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*      LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

\* Offertory Prayer

\* **HYMN**      649 (V. 1, 2 and 5)      *Amazing Grace*      AMAZING GRACE

\* **BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**      *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*      Arr. by David Lowe

\* **Please stand as you are able**

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The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Vickey Shaw by Bo Shaw and family.

## WELCOME!

We especially welcome those of you who are guests today. We invite you to fill out a Welcome card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate as it is passed. We look forward to meeting you. If you have particular questions, please speak to Rev. Brearley.

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders: John Jackson, John James  
Assisting with Worship: John James  
Deacons: Valerie James, Kathy Lyons  
Youth Liturgist: Edmunds DuBose  
Junior Ushers: Connor Thames, Charlie Thames

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Jack Osteen, Glenn Woodrum  
Assisting with Worship: Jack Osteen  
Deacons: Matthew Berger, Susan W. Osteen  
Youth Liturgist: Cooper Hill  
Junior Ushers: Harry Berger, Charlie Coulter

It is a genuine pleasure to welcome the Rev. John McCall to First Presbyterian Church. John has pastored the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church in Black Mountain, NC, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC, and has served as Presbyterian mission co-worker to Taiwan for well over 20 years. We have supported John's mission in Taiwan for many years, and we are thrilled to continue to be his partner in ministry for Jesus Christ. His sincere faith and his deep love for all people are a witness to the mercy of our God.

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. Through this mission, First Presbyterian Church Sumter continues to make a positive difference in this world. Donations can be placed in soup pots following worship this morning. Monetary donations will go to our Backpack Blessings Ministry and any inkind food donations will stock the pantry at Christian Charities.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, February 19, 2023 for the purpose of electing a seven member Pastor Nominating Committee. Nominees will be: Jessica Bettinger, Dee Dailey (Mrs.), Chuck Fienning, Karen Ingram, John Jackson, Kimberly Land, and Jack Osteen.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICERS BEING RECEIVED

Recommendations for the office of Elder and Deacon are now being received from the congregation by the Congregational Nominating Committee. Forms can be found on tables as you leave the Sanctuary or on the Welcome Desk outside the Church Office. The deadline to receive recommendations is **Sunday, February 19**. Please return the form to the church office or a member of the Nominating Committee: Liza Cooper, Chuck Fienning, Gloria Coker, Billy Coulter, J.D. Dunn, Kathy Lyons, or Kay Smith.

### ONLINE GIVING



Online giving can be accessed from the FPC website, [fpcsumter.org](http://fpcsumter.org) (press the red "Give" button), also from your mobile device (text FPCS to 73256). Follow the online instructions. You can also give online by using the QR code and your smartphone. Just hover over the QR code with the camera or scanner on your smartphone or tablet and click on the link that appears.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Home:** Milo Abbott (Grandson of Norma Abbott), Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to Bob Smith on the death of his mother, Nancy Smith, who died February 5, in Charlotte.