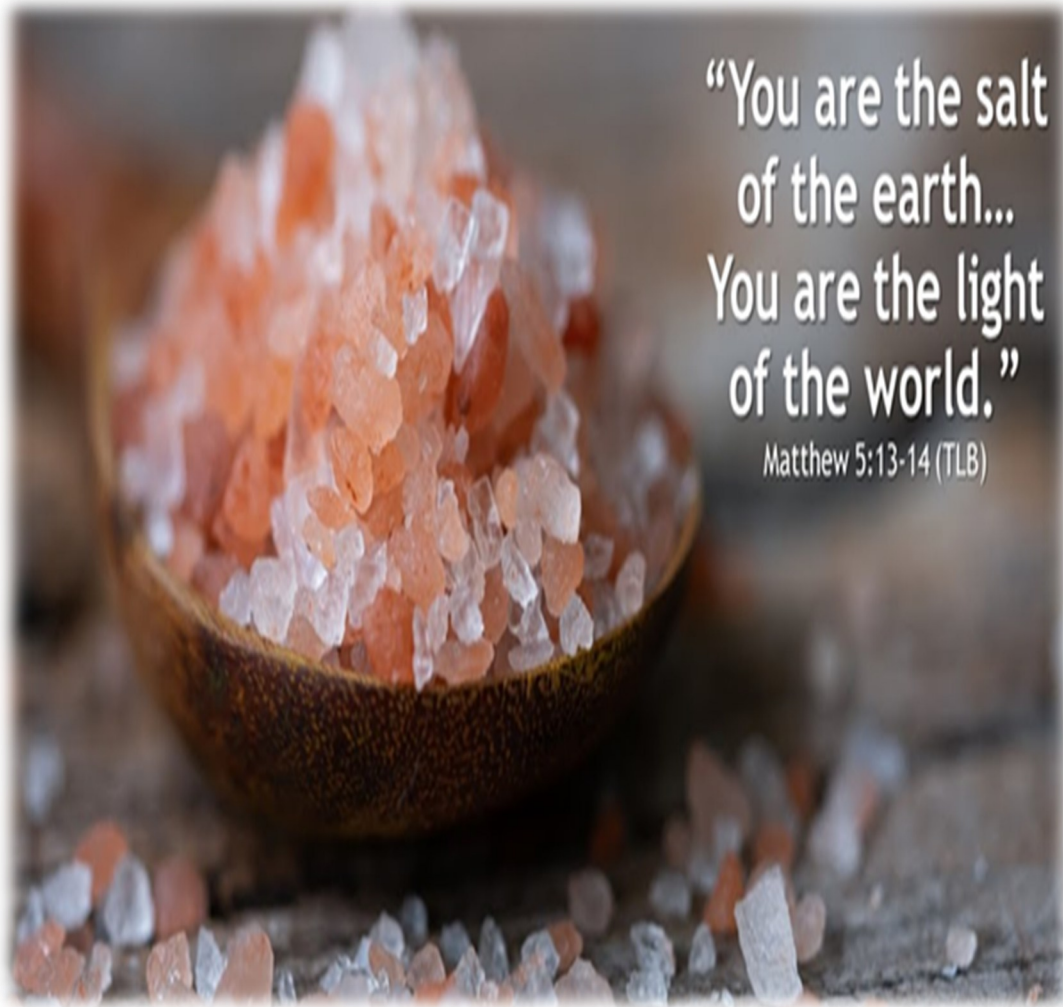


# FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 9, 2025

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany



**Reverend Delton H. Farmer, Pastor**

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*"Helping Others See Jesus' Grace In Me"*

# Order of Worship

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

*\*Congregation Stands/Rise in spirit*

### GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*INTROIT #172(AA) ..... "Praise Him" (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** Jesus promises that when we gather, God is present.

**People:** God is with us here. God is with us today.

**Leader:** Let us praise our Creator, the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty saying,

**People:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

**All:** The Lord of hosts is here. Let us open our hearts and lift our voices in worship.

**\*OPENING HYMN #609 (AA) ..... "God Of Our Fathers"**

#### **\* PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION (*Unison*)**

**Almighty God, we come with hearts full of praise and gratitude. You are our refuge, strength, and everlasting hope. With joyful voices, we lift high Your name, offering songs and prayers as a fragrant offering. Purify our hearts, renew our spirits, and open our ears to hear Your call. Grant us faith and courage to respond with love and commitment. May our love for You deepen, and may we reflect that love to others. All glory, honor, and praise be Yours, now and forever. Blessed be the name of the Lord! Amen.**

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Worship begins each week with a communal acknowledgement that we have failed the task set before us. God calls us to live our lives in the way of Jesus, who humbly and justly loved God and neighbor. Let us confess our sins before our just and merciful Creator so that we may be free to live into our purpose again.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Lord of hosts, Jesus of Galilee, Holy Spirit, forgive us for the ways we have fallen short. You ask us to look to the margins and care for the lost; we center ourselves. You ask us to give away; we grab for more. You ask us to love one another; we cannot see beyond our divisions. The world is full of violence, from the macro to the micro. Forgive us. Help us. We call on you, our beloved, our help, our God, our hope. Hear our silent confessions now.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved, God hears our cries and knows our hearts. Despite our failures, we are cherished. You are forgiven. We are forgiven and loved. So, let us live in God’s peace and find the courage to keep striving for God’s kingdom, knowing that even in our shortcomings, we are being transformed

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**SPECIAL SELECTION** ..... **FUPCC Choir**  
**"Ride On King Jesus/Spiritual Medley"**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** ..... **Rev. Delton H. Farmer**  
Holy God, as we prepare to read your living Word, open our hearts, our ears and our eyes that we may hear and receive from You.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** ..... **Rev. Delton H. Farmer**  
**OLD TESTAMENT:**        **Nehemiah 6:1-4, 10-16**  
**NEW TESTAMENT:**       **James 1:2-4**

**SERMON** ..... **Rev. Delton H. Farmer**  
**"Stand Firm: Regardless Of Distractions And Opposition"**

**INVITATIONAL HYMN #451 (AA)** ..... **"I Need Thee Every Hour"**

**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP/PRAYERS OF THE  
PEOPLE/LORD’S PRAYER**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*unison*)

We believe faith is effective and active through love. It also quiets the conscience and opens a free access to God, so that we may draw near to God with confidence and may obtain from God what is useful and necessary. The same faith keeps us in the service we owe to God and our neighbor, strengthens our patience in adversity, fashions and makes a true confession, and in a word, brings forth good fruit of all kinds, and good works.

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING** ..... **Zévion Williams**

We are called to participate in God’s abundance through the choices we make with our time, our talents, our emotions and our physical resources. Let us honor God with our offering. *You may give online @ fupcc.org, mail your gifts to the church office, 406 N. College Street, 28202, or leave with the officers at the back of the sanctuary as you exit. Remember, all we have, and all we are, belong to God. Let us give with a cheerful heart. Amen* **(Please leave your offering with the officers in the back as you exit)**

**OFFERING** (*Includes Souper Bowl of Caring offering*)

**OFFERTORY SELECTION** ..... **FUPCC Choir**

**"Jesus Is A Rock"**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, you are the source of all love, power and justice. Our world is broken, in need of your love, your light. Take these offerings and multiply them so they may bless others. Bless those who give and those who receive, that they may know you better.

**\*CLOSING HMN #339(GG)** ..... **"Lift Every Voice And Sing"**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

The Almighty’s wisdom, love, justice and beauty are far beyond our understanding. Yet, by God’s grace, glimpses of divine abundance surround us. As you leave today, carry this blessing. "The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make God’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up God’s countenance upon you and give you peace."

**RESPONSE** ..... **" Amen"**

**POSTUDE**

# First Presbyterian and First United Presbyterian Church Civil Rights Trip March 27– 30, 2025

There will be a Sign-Up Sheet in the church office

## DATE

March 27-30, 2025

Registration opens January 23

## COST

\$600 per person; \$350 single supplement. Included in cost: transportation, accommodations, three breakfasts, one lunch, guides, and tips. Scholarships may be available.

## LEADERS

Larry Bosc, professional Civil Rights tour guide and former educator in CMS; Rev. Pen Peery, Pastor, First Presbyterian; and Rev. Delton Farmer, Pastor, First United Presbyterian.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Members of First Presbyterian and First United Presbyterian Churches will embark on a four-day journey to explore the history of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama. We will visit iconic landmarks, engage in meaningful discussion, share moments of introspection, and connect with fellow travelers as we delve into the pivotal events that shaped our nation.

This experience promises not only to educate but also to inspire and renew our commitment to justice and equality for all God's people. Join us as we honor the legacy of those who fought for freedom and continue the journey towards a more just and inclusive future.

## CONTACT

For more information, email Garrell Keesler at [gkeesler@firstpres-charlotte.org](mailto:gkeesler@firstpres-charlotte.org).



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TEN CENTS A MEAL** - We Can Make a Huge Difference when ALL participate. Using the same passage Two and Five Cents-a-Meal has been used since 1982. Please consider a gift to Ten Cents-a-Meal every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.

**PW BIBLE STUDY– Saturday, February 15, 2024@ 11:00 am**

**Lesson 6 –Climate Change/ Let Justice Roll Down**

God’s Call to Care for Neighbors & All Creation

**Meeting ID: 819 3012 7450 Passcode: 129126**

**Call in: 1 309 205 3325 US**

**BIBLE STUDY – (Hybrid)**

**Bible Study every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm**

**Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 874 8560 5940 Passcode: 413228**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87485605940?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87485605940?pwd=1W9aATJXSS4OqG90shNj5hr8jYK7cB.1)

[pwd=1W9aATJXSS4OqG90shNj5hr8jYK7cB.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87485605940?pwd=1W9aATJXSS4OqG90shNj5hr8jYK7cB.1)

**One tap mobile, + 1-301- 715-8592, follow the prompts**

**FUPCC INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

The last Saturday of each month @ 8:30 am in The Library

**FIRST UNITED’S TRIUMPHANT TEENS**

**Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday’s of each Month**

**Sunday Mornings @ 9:45 am Classroom #201**

**Ages: 13-18 (snacks provided)**

**NOURISH UP 5<sup>TH</sup> Fridays @ First Presbyterian; next date May 30, 2025**

**CLEANSING WATERS SHOWER MINISTRY**

1st & 3rd Sundays from 9:00 am - 10:30 Am

**BT EXPRESS (Alcohol/Narcotics Program)**

Mondays & Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

**ROOM IN THE INN**—Next up March 7, 2025

**Participating in Worship – February 9, 2025**

**Liturgist:** Elder Anthony Dozier

**Offering (Collection):** Deacon Ronald Thomas, II/Elder Renea Stitt

**Counters:** Deacons Helen Hairston and Valerie Tutt

**Ushering:** Stephanie Davis and DéAndre Yongue

**Greeting:** Martha Mullen

**SICK AND SHUT-INS**

**AT HOME**

**Mrs. Louise Ezell** - 1850 Magwood Dr. #212, Charleston SC 29414

**Dr. Sandra Govan** - 6508 Wickville Dr., Charlotte, NC 28215

**Ms. Jonette Harper** - 5925 Sierra Dr. Charlotte, NC 28216

**Ms. Constance Sims** - 2301 Ludlow Dr., Charlotte, NC 28216

**SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES , HOSPITALS  
& SENIOR LIVING**

**Dr. Mildred Y. Mosley** .....WALTONWOOD AT COTSWOLD

5215 Randolph Rd Apt 2018, Charlotte, NC 28211-5164

**Mrs. Margaret Freeman** - BROOKDALE SOUTH CHARLOTTE

5515 Rea Road Apartment #111B, Charlotte, NC 28226

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**PRAYER LIST Email: [prayer@fupcc.org](mailto:prayer@fupcc.org)**

Barbara Cannon a Caryle Blakeney-Bennett a Abby Flanders

Shepard Foley a Ms. Jane Reid a Connie Patton a

Mrs. Yvonne Thomas

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**PRAYER**

**God of justice, you have given us an imperative to live in equality and love.**

**Empower each of us to stand on your word so that**

**all persons may experience your mercy. Amen.**