

First Presbyterian Church

5401 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70125

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter/
Mother's Day Sunday



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May 11, 2025

11:00 am

Writing in **bold** is for the congregation response.

*Please stand as you are able.

Please silence your phones during worship service.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 23, King James Version)

All: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*HYMN 408 "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

God's love for us is sure and steadfast. In confidence of that love, let's come to God in prayer.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Holy Lord, you are a God of surprises. You are the God of the empty tomb, the God of the risen Christ, the God who brings about things that no one expected to happen. Lord, we want what we want. We want things to turn out a certain way. Sometimes they do, and sometimes they don't.

(cont'd next page)

Sometimes you surprise us with outcomes we never imagined. Help us, Lord, to trust in you, even when we think we know better than you do how things ought to be.

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

Response: And also with you!

HEARING THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STORY TIME "This Little Light of Mine"

**This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

ANTHEM "Precious Name" Baxter/Doane

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

New Testament Reading Revelation 7:9-17 (pg. 1005)

Liturgist: The word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading Acts 12:1-19 (pgs. 892-893)

Preacher: The word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

SERMON "Guess Who's Knocking at the Gate?"

Rev. Kathleen Crighton

*HYMN 800 "Sometimes a Light Surprises"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve...

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SHARING THE WORD WITH THE WORLD

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY Avery & Marsh

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(...Now, please be with us as we conclude this time with the prayer, taught to us by your son, saying...)

ALL 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.

*HYMN 324 "For All the Faithful Women"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S SERVICE:

PREACHER: Rev. Kathleen Crighton

LITURGIST: elder, Bruce Mather

PIANO: Aya Magavina

OFFERING: elders, Henry and Diane Kleinfeldt

BELL RINGER: deacon, David Rabinowitz

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FPCNO THIS WEEK

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|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday | 7pm-9pm | “Carrollton” AA Group | Fellowship Hall |
| Tuesday | 9am-11am | Program of Hope (setup) | Sanctuary |
| | 7pm-9pm | “Big Easy” AA Group | Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday | 9am-10:30am | Program of Hope | Sanctuary |
| | 11am-1:30pm | The Gurdijeff Foundation | Fellowship Hall |
| Thursday | 7pm-9pm | MCC | Fellowship Hall |
| Saturday | 11am-2pm | POH Luncheon | Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | 9:45am -10:15am | F.P.C Adult Bible Study | Conference Rm. |
| | 10am-11am | M.C.C Sunday Service | Fellowship Hall |
| | 11am-12pm | F.P.C Sunday Service | Sanctuary |





WELCOME VISITORS!

We Are Glad You Are Here

We welcome you to historic, progressive First Presbyterian Church this morning! Even if you are just visiting the city, we want you to feel welcome in our community and to involve yourself in the life of this place. Here are a few things to get you up to speed.

- If you are a visitor or guest we invite you to sign the visitor/guest register which is located in the Narthex and/or sign the guest/visitors card located in your bulletin and put in the offering plate. We care about you and want to know who you are.
- A bathroom is available (with a changing table) at the back of the church in the left hand alcove as you face the entrance doors.
- During the time of the passing of the peace, some may be comfortable with hugs, laughs, and conversation, but others may not. Please be respectful of one another's comfort levels. If you would prefer to maintain a social distance, you may pass the peace by folding your arms, making a peace sign, or whatever is comfortable for you.
- **Great news!** We have resumed having coffee available in the narthex before, during, and after worship. Big thanks to our elder, Henry Kleinfeldt for preparing the coffee! We are also offering snacks. Feel free to donate your favorite kinds and leave them on the table beside the coffee fixings.
- We were the first "More Light" congregation in New Orleans and now are the first congregation to be a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians in New Orleans. Which means we welcome not only the membership, but the leadership and talents of all genders, abilities, races, and sexual orientations.
- We appreciate the spiritual and financial support your attendance brings. If you wish, you may put cash or a check in the offering plate that will be passed towards the end of the service. If you would like to use a credit card or PayPal to make a secure donation to the Program of Hope or the Capital Campaign, you can go to the church's website, www.fpcno.org and click on the links on the right hand side of the home page.



Please like us on Facebook at facebook.com/fpcno and also follow us on X (formerly Twitter) at <https://x.com/fpcno>.

We don't have an official church newsletter, but you can find updates on our Facebook page (above) and website, www.fpcno.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

504-866-7409 * FAX 504-910-4477

WWW.FPCNO.ORG; FACEBOOK.COM/FPCNO; TWITTER.COM/FPCNO

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

PASTOR

REV. KATHLEEN CRIGHTON

REVKATHY@FPCNO.ORG

OFFICE MANAGER/LEASING CONSULTANT

CHERYL A. ROBERTS

CHERYL@FPCNO.ORG

CHOIR DIRECTOR

MAY BALL

MUSICIANS:

AYA MAGAVINA-ALVAREZ; AMANDA WADSWORTH

WEDDING COORDINATOR:

DEE BOLING

WEDDINGS@FPCNO.ORG

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR

BRUCE MATHER

WEBSITE TECHS:

TERRY RUPPEL; CARRIE FISHER

TECH SUPPORT:

RICHARD TATUM

SEXTON:

(CORVUS JANITORIAL) MRS. KAREN AND MRS. DARNEISA

THE SESSION

CLERK OF SESSION

KEN ALLEN

ASSISTANT CLERK OF SESSION

BRUCE MATHER

CLASS OF 2024

HENRY KLEINFELDT

LYDIA POLLARD

CLASS OF 2025

BRUCE MATHER

CHRISTIE RUPPEL

CLASS OF 2026

ZANE FISHER

TED SWARTZ

PROGRAM OF HOPE DIRECTOR

DIANE KLEINFELDT

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