



First Presbyterian Church
Knoxville, Tennessee
Early Worship Service
In the Chapel, 8:45 a.m.
May 18 through August 17, 2008

ORDINARY TIME

Announcements

Call to Worship

(a) (from Psalm 46)

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear; though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.

Leader: Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Leader: Let us worship God!

(b) (from Psalm 100)

Leader: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Worship the Lord with gladness, Come into God's presence with singing!

Leader: For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.

People: Let us worship God!

(c) (from Psalm 8)

Leader: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

People: You have set your glory above the heavens.

Leader: From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.

People: How majestic is your name in all the earth!

Leader: Let us worship God!

†Gathering Music

†Please Stand

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†Prayer of Confession

(a)

O God, we confess that all of us sin and fall short of your glory. We are idle when we should be active. We listen to gossip more than we listen to the gospel. When called to serve we have excuses rather than excitement. We hesitate rather than hasten to do what you ask. Time is short for we know not when you will call us to judgment. Help us to be mindful of how precious each moment is and be quick to fill them with deeds of discipleship in response to your will.

(b)

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

(c)

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light; and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

†Assurance of Pardon

(a)

As Paul reminds us, O God, you gave us Jesus Christ to show your righteousness, because in your divine forbearance you passed over sins previously committed. Now you have proven that you yourself are righteous and you justify the one who has faith in Jesus. So, we can say with assurance, “In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!”

Amen.

(b)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

(c)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

†Response to the Good News

(a)

The fourth verse of *Amazing Grace*: ***The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.***

(b)

The first verse of *Jesus Loves Me*: ***Jesus love me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so; Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.***

(c)

The first verse of *There's A Wideness in God's Mercy*: ***There's a wideness in God's mercy, Like the wideness of the sea; There's a kindness in God's justice, Which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven; There is no place where earth's failings Have such kindly judgment given.***

†The Passing the Peace

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you!
And also with you!

Prayer for Illumination:

(a)

Living God, help us to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(b)

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(c)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today.

Amen.

The Scripture Lesson

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

†Please Stand

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†The Apostle's Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say:

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 life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

(a)

For all the baptized, for all who serve in the church, for bishops and pastors, for our own staff and our many volunteers, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

(b)

For our president, for the leaders of nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

(c)

For Knoxville and Knox County, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

(d)

For reasonable weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

†Please Stand

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(e)
For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

(f)
For those who travel by land, water, or air, who spend their summers on vacation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

(g)
For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphaned, and for the sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

(h)
For the poor and the oppressed, for those unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

(I)
For deliverance in times of affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

(j)
For _____, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in His name you will be in the midst of them. Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

†Concluding Music

†Benediction

(a)
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Alleluia! Amen.

(b)
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Alleluia! Amen.

(c)
Now to him who by the power within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever.

Alleluia! Amen.

Almsgiving - For the FISH Pantry

May	Canned Tuna
June	Jiffy Bread Mix
July	Peanut Butter
August	Crackers