

**We believe that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;**  
**We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;**  
**We believe that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*      440

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**      *Prelude and Fugue in C Major*      Dietrich Buxtehude

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....**

**Family Promise will be joining us February 4 - 11.** Please contact Britton Leitch at [britton.leitch@gmail.com](mailto:britton.leitch@gmail.com) to get involved.

**The Bridge Refugee Sewing Classes need volunteers** -- both people to be floaters and help in the classes and people who will provide childcare. The classes start on February 10<sup>th</sup> and are biweekly. They are from 10am-12pm again. Any interested volunteers can contact either Kayla ([kdavis@bridgerefugees.org](mailto:kdavis@bridgerefugees.org)) or Peter ([pgreen@bridgerefugees.org](mailto:pgreen@bridgerefugees.org)). If you would like to volunteer to provide childcare for Bridge, please contact Jane Holland at 546-2531 or [jane@fpcknox.org](mailto:jane@fpcknox.org) by February 2<sup>nd</sup> to complete a background check. (If you already have completed a background check with the church, you do not need to do so again.)

**Join us for the 2024 Presbytery Youth Summit from February 16-18 at Holston Presbytery Camp!** We will explore Psalm 23 together and explore how God is calling us to embrace and live out this beloved scripture. We will stay at Holston Presbytery Camp in Banner Elk, North Carolina and enjoy skiing or snowboarding (optional) on Sugar Mountain. Not a skier/snowboarder? No problem, we will have other fun games and options available. The deadline to register is February 5th, so register soon! Cost: \$200 + \$50 for optional skiing/snowboarding. For questions, please contact Meredith Loftis at [meredith@fpcknox.org](mailto:meredith@fpcknox.org).

**February 23 - 25 - The Racial Justice Task Force of the Presbytery of East Tennessee along with Emmanuel Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church are excited to share the plans to go to Atlanta, GA the weekend of February 23-25, 2024.** The cost is \$175 per person which will include the cost of the bus, hotel, and museum tickets. Financial assistance is available. Meals will need to be purchased on your own throughout the trip. Please contact Pastor Meredith Loftis at [meredith@fpcknox.org](mailto:meredith@fpcknox.org) with any questions.

**WELCOME**

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at [fpcknox.org](http://fpcknox.org), via the QR code to the right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices and large print hymnals are available for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**OFFERING**

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed, or you are invited give securely online at [www.fpcknox.org/donate](http://www.fpcknox.org/donate) or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



**STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| The Rev. Mark R. Curtis<br><i>Senior Pastor</i>              | Laura Harmon<br><i>Church Administrator</i>                                    |
| The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis<br><i>Associate Pastor</i>      | Lauren Nunn<br><i>Director of Parent's Day Out /<br/>Childcare Coordinator</i> |
| Dr. Andy Morgan<br><i>Director of Family Faith Formation</i> | Sandra Robinson<br><i>Administrative Assistant</i>                             |
| Mark Pace<br><i>Organist/Choirmaster</i>                     | Victor Lenoir<br><i>Custodian</i>  |
| Mary Wilson<br><i>Adult Ministry Coordinator</i>             | Paul Seguna<br><i>Sound Engineer</i>   |
| Katie Norrell<br><i>Director of Communications</i>           | Harris Eddins<br><i>Crucifer</i>   |
| Jane Holland<br><i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i>        | Noah Jones<br><i>Bible Bearer</i>  |

**WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES**

<i>Come, Christians, Join to Sing Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above</i> Tune: Mit freuden zart	One License #CGB90	<i>All Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit</i> Tune: Ebenezer	One License #06676 One License #27645
<i>Praise to God the Father</i> Tune: Da n'ase		<i>Jesus, Lover of My Soul</i> Tune: Aberystwyth	
<i>Amen, We Praise Your Name</i> Tune: Amen, siakudumisa	One License #21217		

**FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS**

*All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Children, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Children's Area (2nd floor) after Special Time with Young Disciples. Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children, in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).*



*First Presbyterian Church*  
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 28, 2024**

Connect With Us



[www.fpcknox.org](http://www.fpcknox.org)

620 State Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

## THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* Arr. Linda McKechnie  
Adult Handbell Choir

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!  
In the company of the saints above and beside us,  
let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**Great are the works of the Lord,  
full of honor and majesty,  
whose righteousness endures forever.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful;  
the work of God's hands are faithful and just.

**God's covenant is established forever  
in truth and justice.**

Our redemption is in the name of our Lord.

**Holy and awesome is God's name in all the earth!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* 645

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God,  
our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.  
Forgive us when we have encountered evil and suffering  
and failed to bring mercy and justice.  
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed  
and we are emboldened to love our neighbors  
and our enemies;  
and grant us grace to grow more and more  
in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.  
(a moment for silent confession)**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Praise to God the Father* 605  
**Praise to God the Father; praise to God the Son;  
Praise to God the Spirit: praise to the Three-in-One.  
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.  
Praise to God Almighty; praise to the Holy One.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Amen, We Praise Your Name* 598  
**Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.  
Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.  
Sing amen: Amen, amen, amen, amen,  
Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** Psalm 111 Pat Chambers

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. <sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. <sup>3</sup> Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. <sup>4</sup> He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful. <sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. <sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. <sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. <sup>8</sup> They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. <sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. <sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

**ANTHEM** *All Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord* Z. Randall Stroope  
*At the first light of day, Lauda, laudé! When the sun reaches noon, Lauda, laudé! And then at sunset, Lauda, laudé! Or at the midnight, Lauda, laudé! All who dwell in the shadow of the Lord, they find a refuge and fortress. Nation, village or faith of a small child, Home they find in him. May we sing, sing for joy, Lauda, laudé! May our days all be glad, Lauda, laudé! May we have wisdom, Lauda, laudé! May we have truth, Lauda, laudé! All who dwell in the shadow of the Lord, find a refuge and fortress. Nation, village or faith of a small child, Home they find in him. Plagues and serpents of the dark, pestilence that stalks the night, they who harm, who destroy, those who spread fear and terror — But those who make the Lord most high their refuge and their dwelling, no fear, no harm, no foe will come near your land, no shame, no death, no evil consume or destroy. Lauda, laudé! All who dwell in the shadow of the Lord.*

**SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** Mark 1:21-28

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried

out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

## THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit* 181

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER** Rev. Mark R. Curtis

**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.**

**RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** *Qui Sedes ad Dexteram* Antonio Vivaldi  
Eliza Foster, Mezzo-Soprano  
Translation of Latin text: *Thou who sits at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy upon us.*

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *Old Hundredth*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all  
creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Confession of Belhar, 10.7–8*  
**We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who  
wishes to bring about justice and true peace among  
people;  
We believe that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,  
is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor  
and the wronged  
We believe that God calls the church to follow God in this;  
for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread  
to the hungry;  
We believe that God frees the prisoner and restores sight  
to the blind;**



**Memorials and Honorariums**  
**October 12, 2023 – January 24, 2024**

**MEMORIAL FUND**

<p>In Memory of:  <i>Charlie Smith</i></p> <p><i>Ely Driver</i></p> <p><i>Jeanne Fox</i></p> <p><i>Patty Acuff</i></p> <p><i>Earl Hagler</i></p> <p><i>Anne Hart-Murrian</i></p> <p><i>Julia Pulliam</i></p> <p><i>Carol Kincheloe</i></p> <p><i>Baxter Ragsdale</i></p>	<p>From:</p> <p>Pat &amp; Jane Armstrong          Tim &amp; Vicki Bible          Pam Teague          Raymond &amp; Sharon Patton McCord          Pat &amp; Jane Armstrong          Tim &amp; Vicki Bible          Presbytery of East Tennessee          Pam Teague          Raymond &amp; Sharon Patton McCord          Pat &amp; Jane Armstrong          Suzanne Canada          Glen &amp; Nancy Castle          John &amp; Celeste Whaley          SAS Institute; valued employee Richard Fox          Pam Teague          Susan &amp; Steve Price          Bill &amp; Susan Ray          Margaret &amp; Charles Wheeler          Raymond &amp; Sharon Patton McCord          Raymond &amp; Sharon Patton McCord          Pam Teague          Pam Teague          Raymond &amp; Sharon Patton McCord          Raymond &amp; Sharon Patton McCord          Pam Teague          Pam Teague          Raymond &amp; Sharon Patton McCord          Pam Teague          Bob &amp; Becky McDaniel          Gaines &amp; Anne Pittenger          Gary &amp; Paulette Anderson          Bill &amp; Ginny Morrow          Maryville Homes &amp; Villas Comm Assoc.          Jerry &amp; Janet Seiler          Raymond &amp; Sharon Patton McCord</p>
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*Mary Adair Horde*  
*Linda Manson*

Raymond & Sharon Patton McCord  
 Raymond & Sharon Patton McCord

**MUSIC FUND**

*Ely Driver* Discipleship Sunday School Class  
 Laura Ford

**FLOWER FUND**

<p><i>Carol Kincheloe</i>  <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Wheeler D. Samples, Sr.</i>  <i>Wheeler D. Samples, Jr.</i>  <i>Janie Esther Keener</i></p>	<p>Len &amp; Becky Dwarshuis          Bob &amp; Diana Samples          Bob &amp; Diana Samples          Bob &amp; Diana Samples</p>
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**FISH PANTRY FUND**

*Charlie Smith* Erin Ahlstedt



**HONORARIUMS**

**FLOWER GUILD**

<p>In Honor of:</p> <p><i>Barbara Johnston</i>  <i>Anne Pittenger</i>  <i>Debbie Christiansen</i>  <i>Debbie Jones</i>  <i>Mark Curtis</i></p>	<p>From:</p> <p>Libba Wall          Libba Wall          Libba Wall          Libba Wall          Libba Wall</p>
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**MUSIC FUND**

*Mark Pace* Ken & Jamie Keith

**PASTORS' BENEVOLENCE FUND**

*Bill & Ginny Morrow* Wayne & Linda Kramer  
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**UKIRK**

*Bill & Ginny Morrow* Lars & Ailsa Schuller