

**as far as the east is from the west,
so far does God remove our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion on us.

**For the Lord knows how we were made,
and remembers that we are dust.**

Therefore, since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud of witnesses,

**Let us also lay aside every weight
and the sin that clings so closely,**

And let us run with perseverance the race that is set
before us, looking to Jesus

the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,

**Who for the sake of the joy that was set before him
endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has
taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.**

UNISON PRAYER

**God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so
may we give ourselves to you. Keep our feet firmly in
the way where Christ leads us; make our mouths speak
the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the
life that is Christ within us. In his holy name we pray.
Amen.**

*HYMN *Just as I Am, without One Plea* 442

BENEDICTION

*Please stand if you are able.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

As part of his Doctor of Ministry course work, Mark Curtis will be leading a class called "Open Tomb. Open Eyes. Open Hearts." on Wednesday, February 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the James Park Classroom and on Zoom. This presentation is part of the Final Project in the class Mark is currently taking entitled, "Liturgy, Leadership, and Justice." During the hour-long class, we will explore issues of justice in the history, theology, and practice of worship on Easter Sunday. Come hear what Mark has been learning!



Use the QR code to the right to join the class via Zoom!

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, 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 or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

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

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

Hear the Good News of Salvation
Tune: Nettleton
Your Only Son (Lamb of God)
Tune: Lamb of God
Just as I Am, without One Plea
Tune: Woodworth
One License # BP1649

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

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *O Man Bewail Thy Grievous Fall* J.S. Bach

WELCOME
The Lord Be with you.
And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
God's love endures forever.
God is our refuge and strength,
a present help in trouble.
**Therefore we will not fear
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
God's love endures forever.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Hear the Good News of Salvation* 441

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Sisters and brothers in Christ:
Every year at Easter we celebrate with joy
our redemption and renewal through the life, death,
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
The season of Lent is a time
to prepare for this celebration
and to make room in our lives for the Spirit of God
to renew us in this mystery.

We begin this holy season
by acknowledging our need for repentance
and our need for the love and forgiveness shown to us
in Jesus Christ.

We invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ,
to observe a Holy Lent,
by looking at ourselves honestly
and asking for forgiveness,
by prayer and fasting,
by practicing works of love,
and by reading and reflecting on God's Holy Word.

Let us begin our Lenten journey together by confessing
our sins and seeking the forgiveness and new life that is
promised to us in Christ Jesus.

TIME OF CONFESSION (responsive) Psalm 51



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you alone have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

(silent confession)

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

**Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

(silent confession)

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

You desire truth in the inward being;
teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering,
you would not be pleased.**

**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.**

(silent confession)



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who wish may come forward to be marked with ashes as a sign
of repentance. As each one comes forward, the sign of the cross will
be placed on his or her forehead, with the words "Remember that you
are dust, and to dust you shall return."

MUSIC DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

But the Lord, is Mindful of His Own Felix Mendelssohn
Tracy Pace, Alto

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of
view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,
we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is
a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has
become new!

HYMN *Your Only Son (Lamb of God)* 518

SCRIPTURE READING (responsive) from Psalm 103 & Hebrews 2

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love.

**God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love toward us;