

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from the Confession of Belhar*

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. We believe that, through the working of God's Spirit, it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

*CLOSING HYMN *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts* 494

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Basse et Dessus de Trompette* Clerambault

**Please stand if you are able.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Worship Notes: Liturgy was written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

We welcome Beverly Landguth as our guest organist this morning. Beverly has been playing the organ since age 12 and has degrees in music education. She has held jobs as organist and choir director at various churches where she lived. She is retired and now fills in as a substitute organist at various churches.

Downtown Lenten lunches will be held each Wednesday at noon:

- 3/15 Immaculate Conception Church
- 3/22 St. John's Episcopal Cathedral
- 3/29 First Presbyterian Church

No Worshipful Wednesday on the 15th; we will resume on the 22nd.

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday is April 2. Services will be held at 8:45 and 11 am.

The Maundy Thursday service is April 6 at 6:30 pm.

Stations of the Cross will be held on April 7 at 5:30 pm in Market Square.

Easter Sunday is April 9. Services will be held at 7 and 11 am. There will be light refreshments served after the early service and ending at 9:45 am.

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

The Rev. Meredith Loftis
Associate Pastor

Mark Pace
Organist/Choirmaster

Mary Wilson
Adult Ministry Coordinator

Katie Norrell
Director of Communications

Jane Holland
Director of Finance/Facilities

Laura Harmon
Church Administrator

Lauren Nunn
*Director of Parent's Day Out /
Childcare Coordinator*

Sandra Robinson
Administrative Assistant

Victor Lenoir
Custodian

Paul Seguna
Sound Engineer

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).



Living Water by Lauren Wright Pittman, Inspired by John 4:5-42.

First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 12, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *I Stand at the Threshold* J.S. Bach, arr. E. Power Biggs

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together—

**the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,
in hopes of seeing God.**

We gather together—

**the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,
in hopes of finding peace.**

We gather together—

**those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,
in hopes of finding justice.**

So come to the well, come to the table.

Come, let us worship God. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* 65

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we have been on every side of this story. We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion, and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well. So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbors? How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change? How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work? Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day. It was you. It is still you. With hope we pray, Amen.

(a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Jesus, Remember Me* 227
One License #00122

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom. (3x)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (vv. 1 and 3) 223

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON John 4:5-26 Bill Butler

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

ANTHEM *Out of the Depths I Cry to You* Arr. Dale Grotenhuis
One License #50-3015

Out of the depths I cry to you on high; Lord, hear my call. Bend down your ear and listen to my sigh, forgiving all. If you should mark our sin, who then could stand? But grace and mercy dwell at your right hand. I wait for God, I trust his holy word; he hears my sighs. My soul still waits and looks unto the Lord; my prayers arise. I look for him to drive away my night, yes, more than those who watch for morning light. Hope in the Lord; unfailing in his love; in him confide. Mercy and full redemption from above he does provide. From sin

and evil, mighty though they seem, his arm almighty will his saints redeem. Amen.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON John 4:27-42

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

SERMON Rev. Meredith Loftis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* 440

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 *O Sacred Head Surrounded* J. S. Bach