

THIRD SUNDAY OF

Lent



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

*“For Christ in the Heart of Knoxville,” the First Presbyterian Church seeks*

- *to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ*
- *to nurture those within its influence*
- *to serve spiritual and human needs*

**LEADERS IN WORSHIP**

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor

Mr. Mark Pace, Organist/Choirmaster

Mr. Alex McGavic, Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator

Charlie Smith, Crucifer

Laura Smith, Bible Bearer

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

MARCH 20, 2022

✠ THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✠

PRELUDE

*A New Commandment*

David Blackwell

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

† CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 63

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

People: **My flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

Leader: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.

People: **Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.**

All: **So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

† OPENING HYMN 624 *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art (vv. 1-3, 5)*

Toulon

- |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| 1. I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,<br>My only trust and Savior of my heart,<br>Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;<br>I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take. | 3. Thou art the life, by which alone we live,<br>And all our substance and our strength receive;<br>Sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,<br>And give us strength in every trying hour. |
| 2. Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,<br>Reigning omnipotent in every place:<br>So come, O King, and our whole being sway;<br>Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.   | 5. Our hope is in no other save in thee;<br>Our faith is built upon thy promise free;<br>Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,<br>That in thy strength we evermore endure.        |

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and compassionate God,  
you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy,  
but we have not loved you.

We have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.

Through Christ, our Lord...*(a moment for silent confession)*

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† **MUSICAL RESPONSE** 581                      *Glory Be to the Father*                      Gloria Patri  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is  
now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

† **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

† **MUSICAL RESPONSE** 840                      *When Peace Like a River* (verse 1)                      Vile Du Havre  
When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.

✠ **THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD** ✠

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**                      Luke 13:1-9 (*see insert*)                      Britton Leitch

**ANTHEM**                                              *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*                      Hal H. Hopson  
*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land; a home within  
the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day. Upon the cross of  
Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me: and from my stricken heart with tears  
two wonders I confess, the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness. Amen.*

**SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**                                              Isaiah 55:1-9 (*see insert*)

**SERMON**                                              “Quenching Our Thirst”                      Rev. Mark R. Curtis

✠ **THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE** ✠

† **HYMN OF RESPONSE** 30                      *O God, in a Mysterious Way*                      Dundee

1. O God, in a mysterious way Great wonders you perform. You plant your footsteps in the sea And ride upon the storm.	3. O fearful saints, fresh courage take. The clouds you so much dread Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head.
2. Deep in unfathomable mines Of never-failing skill, You treasure up your bright designs And work your sovereign will.	4. Our unbelief is sure to err And scan your work in vain. You are your own interpreter, And you will make it plain.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**                      Alex McGavic  
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**

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed or you are invited to mail in  
your tithes and offerings to the church office or give online at [www.fpcknox.org/donate](http://www.fpcknox.org/donate).

**OFFERTORY***Create in Me*

Michael Larkin

*Create in me a clean heart, O god, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit. Amen.*

**† DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION 606 *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***The Apostles' Creed*

**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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

**† SENDING HYMN 805***Come Sing to God*

Ellacombe

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| <p>1. Come sing to God, O living saints;<br/>Sing Praises to God's name.<br/>God's anger is not permanent;<br/>God's love will never wane.<br/>Though tears may tarry for the night<br/>With sighs of deepest pain,<br/>Yet joy comes with the morning sun,<br/>A peace that is not vain.</p> <p>2. In my success I felt secure;<br/>How good you've been to me.<br/>I said that this is my own work,<br/>Ascribing all to me.<br/>But when you turned aside your face,<br/>My life was filled with tears.<br/>I begged for help; to you I cried<br/>With loud and bitter tears.</p> | <p>3. What good is gained by my disgrace,<br/>What profit in defeat?<br/>My grave cannot confess your name,<br/>Nor praise for you repeat.<br/>Now hear, O Lord, my plaintive cry;<br/>Be merciful to me.<br/>Accept my longing heart's request<br/>And from death set me free.</p> <p>4. You change my grief to joy-filled dance;<br/>My sorrows you destroy.<br/>In faithfulness you hear my cry<br/>And fill my life with joy.<br/>And so to you my heart shall sing;<br/>My voice your goodness raise.<br/>You are my God, forevermore.<br/>My life shall sing your praise.</p> |
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**† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE***Little Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 554*

Johann S. Bach

† - *Please stand if you are able.*



The Officer Nominating Committee requests prayers as they select nominees for the 2025 Class of elders and deacons. If you have a willingness to be considered or would like to recommend someone for either office, please contact any committee member or email Melanie Payne at [mpayne@kcc.com](mailto:mpayne@kcc.com). Committee Members include Melanie Payne, Brandon Spurlock, Jim Brown, John Whaley, Joanna Pennoyer, Sue Wisberg and Virginia Stormer.

## WORSHIP FOR MARCH 20, 2022

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

Britton Leitch

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” <sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.  
<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.





ACT/DKH/Frank Schultze

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO UKRAINE WAR

As the violence in Ukraine continues, the number of people being displaced internally and fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day. And in the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Our first priority is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not, which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work. Our response will include both financial and technical

assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

**GIVE:** To support emergency relief for those fleeing Ukraine, choose one of the following giving options:

- Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, designate gifts for “PDA-Ukraine” in the memo line, and place in the offering plate.
- Give online at <https://www.fpcknox.org/giving> (designate PDA-Ukraine).
- To give directly to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund, use the code DR000156.
- Text PDAUKR to 41444 to donate.
- Call Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at (800) 872-3283.



**ACT:** Urge the U.S. government to support generous aid for refugees and civilians suffering in Ukraine, and call for engaging a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

**PRAY:**

May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help. May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome extravagantly. May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy. May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace. And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection, repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace. -Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance