



First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE 

Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor
Dr. Andy Morgan, Director of Family Faith Formation
Mr. Mark Pace, Organist/Choirmaster

ORDER OF WORSHIP
✧ THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✧

PRELUDE

Joyful, Joyful
Adult Handbell Choir

Arr. Valerie W. Stephenson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*** CALL TO WORSHIP & SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 118:19-24, 26, 28-29

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

**This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**This is the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
his steadfast love endures forever.**

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

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PRESENTATION OF THE NEW LECTERN BIBLE

Liz Key & Celeste Whaley

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Eternal God, from the beginning,
you have enlightened your people with your truth.
Throughout generations, you have called women and men
to plant your Word in our hearts as good seed,
and made it to grow into a rich harvest of justice, mercy, and love.

**Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.
Grant that we would continue to hear
your Word and follow its teaching
that we might find in it the light that shines.**

May this new Bible be used to continue this good work
living out your call to separate truth from falsehood,
as we seek to follow the One who was, and who is,
and who is to come, your Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**We do not live by bread alone, but by every word
that comes from your mouth.
May we always hear that Word rightly
read and proclaimed in this place.
Grant that we not only hear it and understand it,
but that we live it, putting your precepts into practice
and living in Spirit and in truth.**

Trusting in Jesus Christ, we dedicate this Bible
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

IT WAS ON SUNDAY...

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 11:1-10

Celeste Whaley

ANTHEM

Lift Up Your Heads

George F. Handel

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.
Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in.
Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.*

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Dr. Andy Morgan

IT WAS ON MONDAY...

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 11:15-19

Then they came to Jerusalem. And Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations?' But you have made it a den of robbers." And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, whose arrival in Jerusalem was welcomed
with a show of palms and a shout of praise:
we confess that we, too, are prone to proclaim you Lord of our lives today,
and forget you tomorrow.**

**We want to serve you with our lips, but not with our lives.
Like those in Jerusalem so many years ago,
we tend to follow the crowd as it makes and breaks heroes.
Forgive our sin, O God.
Make us into new people, in and through Jesus our Savior.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

(a moment for silent confession)

*** DECLARATION OF PARDON**

* **MUSICAL RESPONSE** *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* (verse 5) 618
**All glory to our Lord and God, for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.**

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

* **MUSICAL RESPONSE** *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* (verse 3) 618
**For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death; for us gave up his dying breath.**

IT WAS ON TUESDAY...

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, the scribe asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him,

"You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other;' and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices."

When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

IT WAS ON WEDNESDAY...

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 14:3-9

While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger,

"Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor."

And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Arr. Gilbert Martin

*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.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.*

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?
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

IT WAS ON THURSDAY...

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 14:12-36

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." So the disciples set out and went to the city...

...While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him,

"Even though all become deserters, I will not."

Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." But Peter said vehemently,

"Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

And all of them said the same. They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

HYMN

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley
(v. 1, soloist; vv. 2-3, Congregation & Choir)

American Spiritual

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by Himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it by Himself.*

***We must walk this lonesome valley, We have to walk it by ourselves;
O, nobody else can walk it for us, We have to walk it by ourselves.***

***You must go and stand your trial, You have to stand it by yourself,
O, nobody else can stand it for you, You have to stand it by yourself.***

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 14:53-54, 66-72

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was

sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. One of the servant-girls of the high priest came by; when she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying,

"I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

"I do not know this man!"

At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

HYMN

What Wonderful Love Is This (verse 1)

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SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 15:1-20

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival the governor used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said,

"Barabbas."

Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back,

"Crucify him!"

Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more,

"Crucify him!"

HYMN

What Wonderful Love Is This (verse 2-3)

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So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

"Hail, King of the Jews!"

They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (verse 1-2)

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IT WAS ON FRIDAY...

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 15:21-39

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (verse 3)

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And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

"You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

"He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

"Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

"Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

HYMN

Were You There (verse 1, 2 & 3)

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And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way Jesus breathed his last, he said,

"Truly this was the Son of God!"

* HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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DEPART IN PEACE

(There is no benediction offered on Palm Sunday; the service continues on Maundy Thursday.)

* Please stand if you are able.

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. Dr. Meredith Loftis
Associate Pastor

Dr. Andy Morgan
Director of Family Faith Formation

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

Katrin Smith
Kitchen Manager

Paul Seguna
Sound Engineer

Daniel Curtis
Crucifer

Liz Key
Bible Bearer

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

Joyful, Joyful

Tune: Toulon

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Tune: Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Tune: Deo Gracias

What Wonderful Love Is This

Tune: Wondrous Love

One License #CGB419

One License #199490

One License #35065

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Tune: Passion Chorale

Were You There

Tune: Were You There

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Tune: Hamburg

One License #52666

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).