



First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE 

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY SUNDAY

April 7, 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 GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✧

PRELUDE *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Traditional
Wednesday Night Handchime Choir

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT *The Prayer of St. Patrick* William M. Schoenfield
Wednesday Night Children and Orff Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Sallee Reynolds

SPECIAL MUSIC Preschool-Aged Children

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Kaylyn Smith & Sallee Reynolds

Child: God knew us before we knew God. God loved us before we loved God. God claimed us before we claimed God. This is called grace and it is the reason we come to worship today.

We worship to say thank you!

Teacher: We do worship to say thank you to God. We come to this place to pray, sing hymns, listen to stories from the Bible, and, in doing so, we learn about God who loves each of us so much.

We worship to learn about God!

Child: And the things we learn are amazing. God is really big and still cares about the really little things that make our hearts hurt. God is really powerful and still pays attention to and cares about people who aren't powerful. God calls us God's children and that means that all of us together are a church family.

We worship to be together with our church family!

Both: We worship to say thank you, to learn about God, and to be with our church family.

Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN** *This is the Day*

*This is the day, **this is the day** that the Lord has made, **that the Lord has made;**
we will rejoice, **we will rejoice** and be glad in it, **and be glad in it.***

This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

*This is the day, **this is the day that the Lord has made.***

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Brianna Cook

Even though God knows what we do wrong, God still wants to hear us say that we're sorry as we try to follow God even better. Let's take that special time now to say that we are sorry by praying the Prayer of Confession. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. As we pray, our leader will stop and we can join together by saying,

"please forgive us."

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Asher Curtis

Most of this liturgy was written by children of First Presbyterian Church.

Dear God, Please forgive us for the wrongs we have done: For the angry and hurtful words we have said,

Please forgive us.

For the ways we have been selfish and for the times we forgot to share with others,

Please forgive us.

For the ways our actions have not shown how loved we are and our call to love others,

Please forgive us.

In your love, Lord, forgive us and help us to love you, ourselves, and our neighbors so deeply that your light shines through us. Help us to remember that, because of Jesus' love for us, everything we confess will always be met with grace.

***REFRAIN**

Jesus Loves Me

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Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Will Spurlock

The Bible tells us the Good News. Because of Jesus Christ and his love for us, all of our sins and mistakes are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***DOXOLOGY** (to Children's Ministry Tune)

***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. A—men. Amen. A—men. Amen. A—men. Amen.***

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Rachel Trentham

Leader: We can know that we are loved and forgiven by God, no matter what, because of God's grace. This grace can help our hearts feel better. This grace can also help us to be better friends to people in our lives. That's what we remind ourselves when we pass the peace to one another, that the good feeling of God's love can not only help us to feel at peace, but can also help us to be a better friend to our neighbor.

So, with this in mind, let's remember how God's grace helps our hearts feel better and imagine how it might help us to be a better friend as we greet our neighbors and say "The peace of Christ be with you" and they reply

"and also with you"!

***HYMN**

Down in My Heart

- 1. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.***
- 2. I've got the peace that passes understanding, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the peace that passes understanding, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.***
- 3. I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Raymond McCord

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.

ANTHEM

It Fell Upon a Summer Day

K. Lee Scott

It fell upon a summer day, when Jesus walked in Galilee, the mothers from a village brought their children to his knee. He took them in his arms, and laid his hands on each remembered head; "Allow these little ones to come to me," he gently said. "Forbid them not; unless ye bear the childlike heart your hearts within, unto my kingdom ye may come, but may not enter in." O, Father, grant this childlike heart, that I may come to Christ, and feel his hands on me in blessing laid, love-giving, strong to heal. It fell upon a summer day, when Jesus walked in Galilee, the mothers from a village brought their children to his knee.

CONFIRMATION PRESENTATION

Rev. Mark R. Curtis & Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

In the waters of baptism, God claims us and seals us to show that we belong to God. In this mighty act, we—the Church—promise to guide and nurture those baptized along their faith journeys as they to come to know the Triune God who loved and claimed them before they were born.

By word and deed, with love and prayer, we guided their faith as they grew and came to know the love that already knew them.

And now, those who were guided and nurtured become those who guide and nurture others, allowing their faith to help the next generation to know God's love through Jesus Christ.

We recognize and affirm their faith, opening ourselves to grow and be reshaped through it.

If God created everything and God's love is woven into everything...

May our faith express care for all of God's creation.

If humanity is sinful and saved by grace through faith...

May we strive to live lives of gratitude and reject judgement and shame.

If God's grace is available to everyone and the Church is a vessel of grace...

May the Church strive towards inclusion and welcome for all people.

If God is sovereign and all facets of our lives have purpose...

May we be open to living into God's purpose by listening for and responding to God's ever-present call.

If these confirmands are now full members of the church...

May we continue to support them by recognizing and affirming the depth and wisdom of their faith.

May we work alongside them so that future generations may continue to come to know the Triune God who loved and claimed them before they were born.

Amen.

✧ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED ✧

YOUNG CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Sherry Corden

Children, teachers, parents, and guardians are invited to come forward and join Sherry at the steps for the Bible story.

A TIME TO WONDER

You will be directed to consider a question to prompt your wondering about the story. Please discuss this with a neighbor. You will be prompted to return your attention to worship at the sound of a bell. At the sound of the third chime, please discontinue your conversation and return your attention to worship.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE

Paul Becker

We light the Christ candle to remind us that Christ is with us as we hear the Word of God.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:19-31 (Good News Translation)

Paul Becker

¹⁹ It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁰ After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." ²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!" ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!" ³⁰ In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. ³¹ But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠

CHANGING THE LIGHT

Paul Becker

Look, the light is all in one place now. I'm going to change the Light so that it is not just in one place anymore. It can be in many places at once. Watch. Now the light of Christ that was just in one place at one time is in all places at all times. So, the light can be everywhere in this room and even in other places.

*HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

- 1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***
- 2. Won't let someone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine! Won't let someone blow it out,
I'm gonna let it shine! Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***
- 3. Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine! Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***

OFFERING

Paxton Cook

Giving back to God reminds us that all we have is from God. Let us continue our worship by giving back to God.

OFFERTORY

Jesus Loves Me
Molly Garrett, Mezzo Soprano

Arr. Michael T. Smith

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Savannah Leitch

Bless these gifts. Help us use these and all our gifts to help the world be loving and kind. Amen.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Belonging to God: A First Catechism, adapted by Sharon Patton McCord

Sharon Patton

Who are you?

I am a child of God.

What does it mean to be a child of God?

That I belong to God, who loves me.

What makes you a child of God?

Grace -- God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.

Don't you have to be good for God to love you?

No. God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.

How do you thank God for this gift of love?

I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.

How do you love God?

By worshipping God, by loving others, and by respecting what God has created.

Who are you?

I am a child of God.

✧ **THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE** ✧

***CLOSING HYMN**

Peace Like a River

- I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.***
- I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my soul.***
- I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.***

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Phoebe Campen and Dr. Andy Morgan

Child: God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. We go out to follow Jesus in the world — to show and tell the good news of God to everyone.

Adult: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, our savior and friend;

May the love of God, binding us together and building us up;

May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, knitting us together as a church family;

Be with us until we meet again. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

* Please stand if you are able.

WORSHIP NOTES

Information about Young Children and Worship

Children and Worship provides an age-appropriate way of being in worship with children ages three to nine. Each week thousands of children, who are part of hundreds of congregations in North America and around the world, use the program to experience rather than merely learn about worship. Based on Montessori principles of early childhood learning, this program continues to be one of the most effective ways of nurturing children's faith and preparing them for worship with the whole congregation.

Children and Worship is a cooperative ministry of the Reformed Church in America (RCA), the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRC), and The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC).

Why do we use the Good News Translation (GNT) in Children's Worship?

The GNT uses straightforward, contemporary language that is easier for children to understand. It avoids complex theological terms and opts for simple vocabulary that can be more accessible to younger readers. The GNT is designed to be read by people of all ages at a lower reading level, which makes it suitable for children who are developing their reading skills.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

In an effort to support our community members in need, we are excited to announce a donation drive for personal care items. Over the next few weeks, we will be collecting essential items such as disposable razors, shaving cream, deodorant (men's and women's), diapers (sizes 3-6), toothpaste, floss, and toothbrushes. These items will be donated to our FISH pantry and Bridge Refugee families. Your contributions can make a significant impact on those who rely on these necessities. Please consider donating and placing your supplies in the designated basket located in the Commons. Thank you for your generosity and support in helping those in our community and local missions partners.

Join us Tuesday, April 9 from 7-8:30pm (doors open at 6pm) at the Knoxville Civic Auditorium. We will hold our annual Nehemiah Action Assembly, a public assembly to present concrete proposals for change to public officials. This year we'll address issues of homelessness, education, and economic instability in the Knoxville community.

On April 10, we begin two new tracks for Worshipful Wednesday. Choose between a Matthew 25 study or Always On: Practicing Faith in a New Media Landscape.

Matthew 25 Study—Join us as we discuss racial justice and the need to eradicate structural racism. Learn what it means to explore your own racial identity and our call as the people of God to ensure every person enjoys God's abundant life. A zoom link will be available for remote viewing.

Always On—We will study of Angela Gorrell's book, *Always On: Practicing Faith in a New Media Landscape*. In lives filled with constant connectivity and nonstop activity, Gorrell's book offers an energizing perspective on finding moments for interested conversation, sacred reflection, and intentional unplugging in our everyday lives.

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

Katie Norrell
Director of Communications

Victor Lenoir
Custodian

The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis
Associate Pastor

Jane Holland
Director of Finance/Facilities

Katrin Smith
Kitchen Manager

Dr. Andy Morgan
Director of Family Faith Formation

Laura Harmon
Church Administrator

Paul Seguna
Sound Engineer

Mark Pace
Organist/Choirmaster

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

Daniel Curtis
Crucifer

Mary Wilson
Adult Ministry Coordinator

Sandra Robinson
Administrative Assistant

Eleanor Efurud
Bible Bearer

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

*Prayer of St. Patrick
This Is the Day*

One License #CGA462

This Little Light of Mine

Tune: *This Little Light of Mine*

Tune: *This Is the Day*

Jesus Loves Me

Tune: *Jesus Loves Me*

Jesus Loves Me

Peace Like a River

Tune: *I've Got Peace Like a River*

One License # 663503

Down In My Heart

Tune: *I've Got the Joy*

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).

Lead Sunday School Teachers*

Preschool - Raymond McCord and Sherry Corden

Pre-K - Kindergarten - Rachel Trentham

1st and 2nd Grade - Sallee Reynolds and Elizabeth Henderson

3rd - 5th Grade - Sharon Patton

Lead Worshipful Wednesday Teachers*

Preschool - Raymond McCord and Sharon Patton

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade - Celeste Whaley

3rd - 5th Grade - Brianna Cook

*These classes are supported by a great number of faithful substitutes, volunteers, and committee members for which we are so grateful.