



*“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*

First Presbyterian Church 
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor
Mr. Mark Pace, Organist/Choirmaster
Abby Bible, Crucifer
MacKenna Cook, Bible Bearer

ORDER OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 8, 2022
✦ **THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE** ✦

PRELUDE

Prelude on Brother James' Air

Searle Wright

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise God! Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights!
Praise God, all you angels of God; praise God, all you host of heaven!

Pulpit side: Praise God, you sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!
Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters about the heavens!

Lectern side: Rulers of the earth and all peoples, nobles, and all leaders of the earth!
Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**All: Let us praise the name of God, whose name is exalted,
whose glory is above earth and heaven.
Let us celebrate; let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: See what love has been given to us,
that we should be called children of God.

**People: By this we know love,
that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh,
and lived and died,
that God's love might be made plain among us.**

Leader: Therefore, let us love not in word or in speech,
but in truth and in action.

**People: We confess that we are imperfect
and often insensitive to one another.
In our homes and in our relationships,
give us courage to admit our wrongs
and the grace to express forgiveness.
In Jesus Christ you have shown us mercy;
so make us quick to make amends with others,
forgiving as you have forgiven us.**

Leader: This is God's commandment,
that we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ,
and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

**People: Forgive our failures, O God,
and help us to live as faithful disciples...**
(a moment for silent confession)

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† MUSICAL RESPONSE 248

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (vs. 1)

Hymn to Joy

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed. In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

† MUSICAL RESPONSE 250 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* (vs. 1) Promise
In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

✧ THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD ✧

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 John 3:1-3; 4:7-12, 19 Holly Eddins
See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

ANTHEM *Psalm 23* John Rutter
The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON John 13:31-35
When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

SERMON "Love." Rev. Mark R. Curtis

✧ THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✧

† HYMN OF RESPONSE 693 *Though I May Speak* Gift of Love

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Meredith Loftis
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.

OFFERTORY

Come, Thou Fount

Arr. Eric Nelson

Come Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace. Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love. Here I raise my Ebenezer, here by Thy great help I've come. And I hope by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God. He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood. Oh, to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be. Let Thy goodness like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, oh take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

† 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 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Paraphrase on a Chorus from *Judas Maccabaeus*

Alexandre Guilmant

† - Please stand if you are able.



HYMNS FOR MAY 8

† OPENING HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

1. For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:

Refrain:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.
2. For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light: [*Refrain*]

3. For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight: [*Refrain*]
4. For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild: [*Refrain*]
5. For thyself, best gift divine
To the world so freely given;
For that great, great love of thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heaven: [*Refrain*]

† HYMN OF RESPONSE 693

Though I May Speak

Gift of Love

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

† SENDING HYMN 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

1. Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes;
Our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

4. When we are called to part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.
5. From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.