

***DOXOLOGY**

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.

***CLOSING HYMN**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

353

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Arr. Colin Hand

**Please stand if you are able.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

- **Join us on Wednesday, July 26 at 5:00 pm** at World's Fair Park - Bring a picnic supper and swim suits for the splash pad. Bring balls to play on the field and bikes, skates, etc.!
- **Presbyterian Women have a new study book for the Fall.** This year we will be reading *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. Order yours through the church \$13.00 (includes shipping) by July 28th! You can pay online in the Presbyterian Women category and write "Study Book" in the text box. Or you can mail or drop a check in the offering plate written to First Presbyterian Church and write "PW study book" on the memo line. *Please do not write checks to Presbyterian Women; all checks must be written to FPC.* If you miss the deadline, you may order one yourself by calling 1-800-533-5371 (10 am - 5 pm).
- **There will be a Called Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, August 6, following the 11:00 am worship service to elect elders and deacons.
- **The PW Fall Coffee** will be on August 12th. We can't wait to see you at Presbyterian Women.
- **The Presbyterian Women's retreat** will be held Sept 8-10 in Montreat. Our speaker this year is Sarah Morgan, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life & Mission at Second Presbyterian and wife of our Andy Morgan. We are excited to get to know her better. We will all be staying in the Winnsborough Lodge at Montreat. Shared rooms are \$125/person, single rooms are \$165. RSVPs and payment need to be received no later than August 6th. Please contact Liz Key to register at lizkey1@gmail.com or 865-201-5310.

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 to 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 <i>Senior Pastor</i>	Jane Holland <i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i>
The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis <i>Associate Pastor</i>	Laura Harmon <i>Church Administrator</i>
Dr. Andy Morgan <i>Director of Family Faith Formation</i>	Lauren Nunn <i>Director of Parent's Day Out / Childcare Coordinator</i>
Mark Pace <i>Organist/Choirmaster</i>	Sandra Robinson <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Mary Wilson <i>Adult Ministry Coordinator</i>	Victor Lenoir <i>Custodian</i>
Katie Norrell <i>Director of Communications</i>	Paul Seguna <i>Sound Engineer</i>

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me One License # VT429
Come! Live in the Light! One License # 00174
Trumpet Tune in D Major One License # 99662
God of Our Life One License # 97948

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).



First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 23, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE Trumpet Tune in D Major David N. Johnson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** from Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
**You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

**If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

***OPENING HYMN** Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty 403

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you have searched us and known us.

**You discern our thoughts from far away
and are acquainted with all our ways.**

So you understand

**how lost we sometimes feel,
for evil has surrounded and grown in us.**

**We confess that we have acted in our own interests,
without concern for others.**

We have betrayed those we love,

**told lies to protect ourselves,
and taken things to which we had no right.**

**Loving God, forgive our selfishness
and deliver us from evil.**

**Astound us with your mercy,
ground us in your grace,
and lead us in your way everlasting...**

(a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me 582

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,
whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love
has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever
shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen. World without end,
without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** Come! Live in the Light! (v. 3) 749

**Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters
and brothers united in love. We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one
another, to walk humbly with God.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 Bill Butler

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³ You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

ANTHEM Jacob's Ladder Stainer/Shaw

As Jacob with travel was weary one day, at night on a stone for a pillow he lay; he saw in a vision a ladder so high, that its foot was on earth and its top in the sky: Alleluia to Jesus, who died on the tree and has raised up a ladder of mercy for me, and has raised up a ladder of mercy for me. The ladder is long, it is strong and well-made, has stood hundreds of years and is not yet decayed; many millions have climbed it and reached Zion's hill, many millions by faith now are climbing it still. Come, let us ascend! All may climb it who will, for the angels of Jacob are guarding it still; and remember, each step that by faith we pass o'er, many prophets and martyrs have trod it before. And when we arrive at the haven of rest, we shall hear the glad words, "Come to me all the blest, here are regions of light, here are mansions of bliss." Who would not want to climb such a ladder as this.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 28:10-19a

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." ¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel...

SERMON "Certain Places" Rev. Mark R. Curtis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** God of Our Life 686

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Dr. 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

OFFERTORY We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder Arr. Mark Pace

We are climbing Jacob's ladder, soldiers of the cross. Every round goes higher, higher, soldiers of the cross. Sinner, do you love my Jesus, soldiers of the cross. If you love Him, why not serve Him, soldiers of the cross.