

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from A Declaration of Faith

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom. Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *Let Us Build a House* 301

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Fantasia on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* John Behnke

*\*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](http://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](http://www.fpcknox.org/donate) or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



**STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP**

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

**WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES**

<i>Theme and Cantabile on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"</i> Tune: Darwall's 148th Gloria Patri Tune: Gloria Patri (Greatorex)	<i>One License # 90265</i>	<i>O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing</i> Tune: Azmon <i>Just as I Am, without One Plea</i> Tune: Woodworth <i>Let Us Build a House</i> Tune: Two Oaks	<i>One License # 77245</i> <i>One License # 00004</i>
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**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

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**OCTOBER 15, 2023**

Connect With Us



[www.fpcknox.org](http://www.fpcknox.org)

620 State Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....**  
**All Presbyterian Women of our church are invited to a presbytery-wide Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women** at the John Knox Center in Ten Mile on Saturday, Oct. 28. The day-long event will begin at 9:30 a.m. and include lunch. The cost is \$10/person.  
**Check out new youth events at First Presbyterian Church!** Please contact Kallee at (865) 387-4748 or [kallee@purvisbuilders.com](mailto:kallee@purvisbuilders.com) if you can chaperone events or to get your teen connected.  
**October 21** - Haunted High Ropes at John Knox  
**October** - TBD - Corn Maze or Haunted House  
**Get ready for a lively evening of fun and games at our annual Trunk or Treat Fall Festival on Wednesday, October 25th at 5:30 pm in the lower parking lot of First Presbyterian.** Decorate your car and bring some candy to hand out to our little ones who will be trick-or-treating from car to car. In addition to the trunk or treating, we'll also have bounce houses and play equipment for children to enjoy. And don't forget to wear your costume! Afterwards, join us in the Fellowship Hall for some delicious pizza at 6:30 pm. This is an event you won't want to miss, so come celebrate the season with us!



## THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE** *Theme and Cantabile on* John Behnke  
*"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Don't be anxious about anything,  
but in all you offer of prayer and praise,  
let it be done with thankful hearts.  
**Lord God, remember us with favor,  
and visit us with your salvation.**  
Whatever things are true,  
**whatever things are noble,**  
whatever things are just,  
**whatever things are pure,**  
whatever things are beautiful,  
**whatever things make good news:**  
if you find things worthy of praise  
**let us fix our minds on these things,  
And the God of peace will be with us.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!* 363

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we come to you with humble hearts; we are  
conscious of how we have offended you, and our sins are  
ever before us. Forgive us for our carelessness with the  
gospel of Jesus Christ, for neglecting your word and your call  
on our lives. Where we have overlooked the needs of others  
and have been insensitive to those around us, we ask  
your pardon.**  
**Merciful God, in Jesus Christ you do not call the righteous,  
but sinners to repentance. Draw us away from the easy road  
that leads to destruction, and guide us into paths that lead  
to life abundant, that in seeking your truth and obeying your  
will, we may know the joy of being your disciples...**  
*(a moment for silent confession)*

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Gloria Patri* 581  
*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** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (v. 2) 610  
*The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease, sings  
music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.*

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP** *Filled with the Fullness of God* Bill Eversole

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** Philippians 4:4-9 Brent Trentham  
<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your  
gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry  
about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with  
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace  
of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and  
your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever  
is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,  
whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is any-  
thing worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> Keep on doing the  
things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and  
the God of peace will be with you.

**ANTHEM** *Hallelujah Amen* George F. Handel  
*Hallelujah, Amen*  
*O Judah rejoice.*  
*Rejoice, O Judah, in songs divine*  
*With Cherubim and Seraphim harmonious join*  
*Hallelujah, Amen.*

**SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES** Dr. Andy Morgan

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** Matthew 22:1-14  
<sup>1</sup> Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> "The kingdom of  
heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his  
son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the  
wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves,  
saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my  
dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything  
is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and  
went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest  
seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was  
enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned  
their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those  
invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite  
everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' <sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into  
the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the  
wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup> But when the king came in to see

the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding  
robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a  
wedding robe?' And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the  
attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer  
darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup> For  
many are called, but few are chosen."

**SERMON** "Dress Code" Rev. Mark R. Curtis

## THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Just as I Am, without One Plea* 442

**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** *Irish Blessing* Philip Stopford  
Eliza Foster, Mezzo-Soprano  
*May the road rise to meet you.*  
*May the wind be always at your back.*  
*May the sun shine warm upon your face,*  
*The rains fall soft upon your fields,*  
*And until we meet again, until we meet again,*  
*May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*  
*And until we meet again, until we meet again,*  
*May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*  
*May the sun make your days bright.*  
*May the stars illuminate your nights.*  
*May the flowers bloom along your path,*  
*Your house stand firm against the storm,*  
*And until we meet again, until we meet again,*  
*May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*  
*And until we meet again, until we meet again,*  
*May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.*

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *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.**