

**We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah
chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs
to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN** *All Who Love and Serve Your City* 351

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Toccata in E Minor* Johann Pachelbel
*Please stand if you are able.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Family Promise will be joining us February 4 - 11. Please contact Britton Leitch at britton.leitch@gmail.com to get involved.

February 16 - 18 - Youth Summit for high schoolers

February 23 - 25 - The Racial Justice Task Force of the Presbytery of East Tennessee along with Emmanuel Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church are excited to share the plans to go to Atlanta, GA the weekend of February 23-25, 2024. We plan to visit historical sites and museums that focus on the Civil Rights Movements of the 1950's and 60's and the historical figures who fought for equal rights. We will charter a bus that will leave from Knoxville on Friday the 23rd and stop along the way to pick up people who want to join. The cost is \$175 per person which will include the cost of the bus, hotel, and museum tickets. Financial assistance can be made available. Meals will need to be purchased on your own throughout the trip. Please reach out to Pastor Meredith Loftis at meredith@fpcknox.org with any questions.

February 25 - The Giver, play at Clarence Brown, 2:00pm for Youth. Please contact Kallee Pittenger at kallee@purvisbuilders.com for more information.

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
<i>Senior Pastor</i> | Lauren Nunn
<i>Director of Parent's Day Out /
Childcare Coordinator</i> |
| The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis
<i>Associate Pastor</i> | Sandra Robinson
<i>Administrative Assistant</i> |
| Mark Pace
<i>Organist/Choirmaster</i> | Victor Lenoir
<i>Custodian</i> |
| Mary Wilson
<i>Adult Ministry Coordinator</i> | Paul Seguna
<i>Sound Engineer</i> |
| Katie Norrell
<i>Director of Communications</i> | Max Pittenger
<i>Crucifer</i> |
| Jane Holland
<i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i> | Harper McAdoo
<i>Bible Bearer</i> |
| Laura Harmon
<i>Church Administrator</i> | |

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

<i>Come, Christians, Join to Sing</i> <i>Praise to God the Father</i> Tune: Da n'ase	One License #CGB90	<i>All Who Love and Serve Your City</i> Tune: Charleston	One License #06676
<i>Amen, We Praise Your Name</i> Tune: Amen, siakudumisa	One License #21217		
<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i> Tune: Nettleton			

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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 21, 2024

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* Arr. Linda McKechnie
Adult Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come into God's presence with singing!

**For the Lord is a gracious God,
whose mercy is everlasting;**

and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.

Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN** *How Firm a Foundation* 463

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and compassionate God,
you have loved us with unfailing love
and self-giving mercy,
but we have not loved you.**

You constantly call, but we do not listen.

**You ask us to love our neighbors,
but we want to decide who those neighbors will be,
and walk away from those whom we do not like.**

**You are gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
but so often we are judgmental,
impatient, and small-minded.**

**God of grace, as you come to us in mercy,
we repent in spirit and in truth.**

Forgive us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer...
(a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Praise to God the Father* 605
**Praise to God the Father; praise to God the Son;
Praise to God the Spirit: praise to the Three-in-One.
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
Praise to God Almighty; praise to the Holy One.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Amen, We Praise Your Name* 598
Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.

Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.

Sing amen: Amen, amen, amen, amen,

Amen, we praise your name, O God.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 139:1-10 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.

ANTHEM *Blessed are They* Jack Noble White
Blessed are the poor who search for God, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see their God. Blessed are the hungry, they shall be filled and those who mourn shall laugh for joy. Blessed are the peace makers, they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are we.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 4:1-3

¹ The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ² "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³ So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. ¹ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

SERMON "Not Meaner Than Me" Rev. Mark. R. Curtis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* 475

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 *Offertory* John Ness Beck
*With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
With ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my first-born for my transgressions,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man,
He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?*

***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.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *from A Brief Statement of Faith*
**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**