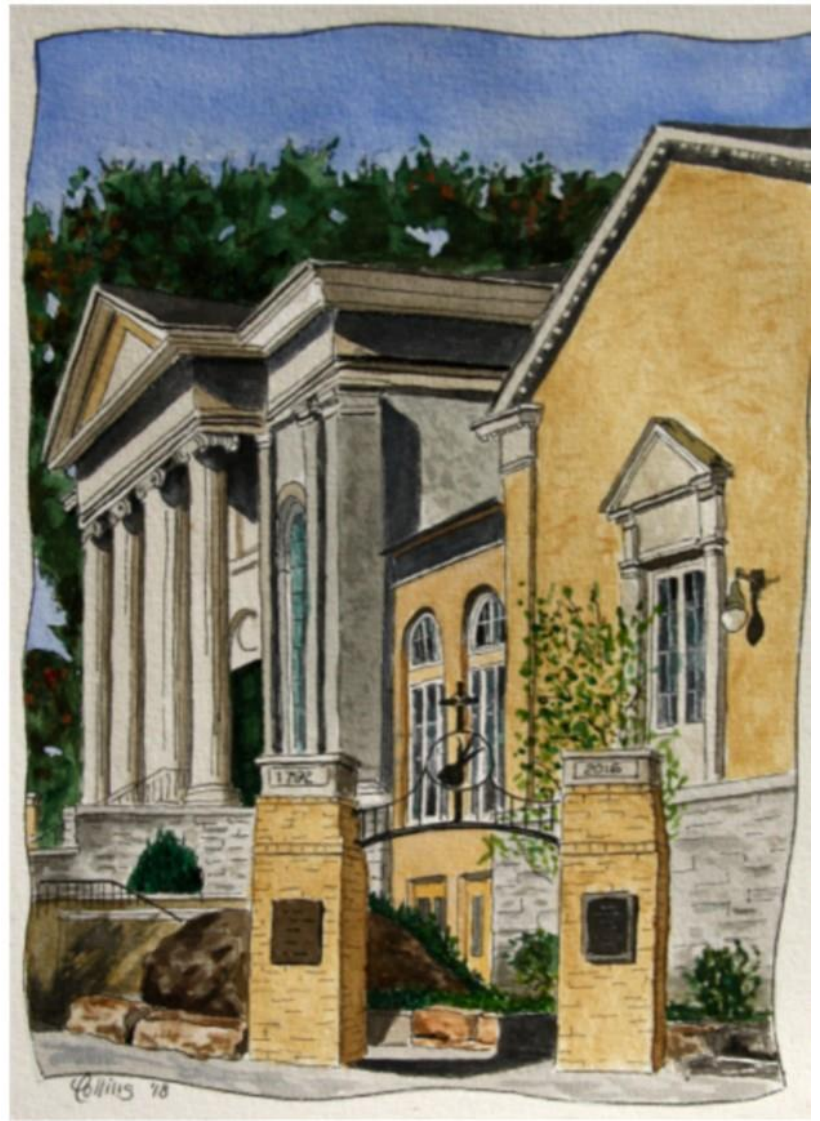




*“For Christ in the Heart of
Knoxville,” the First Presbyterian
Church seeks*

- *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

Mr. Alex McGavic, Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator

Jack Riordan, Crucifer

Nick Riordan, Bible Bearer

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 13, 2022
✧ **THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE** ✧

PRELUDE

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Adult Handbell Choir

Beethoven, arr. Douglas Wagner

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

† CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 1

Leader: Happy are those whose way is blameless,

People: who walk in the law of the Lord.

Leader: Happy are those who keep the Lord's decrees,

People: who seek the Lord with their whole heart.

Leader: Happy are those who delight in God's word and meditate on it both day and night.

**People: They shall be like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in season.**

They shall prosper in all that they do.

All: Let us worship God!

† OPENING HYMN 667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Laudes Domini

1. When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

3. Let earth's wide circle round
In joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
From depth to height reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

2. Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

4. Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our God, forgive us for failing to respond to the great demands placed upon us by your love. We enlist in your causes, but find ourselves losing interest. We promise to be courageous, but find ourselves afraid. We want to be sensitive, but find ourselves callous. Forgive us when we exclude those whom Jesus calls blessed. Open our hearts and our hands to reach out to those who suffer. Take our limitations and turn them into possibilities. Have mercy on us and grant us your peace, for we pray in Jesus' name... (a moment for silent confession)

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† MUSICAL RESPONSE 583

Glory to God

Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

† MUSICAL RESPONSE 587
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Celtic Alleluia

✠ THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5-10 (*see insert*)

Jim Brown

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 peacemakers, they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are we.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:17-26 (*see insert*)

SERMON

“A Level Playing Field”

Rev. Mark R. Curtis

✠ THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✠

† HYMN OF RESPONSE 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

1. 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 God's unchanging love!
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by thy help I'm 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.
3. O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, 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; O take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Alex McGavic

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 on the side aisles or you are invited to mail in your tithes and offerings to the church office or give online at www.fpcknox.org/donate.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Pure in Heart” from *Beatitudes*
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Patrick Hawes

† 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

from *The Confession of 1967*

The life, death, resurrection and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church's mission.

His life as a human being involves the church
in the common life of humanity.

His service to others commits the church
to work for every form of human well-being.

His suffering makes the church sensitive to all suffering
so that it sees the face of Christ

in the faces of people in every kind of need.

In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming,
the church sees the promise of God's renewal of all life,
and of God's victory over all wrong.

The church follows this pattern in its life and in its action.

So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Amen.

† SENDING HYMN 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!
2. 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.
3. Christ speaks, and listening to his voice
New life the dead receive;
The mournful waken to rejoice;
The poor in heart believe.
4. My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.
5. To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heaven.

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G minor, BWV 578

J. S. Bach



Please remember that our youth are taking donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring today to support the FISH Pantry and local food banks before and after the service! Donations can be monetary if you forgot non-perishable food items! Youth will be outside the sanctuary before the 11:00 service and on the chancel steps afterward! Thank you for your generosity and support of these local ministries.

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2022

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Jim Brown

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²²Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

