

and God calls us to discipleship:
**In our compassion, making love known;
 in our conviction, God's power shown.**
You did not choose me, says God. I chose you.
This, then, is what I command you: Love one another.

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***CLOSING HYMN** *Help us Accept Each Other* 754

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Festive Processional* Carson Cooman

**Please stand if you are able.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Join UKirk in their fundraiser to support campus ministry through the month of April! Help them reach their goal of 2,024 donations of at least \$10 to celebrate the graduating class of 2024. Every donation counts! UKirk is the "home away from home" and a ministry to the campus that welcomes all students. They provide an on campus church where college students feel comfortable and can worship and serve. It is a place where everyone belongs and students know they are loved by God and their community. UKirk has loved and cared for many of our college students, and we want to make sure this ministry continues to thrive. Donate at <https://www.ukirkutk.org/donate>.

Calling all Presbyterian women! You are invited to the annual Spring Banquet of FPC Presbyterian Women on Tuesday, May 14, in the Fellowship Hall, whether you belong to a church circle or not. Please join this festive and delicious event, when the Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis will present the Bible lesson, Life Membership Awards are bestowed, beloved deceased friends are honored, and fellowship abounds. Real Good Kitchen will cater the gluten-free dinner of Lemon White Wine Chicken, fresh vegetables, and desserts. The dinner will be at 6 p.m., with payment due by May 6; your payment is your registration. Cost of the meal is \$20. You can pay the church online in the Presbyterian Women category (please note "Spring Banquet" in the text box). Or, you can mail a check to the church, made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Spring Banquet" in the memo line.

Worship Note: *The Affirmation of Faith is taken from Iona Abbey Worship Book; Wild Goose Publications, the Iona Community, Glasgow, 2001.*

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> |
| Dr. Andy Morgan
<i>Director of Family Faith Formation</i> | Victor Lenoir
<i>Custodian</i> |
| Mark Pace
<i>Organist/Choirmaster</i> | Katrin Smith
<i>Kitchen Manager</i> |
| Mary Wilson
<i>Adult Ministry Coordinator</i> | Paul Seguna
<i>Sound Engineer</i> |
| Katie Norrell
<i>Director of Communications</i> | |
| Jane Holland
<i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i> | |
| Laura Harmon
<i>Church Administrator</i> | |

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Trumpet Processional in G
<i>Christ has Risen While Earth Slumbers</i>
Tune: Suo Gan
Alleluia
Tune: Alleluia 7
<i>Thine Is the Glory</i>
Tune: Judas Maccabeus | One License #10-668
One License #12402 | <i>We are One in the Spirit</i>
Tune: They'll Know We Are Christians
<i>Help Us Accept Each Other</i>
Tune: Baronita
<i>Festive Processional</i> | One License #28801
One License #23070
One License #WV700046-3 |
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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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
 Knoxville, TN 37902

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Trumpet Processional in G* David German

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** from Ps 22:25-31

We gather to worship, offer praise, and recommit ourselves to God.

**Those who seek God shall praise the Lord
and their hearts may live forever.**

All the ends of the earth remember God's faithfulness
and turn to the Lord.

**We shall live for God,
telling future generations about the Lord,
proclaiming God's goodness to those who will come.
Let us worship God.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Christ has Risen While Earth Slumbers* 231

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we say we love you. We say that our beings live
and move with you. But words are easy. Actions are so
much harder. In our fast paced world with never ending
to-do lists, over-crowded in boxes, and online
relationships that are as easily picked up as they are
discarded, we aren't really sure what loving one another
looks like, much less how to do it. Yet we feel in our
bones that the world needs us to figure it out. Abide in
me, you say. Perfect love casts out fear, you say. Forgive
our busyness, our short attention spans, and our fears.
Slow us down that we might feel what abiding in you is
like, that we might know your love so fully we instinctively
know how to love one another. For the sake of Jesus and
the world he loves so much, Amen.**

(a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Alleluia* 586
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (3x)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Thine Is the Glory (v. 2)* 238

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death has lost its sting.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON John 15:1-8 Joan Holladay

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

ANTHEM *I Sat Down* Edward C. Bairstow

I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

SPECIAL TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

SECOND SCRIPTURE 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this:

that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Accepting the Invitation to Abide” Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *We are One in the Spirit* 300

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Craig Wrisberg

**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 *But Thanks Be To God* George F. Handel

*But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

***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 Iona Abbey Worship Book*

**Out of love comes celebration,
and God's kingdom is among us;
Where peace is the means of making us one;
where truth does not stumble and justice is done.
Out of change comes possibility,
and God's new creation is begun:
Promise of splendor and signal of worth; source of all
goodness, renewing the earth.
Out of freedom comes responsibility,**