

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Thine is the Glory* Alexandre Guilmant

\*Please stand if you are able.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

The rose on the chancel is in honor of the birth of Ian Ezekiel Danso Amankwah (his parents will call him "Zeke"), born April 21 at 10:48 pm to Gideon Amankwah and Brooke Acker.

The 2023 Spring Softball Season is here! Wear your purple and support our co-ed softball team, the Fightin' Turnips on Monday evenings. All games are played at Caswell Park; fields are located at 620 Winona St, Knoxville, TN 37917.

Game 6, May 8th - 6 pm

Game 7, May 15th - 7 pm

Game 8, May 22nd - 7 pm

If you would like to join the Turnips or have some questions, please get in touch with Preston Smith at [prestonsmith07@gmail.com](mailto:prestonsmith07@gmail.com).

Upcoming Youth Events:

Sunday, May 21, Potential Small & Mighty event, tbd

Thursday, May 25, Virginia Creeper bicycle trail, weather permitting, reservations made with Kallee Pittenger, 865-387-4748, for experienced bike riders, pack a lunch and money for breakfast/snacks.

Saturday, May 27-28, Youth lock-in at FPC

June 11-17, Montreat youth retreat for upcoming 9-12 graders

June & July 2023, Various summer camps at John Knox Center

For more information, please contact Kallee Pittenger at 865-387-4748 or [kallee@purvisbuilders.com](mailto:kallee@purvisbuilders.com)

Our congregation will be hosting Family Promise guests the week of June 11th - 17th. The Family Promise program exists to empower and equip families experiencing homelessness and housing-instability to achieve sustainable independence. Volunteer opportunities include serving as an overnight host, helping prepare meals, setting up and taking down beds, and washing linens after guests leave. If you would like to volunteer, or would like more information about Family Promise, please contact Britton Leitch at [britton.leitch@gmail.com](mailto:britton.leitch@gmail.com) or (865)789-3651.

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 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

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis  
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Meredith Loftis  
Associate Pastor

Mark Pace  
Organist/Choirmaster

Mary Wilson  
Adult Ministry Coordinator

Katie Norrell  
Director of Communications

Jane Holland  
Director of Finance/Facilities

Laura Harmon  
Church Administrator

Lauren Nunn  
Director of Parent's Day Out /  
Childcare Coordinator

Sandra Robinson  
Administrative Assistant

Victor Lenoir  
Custodian

Paul Seguna  
Sound Engineer

Mary Virginia Bohner  
Crucifer

Campbell Long  
Bible Bearer

Rachel Patton McCord  
Liturgist

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus One License #CGB747  
Alleluia One License #91445  
Let Us Build a House One License #00004

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

MAY 7, 2023

Connect With Us



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

620 State Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

## THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE** *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus* Arr. Cathy Moglebust  
Adult Handbells

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MINUTE FOR MISSION: FAMILY PROMISE** Britton Leitch

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this holy place:

**House of prayer for many nations;  
home to all who come.**

Welcome to the gathering place:

**Friend and stranger, saint and sinner  
in all who gather here.**

Come with hope or hesitation; come with joy or yearning;  
all who hunger, all who thirst for life in all its fullness.

**Generous God and generous Savior,  
move us through your Spirit.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* 327

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy  
we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all  
our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain  
desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw  
near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace,  
and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus  
Christ your Son... (a moment for silent confession)**

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Alleluia* 586  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (2x)**

### \*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 hath 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** Acts 7:55-8:1 Bill Myers  
But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of  
God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said,  
"Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the  
right hand of God." <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped  
their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the  
city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the  
feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen,  
he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees  
he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."  
And when he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul approved of his  
execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the  
church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions  
of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

**ANTHEM** *Peace I Leave With You* Amy Beach  
*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth,  
give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled.*

### SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** John 14:1-6  
"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In  
my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told  
you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a  
place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I  
am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going."  
<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going.  
How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the  
truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**SERMON** "Love." Rev. Mark. R. Curtis

## THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Let Us Build a House* 301

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER** Rachel Patton McCord  
**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** *Come My Way, My Truth, My Life!* Godfrey Sampson  
*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath; such a  
truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death. Come, my Light, my  
Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
length; such a strength as makes a guest. Come, my Joy, my Love, my  
Heart: such a joy as none can move: such a love as none can part; such a  
heart as joys in love.*

**\*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*  
**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
Fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**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 be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**