



*First Presbyterian Church*  
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE 

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**JUNE 25, 2023**

**LEADERS IN WORSHIP**

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis, Senior Pastor  
The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor  
Mr. Mark Pace, Organist/Choirmaster

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## ✧ THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✧

### WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid:

**God hears our cries when we are lost.**

Do not be afraid:

**God does not leave us abandoned.**

Do not be afraid:

**God is with us, now and always.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN

*Angel Band*

1. My latest sun is sinking fast.  
My race is nearly run.  
My strongest trials now are past.  
My triumph hath begun.

Oh come, angel band, come and around me stand.  
Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings  
To my immortal home.  
Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings  
To my immortal home.

2. I've almost gained my heav'nly home.  
My spirit loudly sings.  
The holy ones, behold they come!  
I hear the noise of wings.

Oh come, angel band, come and around me stand.  
Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings  
To my immortal home.  
Oh, bear me away on your snow-white wings  
To my immortal home. (2x)

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Hear our cries to you, O Lord:**

**for our lack of compassion toward the poor, have mercy on us;**

**for our failure to end the destruction of your creation, have mercy on us;**

**for our disbelief in your power to make us whole, have mercy on us;**

**for our unending wars, have mercy on us;**

**for mistrusting your Word, have mercy on us;**

**for all that we have done and have not done because of hardened hearts, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us and renew us.**

**Lead us in ways that do not deny you**

**but instead lead to peace... (a moment for silent confession)**

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### \*MUSICAL RESPONSE 581

*Glory Be to the Father*

*Gloria Patri*

**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

## ✧ THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD ✧

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Mary Wilson

<sup>1</sup> Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. <sup>2</sup> Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; <sup>3</sup> be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long. <sup>4</sup> Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. <sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you. <sup>6</sup> Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication. <sup>7</sup> In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me. <sup>8</sup> There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. <sup>9</sup> All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. <sup>10</sup> For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. <sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl. <sup>17</sup> Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

### SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 10:24-39

<sup>24</sup> "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! <sup>26</sup> "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup> "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. <sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; <sup>36</sup> and one's foes will be members of one's own household. <sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

### SERMON

"Losing Is Life"

Rev. Mark R. Curtis

## ✧ THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✧

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Jehovah Jireh*

Chris McAdoo

1. Won't you take your fears  
And worries and lay them  
At our savior's feet?  
He walked on water  
And calmed the sea,  
Carried the cross,  
And died for us on calvary  
For us on calvary.

*Refrain:*

**Jehovah Jireh,  
The Lord will provide,  
And all our earthly burdens  
Are cast aside.  
Mercy for all  
And grace from on high.  
Jehovah Jireh,  
The Lord will provide.  
The Lord will provide.**

2. Buildings will crumble,  
And flowers will fade.  
Our faith will falter,  
But his love will remain.  
Life everlasting,  
Far beyond the grave,  
From sin to salvation,  
Our debts have all been paid.  
Our debts have all been paid.

*[Refrain]*

*[Instrumental refrain]*

*[Refrain]*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed or you are invited to mail in your tithes and offerings to the church office or give online at [www.fpcknox.org/donate](http://www.fpcknox.org/donate).

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Be Thou My Vision*

## \*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

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## \*SENDING HYMN

*I'll Fly Away*

1. Some glad morning when this life is o'er,  
I'll fly away;  
To a home on God's celestial shore,  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).  
  
*Refrain*  
I'll fly away, Oh Glory,  
I'll fly away; (in the morning)  
When I die,  
Hallelujah, by and by,  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).
2. When the shadows of this life have gone,  
I'll fly away;  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away). [*Refrain*]
3. Just a few more weary days and then,  
I'll fly away;  
To a land where joy shall never end,+  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away). [*Refrain*]

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* - *Please stand if you are able.*

**Join us on Wednesdays this summer for some fellowship and mission opportunities!** No need to RSVP, just show up! Contact Pastor Meredith Loftis for more details at [meredith@fpcknox.org](mailto:meredith@fpcknox.org).

**June 28 at 10:00 am** - Mission Project at FPC: Clean-up day in graveyard and around church building followed by sub sandwiches for lunch.

**July 5** - none - Happy Independence Day/Week!

**July 12 at 5:00 pm** - Ijams Trails, Playscape, and Mead's Quarry: Bring a picnic supper, camp chairs, and swimsuits or hiking boots.