

***CLOSING HYMN** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* 440

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Toccata from Baroque Suite* Gordon Young

**Please stand if you are able.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

2023 Fall Softball Season is here! Wear your purple and support our co-ed softball team, the Fightin' Turnips on Tuesday evenings at Caswell Park near Parkridge neighborhood and Old North Knoxville. Fields are located at 620 Winona St, 37917. This season, all games are played on Tuesday evenings. Can't wait to see you there!

Game 7, September 19th – 7 pm
Game 8, September 26th – 7 pm

We're excited to announce the Middle School Retreat at John Knox Center is coming up on September 22-24. We are seeking adult chaperones to join us on this exciting adventure. If you are interested, please RSVP with Kallee Pittenger at (865) 387-4748 or kallee@purvisbuilders.com. The cost of the retreat is \$100, and the theme is "Our Cup Overflows."

The finance committee is trying to get an early start on formulating the 2024 budget. In order to facilitate your requests and start working on the budget in October, we would like for you to discuss it during your September committee meetings. If your committee is not going to meet this month, please email anyone from whom you need input and send your committee's budget request to Jane Holland by email.

If you need a copy of the detailed breakdown for 2023 allocated budget dollars, please email Jane and she will send it to you. jane@fpcknox.org

There will be an open house & silent auction at UT UKirk, the Presbyterian Campus Ministry, on Friday, September 29th from 6:00-8:00 pm. Their house is at 1831 Melrose Ave, Knoxville, TN 37916 and there is some parking available on site and public parking nearby. If you would like to sign up to provide an item or bring food for the event, please follow the link in the newsletter. If you are donating an item, please bring to UKirk or give to a board member by September 22nd. We hope that you will also come out for the Open House and Auction to see the UKirk House, meet the students, and learn more about their campus ministry.

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 to 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> | Laura Harmon
<i>Church Administrator</i> |
| The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis
<i>Associate Pastor</i> | Lauren Nunn
<i>Director of Parent's Day Out /
Childcare Coordinator</i> |
| Dr. Andy Morgan
<i>Director of Family Faith Formation</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> | MacKenna Cook
<i>Crucifer</i> |
| Jane Holland
<i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i> | Paxton Cook
<i>Bible Bearer</i> |

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

- | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i>
Tune: CWM Rhondda | <i>The Steadfast Love of the Lord</i>
<i>Fight the Good Fight With All Your Might</i>
<i>God, How Can We Forgive</i>
Tune: Leoni | <i>One License # VT429</i> | <i>One License # 04799</i> |
| <i>Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me</i>
Tune: Glory to God | <i>Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation</i>
<i>Jesus, Lover of My Soul</i>
Tune: Aberystwyth | <i>One License # 00174</i> | <i>One License # 04799</i> |
| <i>Come! Live in the Light!</i>
Tune: We Are Called | | <i>One License # 00340</i> | |

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE Trumpet Voluntary John Stanley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 103:1-5

Bless the Lord, my soul.

With all my being I bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul,

and forget none of his benefits.

God pardons all my wrongdoing and heals all my ills.

God rescues me from death's pit

and crowns me with love and compassion.

The Lord satisfies me with good as long as I live,

and my youth is renewed like an eagle's.

Bless the Lord, my soul.

With all my being I bless God's holy name.

***OPENING HYMN** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus says we are to forgive not seven times, but seventy-seven times; as often as it is needed. Yet we are quick to judge and fail to forgive even the first time. We use harsh words and withdraw from relationships. We crave your grace and forgiveness, God, but turn our back on those needing our own. Turn our hearts back to you, gracious God, to embrace your love and grace, and in turn, offer that same radical grace to others. (a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** Come! Live in the Light! (v. 3) 749

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 105 Craig Wrisberg

Sung Response: The Steadfast Love of the Lord 59

ANTHEM Fight the Good Fight With All Your Might John Gardner

Fight the good fight with all your might, Christ is your strength and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and it shall be your joy and crown eternally. Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up your eyes, and seek his face. Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path and Christ the prize. Cast care aside, lean on your guide; his boundless mercy will provide. Lean, and the trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love. Faint not, nor fear, his arms are near; he changes not, and you are dear. Only believe, and you will see that Christ is Lord eternally.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly

Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

SERMON Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** God, How Can We Forgive 445

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Mark R. Curtis

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 ANTHEM Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation Dale Wood

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone; chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one; holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone. To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, today! With thy faithful loving-kindness hear thy people as they pray, and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls always. Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son, laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one; one in might and one in glory, while unending ages run.

***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** 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.