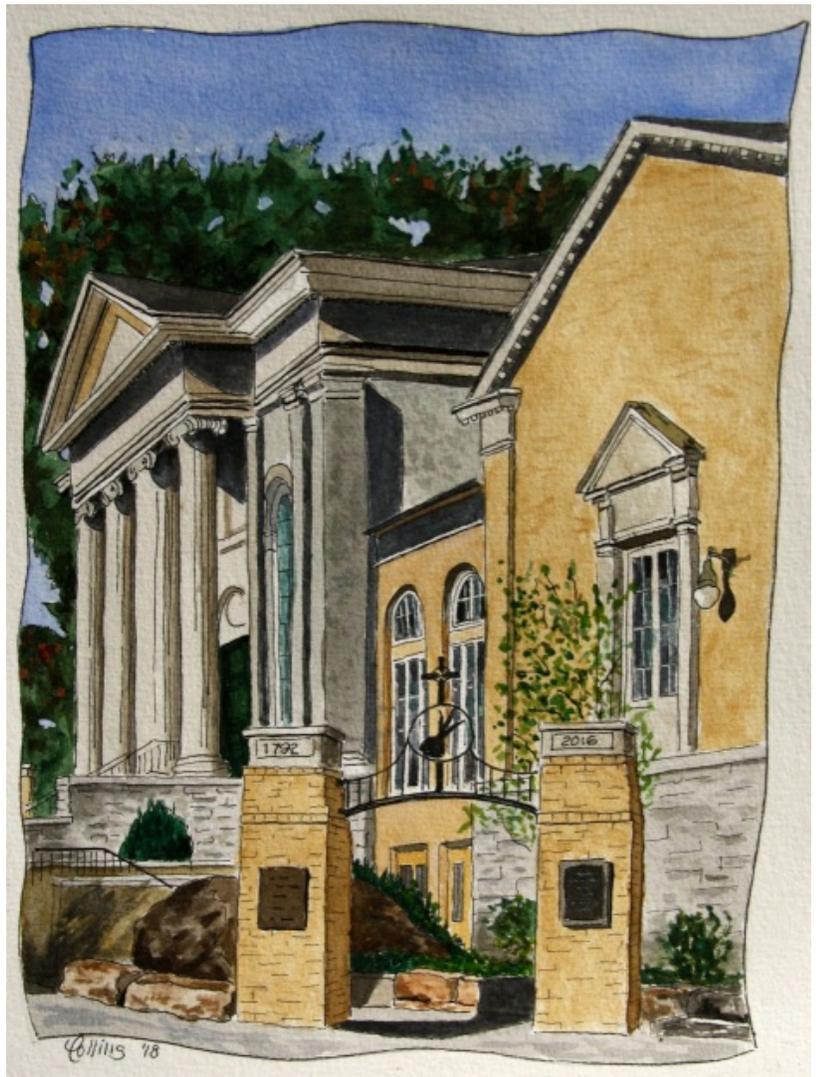




First Presbyterian Church
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
- Founded 1792 -

*“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. Dr. Jeff McCrory Jr., Transitional Pastor
The Rev. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor
Mr. Mark Pace, Organist/Choirmaster/Harpist
Mr. Alex McGavic, Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator

CHOIR MEMBERS

Connie Blair, Cynthia Smith, Frederick Wagoner, Eric White

ORDER OF WORSHIP
TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 11, 2020
❖THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE❖

PRELUDE

Trumpet Voluntary No. II in D Major

John James

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 42:5-6

Leader: Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out,

People: **who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it, and spirit to those who walk in it;**

Leader: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you.

People: **I have given you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations.**

Leader: As morning gilds the skies, let us praise Jesus, the light to the nations.

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!
Let this the eternal song through all the ages
long: may Jesus Christ be praised! |

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(All)*

LORD GOD,

We are lost tending sheep somewhere near Midian. Why we are here we do not know. Confused, conflicted, and wandering, we turn to see something burning, unaware that it is you speaking. Keep us turning that we may remove our sandals and stand on your Holy Ground, a place where you cleanse and restore to clarity, peace, and direction. Choose us to take your message to the nations that we may rejoice once again. (silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MUSICAL RESPONSE 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us, we are free to forgive one another. You are invited to reach out to your neighbors with a smile or peace sign, or at home through phone calls, texts, faxes, carrier pigeons, or social media and greet each other with a virtual sign of Christ's peace.

O day of peace that dimly shines through
 all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
 Guide us to justice, truth, and love,
 delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,
 our hearts from envy find release,
 Till by God's grace our warring world shall see
 Christ's promised reign of peace.

❖THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD❖

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:57-66 (See Insert)

Gary Anderson

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

Go Down Moses

Burleigh/Page

Connie Blair, Cynthia Smith, Frederick Wagoner, Eric White

When Israel was in Egypt's land; Let my people go, Oppressed so hard they could not stand; Let my people go. Go down, Moses, Way down in Egypt's land; Tell old Pharaoh, To let my people go. Thus saith the Lord, bold Moses said, Let my people go, If not I'll smite your first born head.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 3:1-12

(See Insert)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

God Chooses a Man

Rev. Dr. Jeff McCrory Jr.

❖THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE❖

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (All) *The Confession of 1967*, The Mission of the Church, par 9.31

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

HYMN OF RESPONSE 462

I Love to Tell the Story

Hankey

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
 of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
 I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
 it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain:
 I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
 to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.
2. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
 what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
 I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
 the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.
Refrain
3. I love to tell the story, for those who know
 it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
 And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved for so long.
Refrain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. 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.

FOCUS ON STEWARDSHIP:

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Stacy Davis

Genesis 12:3 . . . “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”



Blessed to Be a Blessing

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 Greatest of These is Love

René Clausen

Eric White, Tenor

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.**

CLOSING HYMN

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations (verses 1, 3, 4)

Message

1. We've a story to tell to the nations
That shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light,
A story of peace and light.
 3. We've a story to tell to the nations
That the Lord who reigneth above
Hath sent us His Son to save us
And show us that God is love,
And show us that God is love.
Refrain
 4. We've a Savior to show to the nations
Who the path of sorrow hath trod,
That all of the world's great peoples
Might come to the truth of God,
Might come to the truth of God.
Refrain
- Refrain:*
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
And the dawning to noon-day bright,
And Christ's great kingdom shall come
to earth,
The kingdom of love and light.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Arr. Craig Phillips

SCRIPTURE FOR OCTOBER 11, 2020

LUKE 1:57-66

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

EXODUS 3:1-12

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."