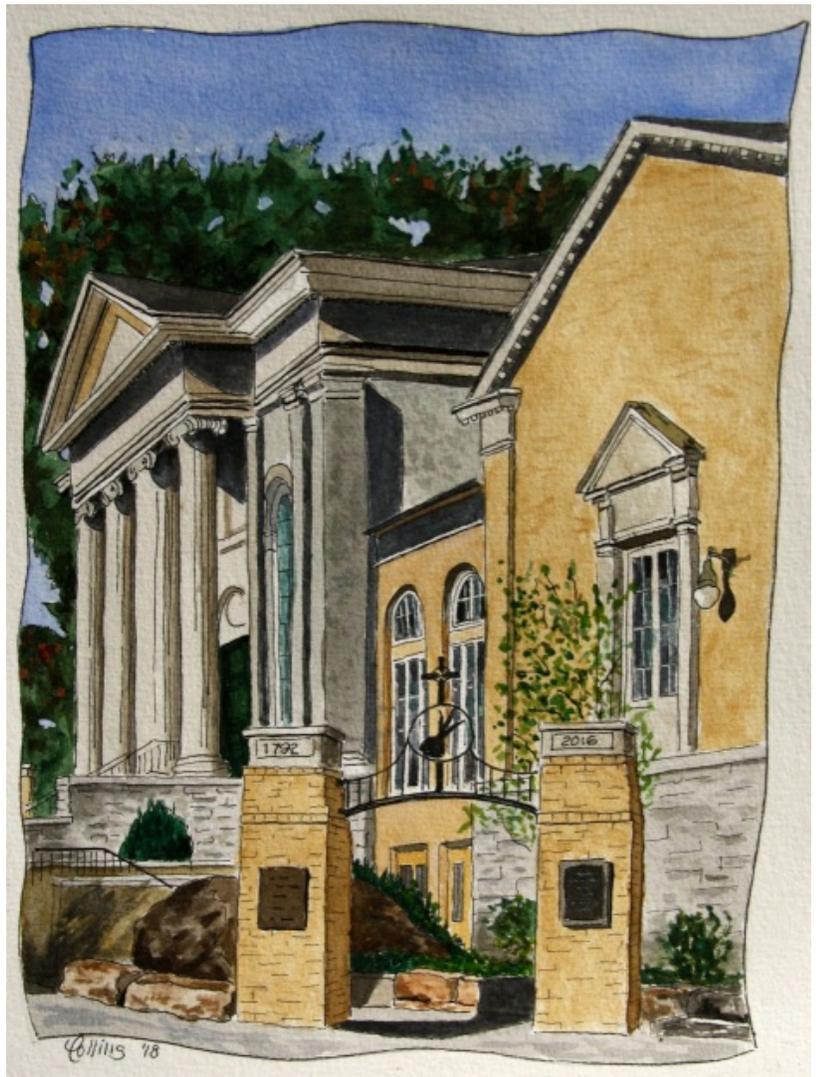




First Presbyterian Church  
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE  
- Founded 1792 -

*“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**

Ryan Ford, Susan Fox, Steve Fox, Holly Rogers

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**OCTOBER 18, 2020**  
**❖THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE❖**

**PRELUDE**

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

Max Drischner

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, people of God!

Many: **Let us sing the praises of the One who has called us  
out of darkness into his marvellous light!**

One: For once we were not a people at all,

Many: **but now we are God's people!**

All: **Let's worship God together.**

**OPENING HYMN 409**

*God Is Here*

Abbot's Leigh

1. God is here! As we your people meet to offer  
praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied  
skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into  
open minds and hearts.

2. Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong  
need of grace: here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as  
in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the  
Spirit comes to each.

3. Here our children find a welcome in the lifelong  
need of grace; here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship  
to explore what it means in daily living to believe  
and to adore.

4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of  
change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.

Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give,  
receive: we, who cannot live without you, we  
adore you! We believe!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(All)*

**Holy God, you have called us your treasured possession and claimed us as your  
chosen people, but we are quick to forget and worship earthly powers. We wander  
through the wilderness of this world only focused on ourselves, our ears deaf to your  
call to serve as priests to the nations. The world calls out for your peace and justice,  
but too often we fail to respond. Forgive us for wandering away from you and set our  
feet back on your holy ground. Guide us to worship and serve you so all people might  
know your loving kindness.** *(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.

**MUSICAL RESPONSE 373**

*O Day of Peace*

Jerusalem

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

1 Peter 2:9-10

Brent Trentham

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

#### ANTHEM

*Holy Manna*

Arr. Kenneth Lowenberg

Ryan Ford, Susan Fox, Steve Fox, Holly Rogers

Brethren, we are met to worship and adore the Lord our God; will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word? All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down; Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around. Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other too. Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new. Then he'll take us home to heaven; at his table we'll sit down. Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around. Holy manna all around.

### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 19:1-6

On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. <sup>2</sup> They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: <sup>4</sup> You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

*God Chooses a People*

Rev. Meredith Loftis

## ❖THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE❖

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (All)

*The Apostle's 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, died, and was 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.**

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God. God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode. On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose? With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
2. Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near. Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day, safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.
3. See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love, well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove. Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage? Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

**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**

Bill Eversole

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

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Amazing Grace*

Arr. Dale Wood

**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 80**

*You Shall Go Out with Joy*

The Trees of the Field

1. You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.  
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;  
The trees of the field will clap their hands;  
The trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

*Doxology Postlude*

Peter Pindar Stearns