

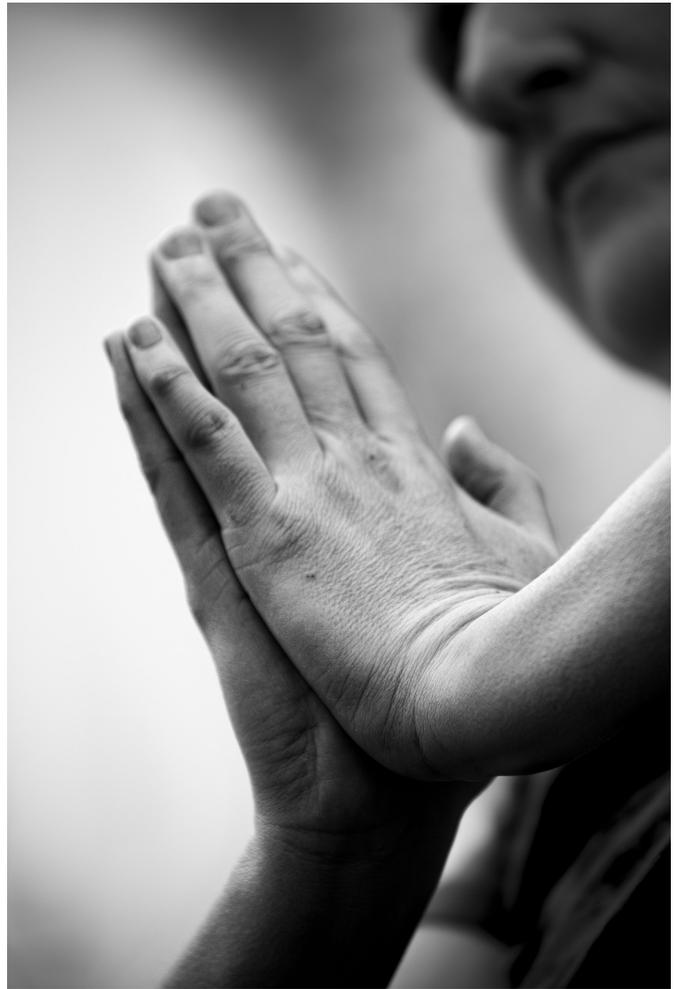


First Presbyterian Church
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
- Founded 1792 -

“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

ORDER OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 24, 2021
❖**THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE**❖

PRELUDE

Allegro Maestoso & Vivace (Sonata 2)

Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 46

One: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; God speaks and the earth melts.

Many: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

One: Come, behold the works of the Lord!

**Many: God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
God breaks the bow, shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.**

One: Be still and know that the Lord is God! God is exalted among the nations;
God is exalted in the earth.

**ALL: The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Let us worship God!**

OPENING HYMN 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MUSICAL RESPONSE 580

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

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 753

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, verse 4

Prayer of St. Francis

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

In giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

❖THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD❖

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 2:1-12 (see insert)

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SOLO

The Call

Ralph Vaughn Williams

Frederick Wagoner, Baritone

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 his 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.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Chronicles 6:18-21 (see insert)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Meredith Loftis

❖THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE❖

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.

HYMN OF RESPONSE 157

1. I danced in the morning
 When the world was begun,
 And I danced in the moon
 And the stars and the sun,
 And I came down from heaven
 And I danced on the earth.
 At Bethlehem I had my birth.

I Danced in the Morning

Lord of the Dance

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
 But they would not dance
 And they would not follow me.
 I danced for the fishermen,
 For James and John.
 They came with me
 And the dance went on.
 (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN:

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
 and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
 And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
 The holy people said it was a shame.
 They whipped and they stripped
 And they hung me high,
 And left me there on a cross to die.
 (REFRAIN)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Alex McGavic

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 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*Andante Religioso (Sonata 4)**Felix Mendelssohn***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.**

SENDING HYMN 353*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

Solid Rock

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE***Allegro Vivace Assai (Sonata 1)*

Felix Mendelssohn

SCRIPTURE AND SENDING HYMN FOR JANUARY 24, 2021

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 2:1-12

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. ³ Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸ At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk?’ ¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹ “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” ¹² And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Chronicles 6:18-21

¹⁸ “But will God indeed reside with mortals on earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built! ¹⁹ Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you. ²⁰ May your eyes be open day and night toward this house, the place where you promised to set your name, and may you heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ²¹ And hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; may you hear from heaven your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Solid Rock

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
(REFRAIN)

REFRAIN:

- On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
2. When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
(REFRAIN)
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
(REFRAIN)