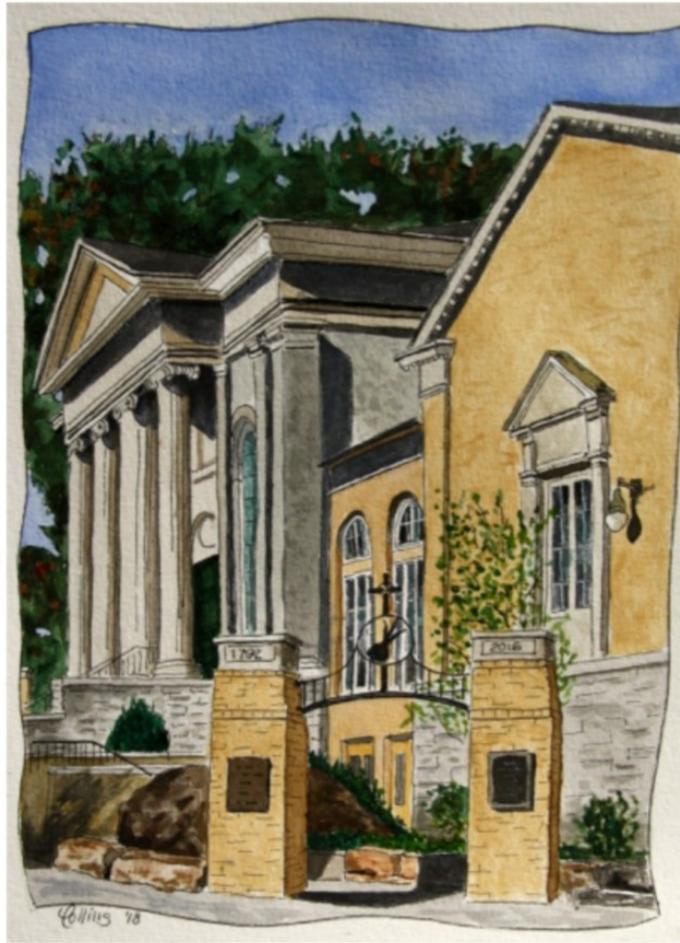




First Presbyterian Church
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
- Founded 1792 -

*“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
SIXTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
JULY 4, 2021
❖ **THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE** ❖

PRELUDE

Variations on The Star Spangled Banner

Arr. Charles Callahan

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Exodus 15:1-3

Leader: I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;

People: Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

Leader: The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation;

People: This is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Leader: Let us worship the God of our fathers and mothers this Independence Day.

† OPENING HYMN 331

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

National Hymn

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds
In splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before thy throne arise. | 3. From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.
Thy bounteous goodness
Nourish us in peace. |
| 2. Thy love divine hath led us in the past.
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay:
Thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way. | 4. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.
Lead us from night to never-ending day.
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine. |

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the Ages,

You brought your people Israel out of bondage to walk in freedom. Immediately they began to complain and grumble in the desert. We too are these people. You have set us free in Jesus Christ, and what do we do? We complain and grumble, as spoiled children who have been given too much. We have taken your freedom as license, using the gift of salvation to satisfy our needs. Forgive us, discipline us, and set us on the path to service, wherein lies true liberty. (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 378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom (verse 2)

Merle's Tune

Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start? We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart. Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home: we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.

❖ THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD ❖

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 6:2-7

Britton Leitch (*see insert*)

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Children aged 3 - 2nd grade are welcome to join Children's Church)

ANTHEM

Eternal Father Strong to Save

Richard Shephard

Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the restless wave, who bids the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep; oh, hear us when we cry to Thee, for those in peril on the sea! O Christ, Whose voice the waters heard, and hushed their raging at Thy Word, who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amidst its rage did sleep; oh, hear us when we cry to Thee, for those in peril on the sea! O Trinity of love and power! Thy children shield in danger's hour; from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoever we go; thus evermore shall rise to Thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 5:1-6, 13-15 (*see insert*)

SERMON

For Freedom

Rev. Dr. Jeff McCrory, Jr.

❖ THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE ❖

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Confession of Belbar 10.4

We believe that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God.

† HYMN OF RESPONSE 338

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Materna

1. O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!
2. O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw;
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!
3. O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!

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.

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

Improvisation on America the Beautiful

Arr. Charles Callahan

† 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 354

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Battle Hymn

1. Mine eyes have seen the glory
Of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage
Where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He has loosed the fateful lightning
Of his terrible swift sword.
God's truth is marching on.
2. God has sounded forth the trumpet
That shall never call retreat
And is sifting out all human hearts
Before the judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer;
O be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on. *(Refrain)*
3. In the beauty of the lilies
Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom
That transfigures you and me;
As he died to make us holy,
Let us live to make all free,
While God is marching on. *(Refrain)*

Refrain:

Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah!
Glory, glory hallelujah!
God's truth is marching on.

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Pedal Solo on The Star Spangled Banner

Arr. Charles Callahan

†- Please stand if you are able

Scripture Readings for July 4, 2021

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 6:2-7

Britton Leitch

God also spoke to Moses and said to him: “I am the Lord. ³ I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name ‘The Lord’ I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens. ⁵ I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the Israelites, ‘I am the Lord, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 5:1-6, 13-15

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.² Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. ⁴ You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

Galatians 5:13-15:

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.