

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.

*CLOSING HYMN *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* 761

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Allegretto* F. J. Haydn
*Please stand if you are able.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Worship Note: The Prayer of Confession was written by John van de Laar at Sacredise.com.

We welcome Beverly Landguth as our guest organist this morning. Beverly has been playing the organ since age 12 and has degrees in music education. She has held jobs as organist and choir director at various churches where she lived. She is retired and now fills in as a substitute organist at various churches.

All Presbyterian Women of our church are invited to a presbytery-wide Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women at the John Knox Center in Ten Mile on Saturday, Oct. 28. The day-long event will begin at 9:30 a.m. and include lunch. The cost is \$10 per person.

Keynote speaker Kay Peas will talk about "Fingerprints" -- the fingerprints left on her by the women in her life. All attendees are invited to bring photos or small memorabilia of the women who left their fingerprints on them. Women will share their memories over lunch. The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff, the newly elected General Presbyter of our presbytery, will lead worship after lunch.

Mission focus of the gathering will be Sunset Gap and its food distribution program. All participants are asked to bring non-perishable food items to donate.

Check out new youth events at First Presbyterian Church!

Please contact Kallee at (865) 387-4748 or kallee@purvisbuilders.com if you can chaperone events or to get your teen connected.

October 15 - Small & Mighty Youth Group at Farragut Presbyterian, Board Game Olympics

October - TBD - Corn Maze or Haunted House

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> | |
| Jane Holland
<i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i> | |

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|----------------------|
| <i>Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice</i>
Tune: Aberystwyth | One License # 00306 | <i>What Does the Lord Require of You?</i>
Tune: Moon | One License # 60048 |
| <i>Gloria Patri</i>
Tune: Gloria Patri (Greateorex) | | <i>Called as Partners in Christ's Service</i>
Tune: Beecher | One License # 117641 |
| <i>O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing</i>
Tune: Azmon | | | |

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 8, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Communion* Theodore Dubois

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Long ago a vineyard was planted.

The ground was prepared, and all was made ready.

But the vines grew wild,

the ground was unable to support the wild grapes.

What happened in that place of promise?

People forgot the One who planted the vineyard.

They chose their own ways and failed.

Let us again turn to the Lord,

who will again plant, prune, and cause us to grow in faithfulness.

Let us open our hearts to God,

trusting in God's ways and God's word.

Let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN** *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice* 163

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How many times each day

do You come to me, Jesus?

How many quiet prophets,

how many whispered warnings

are sent to catch my attention?

And how many times do I pass by

unaware of Your calm Presence,

unfeeling of Your beckoning gaze?

How often have I shunned Your messengers;

sending them away with clipped words

and cold eyes?

How often have I hurt the agents of Your care;

too busy or self-absorbed to notice

Your invitation in their words?

Forgive me, Lord,

when through neglect, pre-occupation or wrongfulness,

I turn my back on You.

Teach me to see,

to listen and to walk with an open heart,

so that I can welcome You, and answer You,

when, in grace and love,

You call me to follow.

(a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Gloria Patri* 581

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

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (v. 2) 610

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease, sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP *Filled with the Fullness of God* Vanessa Smith

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 5:1-7 Zee Troutman

¹ Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

ANTHEM *Lead Me, Lord* Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Molly Garrett, Mezzo-Soprano

Praise the Lord, my soul, and all that is within me praise His holy name. I laid me down and slept, and rose again for the Lord sustained me. Lead me Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness, make Thy way plain before my face. For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 21:33-46

³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one,

killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?' ⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *What Does the Lord Require of You?* 70

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Dr. Andy Morgan

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 *Prelude and Fugue in G Major* J. S. Bach

***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,