

them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights,

you bore up the ark on the waters, and established an everlasting covenant with every living creature upon the earth.

When you delivered us from slavery and made us your people,

you led Moses to your mountain for forty days and forty nights and gave us your teaching.

You led us through the wilderness and brought us to the promised land.

You sent your Son to face temptation in the desert, so that in him, we might find eternal life.

Help us, O God, to be obedient to your call:

to love all your children, to do justice and show mercy, and to live in peace with your whole creation. Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION: BREAKING AND BLESSING
COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

COMMUNION MUSIC

Wash Me Thoroughly From My Wickedness Samuel Sebastian Wesley
*Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious God, guide us through the desert of life, quench our thirst with living waters, satisfy our hunger with the bread of heaven. Give us strength to serve you until the promised day of resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast at your table in glory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ we pray; Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *What Wondrous Love is This* 215

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Jesus, My Joy, BWV 610* Johann S. Bach
**Please stand if you are able.*

Worship Note:

The Prayer of Confession was written by Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield, New Jersey.

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 give securely online at www.fpcknox.org/donate or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.

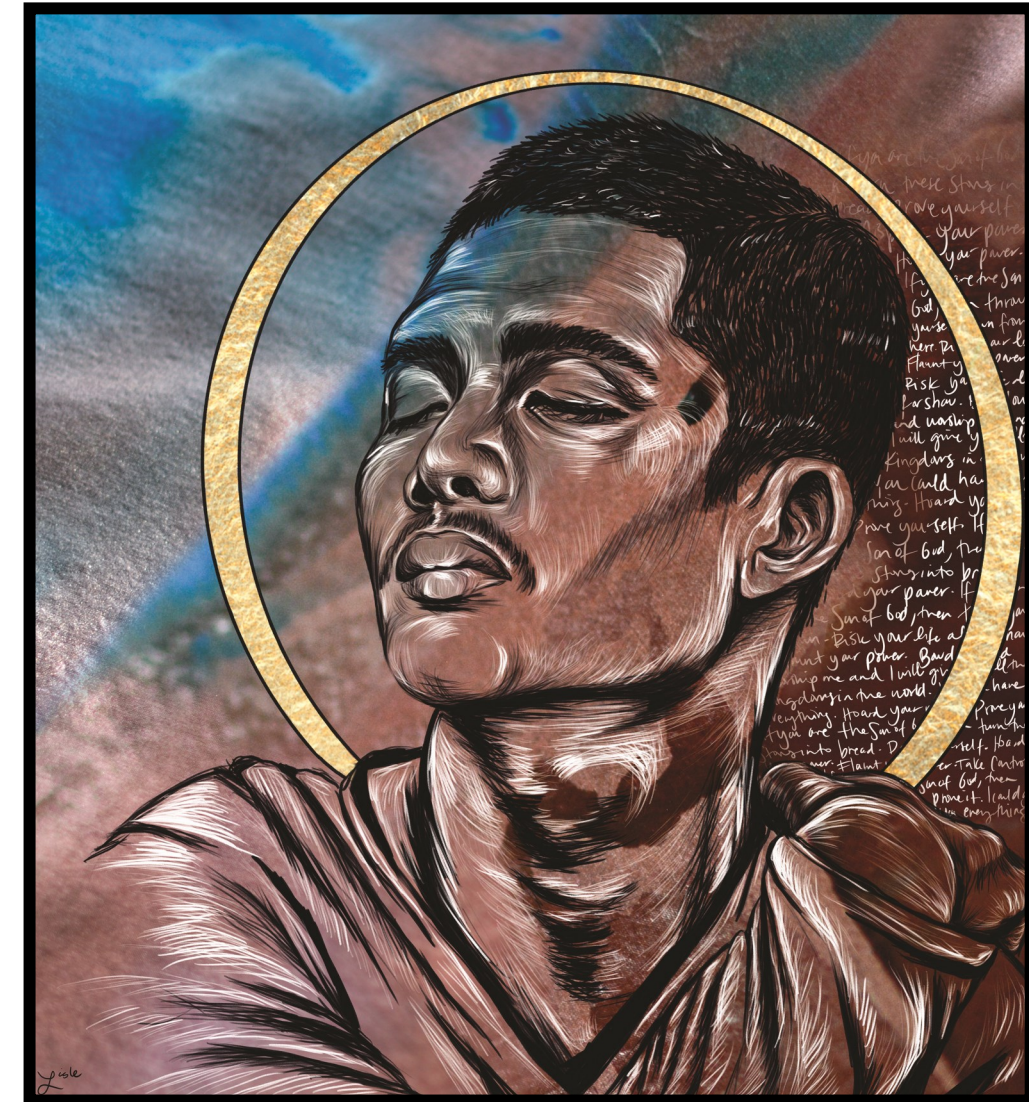


STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

- | | |
|--|--|
| The Rev. Mark R. Curtis
Senior Pastor | Lauren Nunn
Director of Parent's Day Out /
Childcare Coordinator |
| The Rev. Meredith Loftis
Associate Pastor | Sandra Robinson
Administrative Assistant |
| Mark Pace
Organist/Choirmaster | Victor Lenoir
Custodian |
| Mary Wilson
Adult Ministry Coordinator | Paul Seguna
Sound Engineer |
| Katie Norrell
Director of Communications | Jack Riordan
Crucifer |
| Jane Holland
Director of Finance/Facilities | Nick Riordan
Bible Bearer |
| Laura Harmon
Church Administrator | |

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).



Tune In by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Matthew 4:1-11



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

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www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Deck Thyself, My Soul With Gladness* Johannes Brahms

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** from Psalm 63

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

**My flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

**Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.**

So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

***OPENING HYMN** *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* (vv. 1-3, 5) 624

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We hear the words from Jesus:

"Take up your cross and follow me."

**These words scare us. We know what taking up a cross
meant for him. We do not feel able to sacrifice our
lives. We are not even ready on most days to sacrifice
smaller things for the sake of the Kingdom.**

Today, O God, we confess our timidity,
our weaknesses, our fears, and our hesitations.

**As we gather today—as we look at the cross in front of
us, as we remember the crosses
that marked our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, such a
short time ago, to begin the Lenten journey, as we
think of the Cross that Lent calls us to journey towards,
may we find strength in new places deep within our
souls. May we find courage, hope, and the peace to
really follow Jesus. May worship today help us to begin
the Lenten journey towards finding our crosses and
figuring out how to bear them.**

(a moment for silent confession)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Jesus, Remember Me* 227

One License #00122

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom. (3x)

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (vv. 1 and 3) 223

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Joan Holladay

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

SERMON

Rev. Meredith Loftis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Forty Days and Forty Nights* 167

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Turn Back O Man* Gustav Holst

Turn back O Man, forswear thy foolish ways. Old now is Earth, and none may count her days, Yet thou, her child, whose head is crowned with flame, Still wilt not hear thine inner God proclaim, "Turn back, O Man, forswear thy foolish ways." Earth might be fair and all men glad and wise. Age after age their tragic empires rise, Built while they dream, and in that dreaming weep: Would man but wake from out his haunted sleep, Earth might be fair and all men glad and wise. Earth shall be fair, and all her people one: Nor till that hour shall God's whole will be done. Now, even now, once more from earth to sky, Peals forth in joy man's old undaunted cry: "Earth shall be fair and all her folk be one!"

***DOXOLOGY** *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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to give thanks to you, God Almighty ...

...And so, with all your people on earth and all the company
of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, singing:

(Glory to God Hymnal 562)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Creator God, You brought all things into being and called