

**To proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*      649

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**      *Jesus Lover of My Soul*      Ashley Grote

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....**

**Downtown Lenten lunches** will be held each Wednesday at noon:  
3/22 St. John's Episcopal Cathedral  
3/29 First Presbyterian Church

**Holy Week:**

**Palm Sunday** is April 2. Services will be held at 8:45 and 11 am.

**The Maundy Thursday service** is April 6 at 6:30 pm.

**Stations of the Cross** will be held on April 7 at 5:30 pm in Market Square.

**Easter Sunday** is April 9. Services will be held at 7 and 11 am. There will be light refreshments served after the early service and ending at 9:45 am.

The **Congregational Retreat** will be at Montreat in North Carolina on April 28-30th. The theme will be "Continuing our Story: Preparing for God's Future" and the speaker will be Julianne Elaine Clayton.

- The retreat begins Friday evening with informal fellowship, Saturday morning programming, free afternoon to rest and explore, Saturday evening meal and fellowship fun with a Sunday morning church service.

- There is a Saturday Day Option without a room.

- Cost details are listed in the newsletter.

- To hold your spot, please fill out the form on the newsletter and drop in offering plate, bring to the church office, or email to Emily Smith at [memilysmith@gmail.com](mailto:memilysmith@gmail.com). For questions, please contact Emily Smith or Liz Key at [lizkey1@gmail.com](mailto:lizkey1@gmail.com).

For over 70 years, **One Great Hour of Sharing** has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the globe. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. You may give for One Great Hour of Sharing by check or online.

**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](http://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](http://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*

The Rev. Meredith Loftis  
*Associate Pastor*

Mark Pace  
*Organist/Choirmaster*

Mary Wilson  
*Adult Ministry Coordinator*

Katie Norrell  
*Director of Communications*

Jane Holland  
*Director of Finance/Facilities*

Laura Harmon  
*Church Administrator*

Lauren Nunn  
*Director of Parent's Day Out /  
Childcare Coordinator*

Sandra Robinson  
*Administrative Assistant*

Victor Lenoir  
*Custodian*

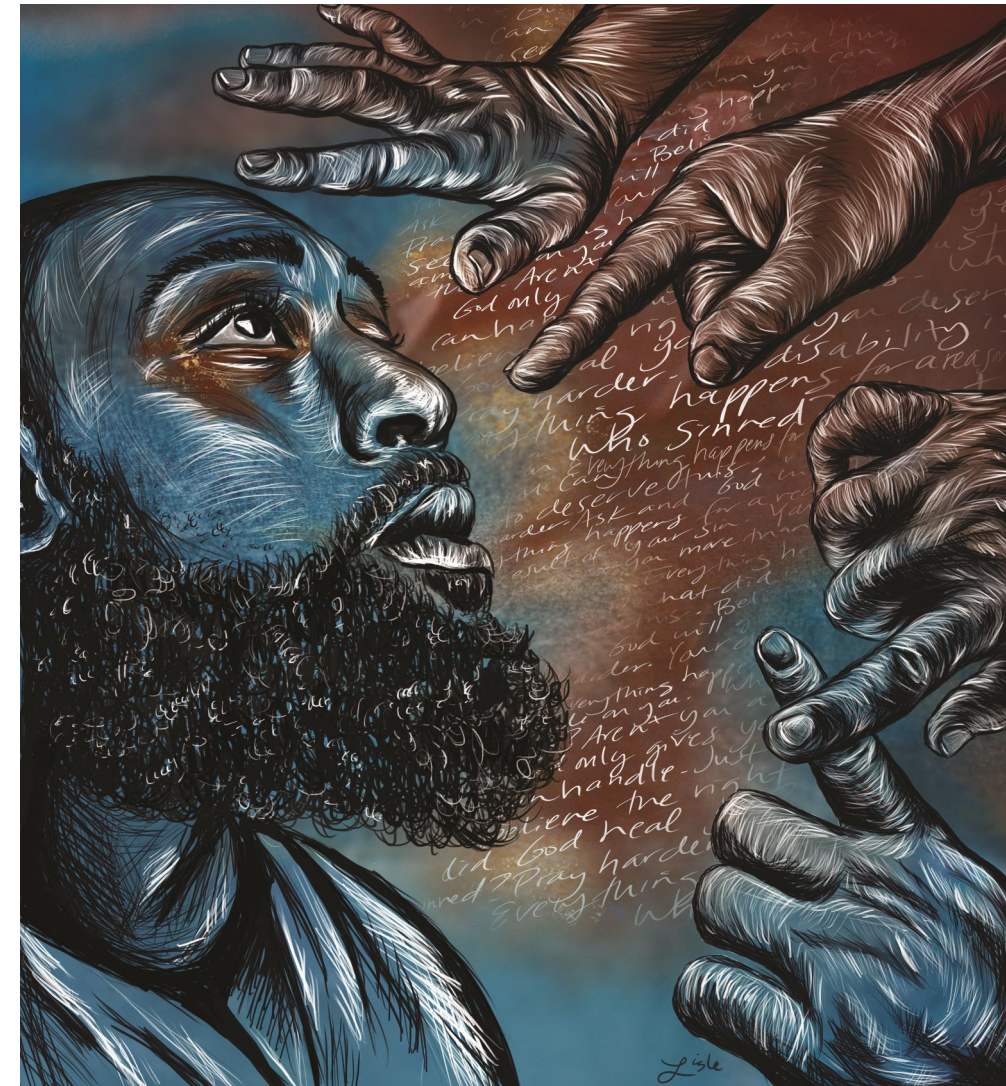
Paul Seguna  
*Sound Engineer*

Harris Eddins  
*Crucifer*

Harper McAdoo  
*Bible Bearer*

**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).*



*Insight* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity Inspired by John 9: 8-41

*First Presbyterian Church*  
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**MARCH 19, 2023**

Connect With Us



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

620 State Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902



## THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE** *Ah, Holy Jesus* David Blackwell

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God sees with Holy eyes,  
**not what the world sees, but what God sees.**  
God sees with Holy eyes,  
**for a faith that hopes even in times of drought.**  
God sees with Holy eyes,  
**and our lives become a test of faith,  
not knowing the end, but trusting the journey.**  
God sees with Holy eyes,  
**and the love of Christ urges us forward,  
to live as God calls.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* 744  
One License #07293

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**as you came to a blind man and gave him sight,**  
**come to us in our darkness**  
**and show us the things we cannot see.**  
**Forgive us when our own selfishness blinds us**  
**to the needs of others,**  
**and our pride blinds us to our own faults.**  
**Jesus, Light of the world, help us to walk in your light**  
**so that goodness, righteousness,**  
**and truth are made visible**  
**as we reflect your love and mercy**  
**in all that we say and do... (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** John 9:35-41 Tracy Pace

Jesus heard that the Pharisees had driven out the man born blind, and when he found him, Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"  
<sup>36</sup> The man answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup> The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."  
<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

**ANTHEM** *The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee* Jean Berger  
One License #71299

*The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.*

### SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup> He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. <sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup> He sent

and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

**SERMON** "Blind Faith" Rev. Mark R. Curtis

## THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** *O God, in a Mysterious Way* 30

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

**OFFERTORY** *Avinu Malkeinu* Janowski/Sinozich  
Eric White, soloist

Translation of Hebrew Text: *Our Father, our Sovereign, hear our voice.  
Our Father, our Sovereign, we have sinned before you.  
Our Father, our Sovereign, have compassion on us and on our children.  
Our Father, our Sovereign, make an end to sickness, war, and famine.  
Our Father, our Sovereign, make an end to all oppression.  
Our Father, our Sovereign, inscribe us for blessing in the Book of Life.  
Our Father, our Sovereign, let the new year be a good year for us.*

**\*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** *from John 9*

Jesus heard that they had driven the man out, and when Jesus found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

**"Who is he? Tell me so that I may believe in him."**

Jesus said, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

**"Lord, I believe!"**

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment,

**"So that those who do not see may see,  
and those who do see may become blind."**

Jesus has come to bring good news to the poor;