

for therein is my desire.
 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies:
 and not to covetousness.
 O turn away mine eyes, lest they behold vanity:
 and quicken me in thy way.
 O stablish thy word in thy servant:
 that I may fear thee.

***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, 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** *Lift High the Cross* 826

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

***CHARGE AND BENECTION**

**Please stand if you are able.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

We are excited to announce that the congregational retreat at Montreat is April 26-28, 2024! This retreat is a great opportunity to deepen your faith, connect with other members of the congregation, and enjoy the beautiful scenery in western North Carolina. Our Speaker will be Dr. Elizabeth Arnold. **Deadline to sign up is March 24.** Please see the newsletter for more details.

Beginning March 23rd, we will be assisting a single mother and her four children in building their Habitat for Humanity home. The house is in the Ellen's Glen neighborhood in Strawberry Plains. We will be partnering with members of the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan on this project. Please see the newsletter for specific dates and job duties. If you are interested in serving, please contact Craig Wrisberg (cell phone: 865-776-7613; email: caw@utk.edu).

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
<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> | Mary Virginia Bohner
<i>Crucifer</i> |
| Jane Holland
<i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i> | Eli Jones
<i>Bible Bearer</i> |

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <i>Lenten Prelude</i>
Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle
Tune: Fortunatus New | One License #CGB983
One License #229099 | <i>What Wondrous Love Is This</i>
Tune: Wondrous Love
As Water to the Thirsty
Teach Me, O Lord
Lift High the Cross
Tune: Hamburg | One License #50-6072
One License #50-8865
One License #59074 |
| <i>Gloria Patri</i>
Tune: Gloria Patri
Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace
Tune: Tama Ngakau Marie | One License #46246 | | |

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 3, 2024

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
 Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE Lenten Prelude Brenda Austin
Adult Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

With the cross of Christ before us,
we sing our praise to God's eternal love.
With the cross of Christ before us,
we pray for God's supporting love.
With the cross of Christ before us,
we commit ourselves to live that love.
With the cross of Christ before us,
we come to worship God.

***OPENING HYMN** Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle 225

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We thank you, O God,
for inviting us to live in covenant with you
and with one another,
and for remaining faithful to your promise.

**Yet we confess that we find it difficult
to be faithful to you.**

We have been weak in the cause of justice,
slow to opportunities for kindness,
quick to anger and hurting words.

**We have each put ourselves in the center of our world.
Forgive us, O God, and change us.**

Pour out upon us the power and wisdom of your Spirit,
**that we may walk with Christ the way of the cross,
ready to offer even our lives
to show the world our hope in your kingdom...**

(a moment for silent confession)

Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.

*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** Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace (vv. 1 & 3) 425
**Son of God, whose heart is peace, Son of God, most holy, to your
presence we have come; give us now your love.
Warm our hearts to love you, Lord, you who died to save us;
gather us within your arms, Jesus on this day.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 19 Brent Trentham

¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ² Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³ There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹² But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. ¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

ANTHEM As Water to the Thirsty K. Lee Scott
*As water to the thirsty, as beauty to the eyes,
as strength that follows weakness, as truth instead of lies,
as songtime and springtime and summertime to be,
so is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.
Like calm in place of clamor, like peace that follows pain,
like meeting after parting, like sunshine after rain,
like moonlight and starlight and sunlight on the sea,
so is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.*

*As sleep that follows fever, as gold instead of gray,
as freedom after bondage, as sunrise to the day,
as home to the traveler and all we long to see,
so is my Lord, my living Lord, so is my Lord to me.*

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Cross Talk" Rev. Mark R. Curtis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** What Wondrous Love Is This 215

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 Teach Me, O Lord Phillip W.J. Stopford
*Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes:
and I shall keep it unto the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law:
yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.
Make me to go in the path of thy commandments:*

2024 FPC Spring Mission Opportunities



Saturday, April 6th from 9am-12pm

Join us for a **Great Day of Service** on Saturday, April 6th! This day is a collective effort of multiple churches centered in Downtown Knoxville. We're

joining together to serve our neighbors in need and show our love for the downtown community. First Presbyterian Church will offer three projects, but there will be over 15 projects offered by all the downtown churches! Visit <https://greatdayofservice.org/> to view all projects and to register! There will be a kickoff breakfast at 8:30am at Church Street United Methodist Church. Contact Meredith Loftis with questions at meredith@fpcknox.org.

First Presbyterian Church Projects:

- Pack Care Packages for Downtown Frontline and Support Workers in the Fellowship Hall! Bring individually wrapped snacks to donate!
- Provide gardening help at BattleField Farm and help provide fresh produce for East Knoxville
- Painting and other projects at the Family Promise Day Center

Calling all Justice Knox Network

Members! Join us for our annual Congregational Network Meeting and learn updates about Justice Knox's issue campaigns! We will gather over dinner **TONIGHT Sunday, March 3rd at 6:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We will select our guests to invite to the Nehemiah Action on April 9th and recall God's commandment to do justice together. Stay tuned to hear more information from your Team Leader. For questions, email meredith@fpcknox.org.



day, March 3rd at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will select our guests to invite to the Nehemiah Action on April 9th and recall God's commandment to do justice together. Stay tuned to hear more information from your Team Leader. For questions, email meredith@fpcknox.org.

Important dates:

- March 3 – FPC Congregational Network Meeting and Dinner
- March 18 – Justice Knox Rally at First Presbyterian Church
- April 9 – Nehemiah Action at the Knoxville Civic Auditorium
- May 20 – Justice Knox Celebration

2024 Habitat for Humanity Build



We are excited to announce that First Presbyterian Church will be partnering with the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan to help one hardworking family build an affordable Habitat for Humanity home this Spring.

All work will be supervised by Habitat staff so no previous construction experience is required. The building sequence will begin with the construction of exterior walls (March 23), followed by interior walls (April 13), addition of vinyl siding (April 20 and 27), interior painting (June 1), and interior trim and cabinets (June 15). Our church will also be providing food service (coffee, snacks, water and lunch) on three of the dates (March 23, April 20, and June 1). Those interested in volunteer opportunities can contact Craig Wrisberg, Chair of the Local Missions Committee at caw@utk.edu.

EASTER FLOWERS

Much as we look forward to Spring and its beautiful burst of nature's color, as Christians we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Your generous donations continue to support the ministry of our devoted flower guild. We will joyfully celebrate the Holy Easter season with seasonal displays beginning with Easter Sunrise. If you would like to make a donation to the flower guild in memory or honor of a loved one, a dedication gift of \$20.00 per name is suggested. Please indicate if your gift request is a memorial or an honorarium gift, the name for the dedication, and how you would like the "given by" to be noted.

You may email your flower forms to laura@fpcknox.org (please only list one name per line) or you can submit your Easter flower dedications online. Under the "Quick Links" button on the website, there is a menu item for Easter Flowers. You can pay in our online giving portal in the "Easter Flowers" category or by dropping a check in the offering plate or church office. Please be sure to designate "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. All submissions must be received by noon on March 18th. Thank you for supporting the flower guild!

In Memory Of

In Honor Of

Given By

