

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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** *Alleluia! Christ is Arisen* 253
(Verse 1 and 2 - Choir, Verse 3 and 4 - All) One License #2020-005-X

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *Amazing Grace* Arr. Robert D. Vandall
Mark Pace, Carrie Wright, piano One License#123413

**Please stand if you are able.*

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

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

Charlie Smith
Crucifer

Laura Smith
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).



First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 16, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Ann Myers will be taking good quality spring-summer clothing from our clothes closet to Mission Haven on April 19th. If First Presbyterian families have clothes to donate, now is a great time. Contact Ann Myers at annbmyers7115@gmail.com for more questions or to coordinate. Mission Haven in Decatur, Georgia, one of our Global Missions partners, provides affordable short-term housing and friendly hospitality to mission co-workers of the PC (USA). They also provide a clothes closet of donated clothing for the missionary families as well as for students at local seminaries. Their clothes closet has run low, and they are requesting donations. Even though spring is upon us, Mission Haven still needs coats and gloves for the fall. Specific needs include: sneakers (all sizes), men's jeans, women's dresses and suits (sizes 12→18), girls (sizes 8→12), boys (6→8), and babies (9 months), plastic storage bins (with lids), and wheeled suitcases.

On Wednesday, April 26th, the youth group is going to an Escape Room! Reservations need to be made with Kallee Pittenger at 865-387-4748. Other upcoming activities are bowling and a party night at the church retreat at Montreat.

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Morning Has Broken* Arr. Robert D. Vandall
Mark Pace, Carrie Wright, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

God is alive...

New birth is given.

Hope is alive...

A new age is dawning.

Joy is alive...

Redemption is here.

Love is alive

Death cannot harm us.

We are alive...

New life is within us.

The church is alive...

God's spirit is within us.

God of life, we worship you.

God of creation, we praise you.

God of revelation, we learn from you.

God of resurrection, we come to celebrate you.

***OPENING HYMN** *The Strife is O'er* 236

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, we confess that too often we are skeptics. At times we doubt that You exist because of the evil we have seen in the world. Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see Your love and light. Sometimes, even those who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways. Help us to see Your goodness in this world. Help us to know Your love. Forgive us for our lack of faith and fill us with Your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith. Amen. (a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Alleluia* 586
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (3x)

One License #91445

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Thine Is the Glory (v. 2)* 238

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;

lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.

Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,

for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;

endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Amye Cole

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' ²⁹ Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

ANTHEM *Since By Man Came Death* George F. Handel
Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with

you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

Rev. Meredith Loftis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing* 255

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 *What Wondrous Love is This* Arr. Robert D. Vandall
Mark Pace, Carrie Wright, piano

***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.