

**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**      *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*      263

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**      *Toccata from Suite Gothique*      Léon Boëllmann

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

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

**The 2023 Spring Softball Season is here!** Wear your purple and support our co-ed softball team, the Fightin' Turnips on Monday evenings. All games are played at Caswell Park, 620 Winona St.

Game 8, May 22nd - 7 pm

For more information, email Preston at [prestonsmith07@gmail.com](mailto:prestonsmith07@gmail.com).

**Upcoming Youth Events:**

**Thursday, May 25**, Virginia Creeper bicycle trail, weather permitting, reservations made with Kallee Pittenger, 865-387-4748.

**Saturday, May 27-28**, Youth lock-in at FPC

**June 11-17**, Montreat youth retreat for upcoming 9-12 graders

**June & July 2023**, various summer camps at John Knox Center

**May 30th - June 2nd Join us for our next VBS adventure, Hero Hotline: Called Together To Serve God!** We will partner again with Lake Hills Presbyterian Church and attend this fun VBS at their church. We will gather in the evenings from May 30 - June 2nd at 5:30pm for dinner followed by programs!

Kids in preschool through 5th grade will have fun with story time, recreation, art, and games! Youth and adults are welcome to serve as VBS teachers and helpers. There will also be an adult component this year.

**Questions? Email Vanessa Smith at [vkslnersmith@gmail.com](mailto:vkslnersmith@gmail.com). Sign up for VBS at [fpcknox.org](http://fpcknox.org) under the "Connect" link.**

**Our congregation will be hosting Family Promise guests the week of June 11th - 17th.** If you would like to volunteer or learn more about Family Promise, please contact Britton Leitch at [britton.leitch@gmail.com](mailto:britton.leitch@gmail.com) or (865)789-3651.

**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. Dr. 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*

Max Pittenger  
*Crucifer*

Daniel Curtis  
*Bible Bearer*

**WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES**

<i>Processional in C</i>	One License #37553
<i>Alleluia</i>	One License #91445
<i>Litany to the Holy Spirit</i>	One License #198755
<i>Toccata from Suite Gothique</i>	One License #244924

**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

**ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**MAY 21, 2023**

Connect With Us



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

620 State Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

## THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE** *Processional in C* Hal. H. Hopson

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *from St. Augustine*

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven;

**let our hearts ascend with him.**

Listen to the words of the Apostle: "If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God;

**"seek the things that are above,  
not the things that are on earth."**

For just as he remained with us even after his ascension,  
**so we too are already in heaven with him,  
even though what is promised to us  
has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.**

We cannot be in heaven, as he by his divinity is on earth,  
**but in him, we can be there by love.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* 268

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Great and loving God, we who come to worship  
are also people who sometimes feel  
that you have abandoned us  
or left us to fend for ourselves.**

**Although we rely on your presence,  
we fear and suspect your absence.**

**Encourage us, O God, when we doubt your promise  
that you will be with us always.**

**In our worship, give us the gifts of discernment and hope.**

**Enable us to see you at work**

**in the commonplace and the everyday.**

**Open us to faith and help us**

**to recognize not only what is, but also what, by your  
grace, might be, for we pray all this in the name of our  
Savior, Jesus Christ...**

*(a moment for silent confession)*

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Alleluia* 586

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (2x)**

### \*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** Psalm 47 Brent Trentham

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. <sup>3</sup> He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

<sup>4</sup> He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

<sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

<sup>7</sup> For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. <sup>8</sup> God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. <sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

**ANTHEM** *God is Gone Up* Rimsky-Korsakov/Walczak

*God is gone up with a triumphant shout:  
the Lord is in the voice of the trumpet. Alleluia*

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** Ian Ezekiel Danso Amankwah  
Son of Brooke Acker and Gideon Amankwah

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** Acts 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said,

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

**SERMON** "Up, Up and Away" Rev. Mark. R. Curtis

## THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** *I Love to Tell the Story* 462

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER** Rev. Dr. 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** *Litany to the Holy Spirit* Peter Hurford

*In the hour of my distress,*

*When temptations me oppress,*

*And when I my sins confess,*

*Sweet Spirit, comfort me!*

*When I lie within my bed,*

*Sick in heart and sick in head,*

*And with doubts discomforted,*

*Sweet Spirit, comfort me!*

*When the house doth sigh and weep,*

*And the world is drown'd in sleep,*

*Yet mine eyes the watch do keep,*

*Sweet Spirit, comfort me!*

**\*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** *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.**