

**\*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.**

**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**    *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*    543

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**    *Allegro from Sonata VI*    Felix Mendelssohn

*\*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](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 to 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 <i>Senior Pastor</i>	Jane Holland <i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i>
The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis <i>Associate Pastor</i>	Laura Harmon <i>Church Administrator</i>
Dr. Andy Morgan <i>Director of Family Faith Formation</i>	Lauren Nunn <i>Director of Parent's Day Out / Childcare Coordinator</i>
Mark Pace <i>Organist/Choirmaster</i>	Sandra Robinson <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Mary Wilson <i>Adult Ministry Coordinator</i>	Victor Lenoir <i>Custodian</i>
Katie Norrell <i>Director of Communications</i>	Paul Seguna <i>Sound Engineer</i>

**WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*    One License # VT429  
*Come! Live in the Light!*    One License # 00174  
*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*    One License # 16018  
*Fairest Lord Jesus*    One License # 86890

**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

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**JULY 16, 2023**

Connect With Us



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

620 State Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....**  
Join us on Wednesdays this summer for some fellowship and mission opportunities!  
• **July 19 at 4:00 pm** - Mission Project at FPC: Learn about the FISH pantry and help pack bags. Popsicles afterwards.  
• **July 26 at 5:00 pm** - World's Fair Park - Bring a picnic supper and swim suits for the splash pad. Bring balls to play on the field and bikes, skates, etc.!

**The Presbyterian Women's retreat** will be held Sept 8-10 in Montreat this year. Our speaker this year is Sarah Morgan, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life & Mission at Second Presbyterian. She is the wife of our new Director of Family Faith Formation, Andy Morgan. We are excited to get to know her a little better since her duties as Associate Pastor at Second Presbyterian understandably limit the time she can spend with us. We will all be staying in the Winnsborough Lodge at Montreat. Shared rooms are \$125/person, single rooms are \$165. RSVPs and payment need to be received no later than August 6th. Please contact Liz Key to register at [lizkey1@gmail.com](mailto:lizkey1@gmail.com) or 865-201-5310.

## THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE** *Fugue from Sonata VI* Felix Mendelssohn

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to God in this time and in this place,

**In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.**

We come to God, who comes to us in Jesus,

**And who knows what human life is like.**

We come to God with our faith and with our doubts;

**We come with our hopes and with our fears;**

We come to God as we are, because it is God who invites us to come,

**And God has promised never to turn us away.**

**Let us worship God!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *At the Name of Jesus* 264

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. Forgive us for our carelessness with your planting and your harvest. Forgive us for allowing other concerns to choke out our devotion to you. Forgive us, and by your Holy Spirit, help us to receive your Word with joy, and live according to it. Continue to plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve a world that is wasting away, through Jesus Christ our Lord...** *(a moment for silent confession)*

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* 582  
**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Come! Live in the Light! (v. 3)* 749  
**Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. We are called to act with justice;**

**we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** Genesis 25:19-34 Britton Leitch

<sup>19</sup> These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, <sup>20</sup> and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. <sup>21</sup> Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. <sup>22</sup> The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." <sup>24</sup> When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup> The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. <sup>26</sup> Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. <sup>27</sup> When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. <sup>28</sup> Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. <sup>29</sup> Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. <sup>30</sup> Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) <sup>31</sup> Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." <sup>32</sup> Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup> Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

**ANTHEM** *Fairest Lord Jesus* Hakes/Courtney  
*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son, Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown. Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring: Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer who makes the woeful heart to sing. Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host: Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast. Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.*

**SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES** Dr. Andy Morgan

**SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And

as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> Let anyone with ears listen!" <sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

**SERMON** "Sowing Machine" Rev. Mark R. Curtis

## THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** *All Creatures of Our God and King (vv. 1-3, 6)* 15

**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** *God, That Madest Earth and Heaven* Arr. Robert Lehman  
*God that madest earth and heaven, Darkness and light; Who the day for toil hast given, For rest the night, May thine angel guards defend us, Slumber sweet thy mercy send us, Holy dreams and hopes attend us, This livelong night! Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, and when we die, May we in thy mighty keeping, all peaceful lie: And when death to life shall wake us, thou wilt in thy likeness make us; Then to reign in glory take us with thee on high.*