



*“For Christ in the Heart of
Knoxville,” the First Presbyterian
Church seeks*

- *to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ*
- *to nurture those within its influence*
- *to serve spiritual and human needs*

First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE 

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor
Mr. Mark Pace, Organist/Choirmaster

ORDER OF WORSHIP
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 7, 2022

✧ THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✧

PRELUDE

Let Us Break Bread Together

Arr. Dale Wood

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, O people! Listen for the voice of God.

We have heard God's voice in mighty thunder, in joyful laughter, in faithful questions.

Come, O people! Watch for the presence of God.

We have seen God's presence in rolling hillsides, in busy streets, in one another.

Come, O people! Taste the goodness of God.

We have tasted God's love in broken bread, in the shared cup, in living water.

Rejoice, O people! God is here.

Let us rejoice and worship God together!

† OPENING HYMN 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the ages, God of the story that includes even us, we hear of Abraham and Sarah, and we are amazed by their faith. They trusted you, while we waver. They believed your promise, while we ignore your words. In their example, we see our own failings. We confess our sins, not alone, but with believers through the generations. We confess our sins, as they did, looking to your endless mercy to cleanse us and restore us. We pray in the name of Jesus...

(a moment for silent confession)

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† MUSICAL RESPONSE 377 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (verse 1)

Houston

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

† MUSICAL RESPONSE 288

Spirit of the Living God

Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

✧ THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD ✧

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 15:1-6

Kelly Norrell

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him. "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” ¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

SERMON

“Are We There Yet?”

Rev. Mark R. Curtis

✠ THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✠

† HYMN OF RESPONSE 694

Great God of Every Blessing

Aurelia

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed or you are invited to mail in your tithes and offerings to the church office or give online at www.fpcknox.org/donate.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

We Sing Your Praise

Johann Michael Haydn

We sing your praise, O Manna from on high, O Bread of life, Redeemer of the world. Holy, Holy, Holy, beyond measure, holy, Love's redeeming work is done in this wondrous Sacrament. O Fount of life and Spring of water clear, O word of God, we give you thanks and praise; Holy, holy, holy, beyond measure holy, Love's redeeming work is done in this wondrous sacrament.

† DOXOLOGY 606

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE
GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (SEE INSERT)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD
POURING AND SHARING OF THE CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Ave Verum

Wolfgang A. Mozart

Translation of Latin text: Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind, from whose pierced side water and blood flowed: Be for us a foretaste of the Heavenly banquet in the trial of death!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We have found you, O God, in the breaking of the Bread and the healing of our own broken hearts. As we have emptied this Cup, refill it with our gifts, so we may offer it to those in need in your name. As we come closer together, may we make room at the Table for all your people. As we have found you here, Holy One, let us now carry your life out into the world. Amen.

† SENDING HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM Rhondda

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Prelude

Johann Helmich Roman

† - *Please stand if you are able.*



The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the seventh birthday of Kaylyn Smith by her parents Daniel and Vanessa Smith.

The flower guild hopes other members or groups within the church will keep in mind that guild members love to create flower arrangements specifically designated in honor or in memory of a special friend or family member.

School Supplies Needed for Dogwood Elementary School Third Grade



School will be starting August 8th! We will be helping the five third grade classes at Dogwood Elementary School again this year. The third grade teachers are compiling a list of the specific needs for that grade level. They will purchase these items and be reimbursed by the church. There are a couple of ways we as church members can help. You can write a check to First Presbyterian noting Dogwood School on the memo line to help with the above purchases. Or, we can supply much needed items for the classroom such as Kleenex, hand sanitizer, Lysol or Clorox wipes, ziplock bags (gallon, sandwich or snack size) and bandaids. Backpacks are always needed also.

Supplies can be placed in the large black box in the Fellowship Hall, from July 17 through Rally Day on August 14. Thank you!

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all creation,
we come before you in deep gratitude,
and adoring praise,
with our hearts lifted high,
and our voices full and joyful –
because these you deserve.

You prepare a table for us
offering not just bread, not just the cup,
but your very self
so that we may be filled, forgiven,
healed, blessed and made new again.

Lord God, as we come to share the richness of your table,
we cannot forget the rawness of the earth.
We cannot take the bread
and forget those who are hungry.
Your world is one world
and we are stewards of its nourishment.

**Lord, put our prosperity
at the service of the poor.**

We cannot take the cup
and forget those who are thirsty.
The ground and the rootless,
the earth and its weary people cry out for justice.

**Lord, put our fullness
at the service of the empty.**

We cannot celebrate the feast of your family
and forget our divisions.
We are one in spirit, but not in fact.
History and hurt still dismember us.

**Lord, heal your church
in every brokenness.**

as we offer you our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we celebrate Jesus, your Son.

**Death could not bind him,
for you raised him up in the Spirit of holiness
and exalted him as Lord of creation.**

Therefore we proclaim our faith
as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.
Amen.**



Join us at 9 am on August 14th for a Delicious Breakfast, our Fall Faith Formation Kickoff, Blessing of the Backpacks and Presentation of bibles to our third graders!

This year's theme "Building On..." acknowledges new beginnings at FPC with a new Senior Pastor and many exciting changes at the church, while building on the strength of all God has done in our community as we celebrate the 230th birthday of First Presbyterian!

We emphasize the following areas of development as we commit to:

- Building on... a Strong Foundation (Understanding our History)**
- Building on... God's Mission in the World (Global / Local Missions)**
- Building on... Developing our Faith Formation (Christian Education)**
- Building on... Growing & Nurturing the Body of Christ (Evangelism & Fellowship)**
- Building on... our Time and Talents (Stewardship Time / Talents)**
- Building on... our Worship and Glorifying God (Worship)**
- Building on... Telling our Story (Communications)**

9 am – Breakfast

9:45 am – Children's and Youth Sunday School Classes meet

11 am – Worship/Blessing of the Backpacks/Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders

12:15 pm – Congregational Meeting

Don't forget that Rally Day is the last day to bring school supplies for the Dogwood Elementary school drive and an excellent opportunity to sign up for the Baker / Taker ministry. See you on August 14th!

Our officers elect for the Class of 2025 are:

Elder

Robyn McAdoo
Bill Eversole
Craig Wrisberg
Sherri Allison
Ken Keith
Susan Seagraves
Harris Eddins (youth)

Deacon

Robin Leitch
Brent Trentham
Raymond McCord
Debbie Christiansen
Bill Myers
Kelly Norrell
Max Pittenger (youth)

We will vote on the officers elect on August 14th. Please note that youth officers serve a one-year term.

HYMNS FOR AUGUST 7

† OPENING HYMN 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!
2. The name of Jesus charms our fears,
And bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinner's ears,
Brings life, and health, and peace.
3. Christ speaks, and listening to his voice
New life the dead receive;
The mournful waken to rejoice;
The poor in heart believe.
4. My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.
5. To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever given
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heaven.

† HYMN OF RESPONSE 694

Great God of Every Blessing

Aurelia

1. Great God of every blessing,
Of faithful, loving care,
You are the fount of goodness,
The daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you?
Our praise is but a start:
Sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.
2. Your Word is our salvation,
The source of endless grace,
In death and life extending
Your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body:
Each member has a part:
Sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.
3. Your Spirit is our teacher,
The light that guides our search,
Transforming broken people
Into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy,
For wisdom you impart.
Sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

† SENDING HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.