

***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** *For the Fruit of All Creation* 36

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Doxology Postlude* Peter Pindar Stearns
**Please stand if you are able.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Our last 2 fall softball games are Sept. 26th at 7pm and Oct. 3rd at 8pm! Join us at Caswell Park near Parkridge neighborhood and Old North Knoxville. Fields are located at 620 Winona St, 37917.

The finance committee is trying to get an early start on formulating the 2024 budget. Please email anyone your committee's budget request to Jane Holland at jane@fpcknox.org.

There will be an open house & silent auction at UT UKirk, the Presbyterian Campus Ministry, on Friday, September 29th from 6:00-8:00 pm. Their house is at 1831 Melrose Ave, Knoxville, TN 37916 and there is some parking available on site and public parking nearby.

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. It is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need. We will be hosting a potluck lunch on Sunday, October 1st, following the service.

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 to 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>	Caleb Davis <i>Crucifer</i>
Jane Holland <i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i>	Micah Davis <i>Bible Bearer</i>

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

<i>Elegy</i> Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Tune: Nettleton	One License # 112569	<i>Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound</i> Tune: Amazing Grace For the Fruit of All Creation Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos	One License # 30684
<i>Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me</i> Tune: Glory to God	One License # VT429		
<i>Come! Live in the Light!</i> Tune: We Are Called	One License # 00174		

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
 Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Elegy* ("Nimrod" from the *Enigma Variations*) Elgar, arr. Wolff

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Whether we are long-timers or latecomers in the life of faith,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,

**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
We praise God's name forever and ever!**

***OPENING HYMN** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* 475

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,
you have given us all that you have promised, and more—
we have been blessed beyond measure.
Yet we have been ungrateful;
we have complained that we have not been treated fairly,
even though you have fulfilled your every promise
and supplied our every need.**

**Forgive us for comparing ourselves with others;
strengthen us by your Spirit
to cherish the gifts you have given us,
to the honor of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...**
(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 Psalm 103:6-13 David Brace

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—
**who forgives all our iniquity, heals all our diseases,
and redeems our life from the Pit.**

God crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

**God satisfies us with good as long as we live
so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

**The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children,

so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

ANTHEM *Bless the Lord* Michail Ippolitoff-Ivanoff
*Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all within me bless His holy Name. Bless the
Lord, O my soul; and forget not all His benefits. He is gracious and plenteous
in mercy. As a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that love
Him, and remember His commandments to do them.*

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 20:1-16

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I

will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

SERMON “Unfare” Rev. Mark. R. Curtis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* 649

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 ANTHEM *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* Edward Bairstow

*The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.
Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow with food celestial feedeth.
In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.
Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.
And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.*