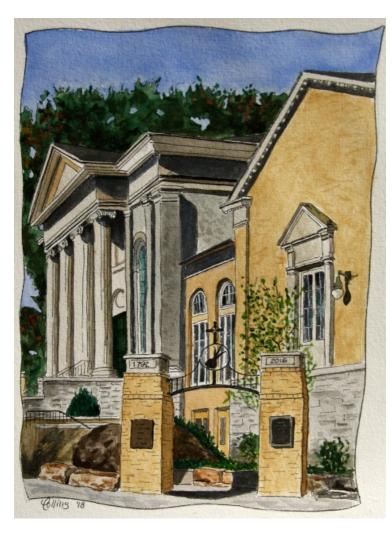


Wednesday Lenten Service

Sponsored by the Downtown Cooperative Ministry

March 23, 2022



First Presby Ferian Church of FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

Founded in 1792

PRELUDE A New Commandment David Blackwell

#### **†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Brothers and sisters, come back from the far country,

from the exile of reckless living, from the fields of dutiful labor.

People: For God longs to welcome and love us!

Leader: God weighs neither the sad detours of our journey

nor our cheerless attempts to earn favor.

People: We who have been lost are found in the embrace of God.

Leader: God awaits our return with extravagant love.

All: Let us worship God!

**†OPENING HYMN** 209 My Song Is Love Unknown (vv. 1-3)

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. In our stubbornness, we have gone our own ways. In our ingratitude, we have failed to remember your grace. In our jealousy, we have resented your mercy to those we deem unworthy. In our shortsightedness, we have neglected your message of reconciliation. We confess our selfishness and our pride which leave us separated from you, from each other, and from ourselves. Forgive us, O God, and enable us to begin again, for we pray in the name of Christ our Savior...

Love Unknown

(a moment for silent confession)

SCRIPTURE Luke 15:11-32

**HOMILY** "Prodigal God"

**PRAYER** 

**†HYMN** 475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Nettleton

# **†BENEDICTION/GRACE FOR THE MEAL**

**POSTLUDE** Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 554 Johann S. Bach

†Please stand in body...or in spirit.

## Leading In Worship

Rev. Mark R. Curtis	Senior Pastor
Rev. Meredith Loftis	Associate Pastor
Mark Pace Orga	nist/Choirmaster

Please join us in our Fellowship Hall for a light lunch. If you face a time constraint (e.g., work lunch hour), you are invited to come to the front of the line.

### Calendar of Events

Wed, March 30 Community Lenten Service, noon

St. John's Cathedral, 413 Cumberland Ave

Wed, April 6 Community Lenten Service, noon

First Baptist Church, 510 West Main Street

Sun, April 10 Palm Sunday, 11 a.m.

**Thurs, April 14** Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service

Dinner begins at 5:30 in the fellowship hall. The service will start at 6:30 and will also be offered by Livestream

**Fri, April 15** Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m.

"Stations of the Cross" service will be held in Market Square (approximately 55 minutes). This ancient service reenacts Good Friday, with a "station" in or near Market Square for the events of Jesus' crucifixion. Participants will also have the opportunity to assist in carrying a large wooden cross, as Jesus did on the first Good Friday. This service brings the Christian family of all denominations together as well as individual families together. All are welcome.

#### Sun, April 4th Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service on the Turnip Patch Deck

Join us in your cozy clothes for a sunrise service as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection! A light breakfast will be offered following the service.

9:30-10:30 a.m. Easter Brunch

Pastries, fruit, and other goodies will be offered.

10:30 a.m. Flowering of the Cross and Prelude

Let us remember Christ's greatest victory over death by flowering the old rugged cross into a beautiful sign of Jesus' gift of redemption for us. Please bring flowers to decorate!

10:45 a.m. Prelude

Musical selections for trumpet, timpani, and organ, featuring guest artists
Phillip Chase Hawkins, trumpet chair for the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra
and Wes Palmer, percussion chair for the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary and by Livestream "He is not here. He is risen!" Join us for a time of worship and celebration as we rejoice that the tomb is empty and Christ is risen!

### Easter Egg Hunt

Get those Easter baskets ready! Join us on the Turnip Patch deck immediately following the 11:00 worship service for an egg hunt through the graveyard!

Children through 5th grade are invited for this fun tradition.

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