



Wednesday Lenten  
Service

Sponsored by the  
Downtown  
Cooperative  
Ministry

March 23, 2022



*First Presbyterian Church*  
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)

Love Unknown

**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...

*(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 . . . . . Organist/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 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited for this fun tradition.*

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

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