



Wednesday
Lenten Service

Sponsored by the
Downtown
Cooperative
Ministry

March 29, 2023



First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE
Founded in 1792

PRELUDE

Herzliebster Jesu

David Blackwell

WELCOME

Rev. Mark R. Curtis

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 63

O God, you are my God,

I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

My flesh faints for you,

as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,

beholding your power and glory.

**Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.**

So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

***OPENING HYMN**

What Wondrous Love Is This

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Close your eyes for a moment as a symbol of refusing or failing to see God...

God, we fail so often to see you in this world. We shut our eyes to the fear and injustices around us, pretending like they do not exist. Open our eyes to see you anew.

Cross your arms across your chest...

We create barriers and put up walls to protect ourselves, failing to recognize our neighbors and walking by those who bear Christ's image. Open our arms so that we might embrace your children.

With hands clenched tight, feel the tension and pain of holding onto sin...

We hold onto sin and chaos so tightly. It is tiring and breaks us. We cannot bear it. We cry out to you, how long must we wait for relief?

Unclench your hands, hold them out as if God is pouring grace into your open palms...

You hear our cries and offer abundant mercy! We are rescued and the tomb of sin and death no longer threatens us.

Inhale God's mercies. Exhale God's mercies to others...

Thanks be to you, our Redeemer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Mark R. Curtis

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 69:1-16

MEDITATION

Rev. Meredith Loftis

SPECIAL MUSIC

Just As I Am
Mark Pace, Harp

Arr. McDonald and Wood

Prayer

Rev. Mark R. Curtis

***CLOSING HYMN**

Ah, Holy Jesus
(Verses 1, 2, 5)

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***BENEDICTION/GRACE FOR THE MEAL**

POSTLUDE

Aberstwyth

Ashley Grote
One License #83287

*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.

www.fpcknox.org
865-546-2531

**Holy Week
Calendar of Events**

Sun, April 2

Palm Sunday, 11 a.m.

Thurs, April 6

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service
Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The service will start at 6:30 p.m.

Fri, April 7

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 9

Easter Sunday

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

8 - 10:30 a.m. Light Refreshments Served

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Flowering of the Cross

10:45 a.m. Prelude
Musical selections for trumpet, timpani, and organ, featuring guest artists

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!

The Easter Egg Hunt is immediately following the 11 a.m. service.