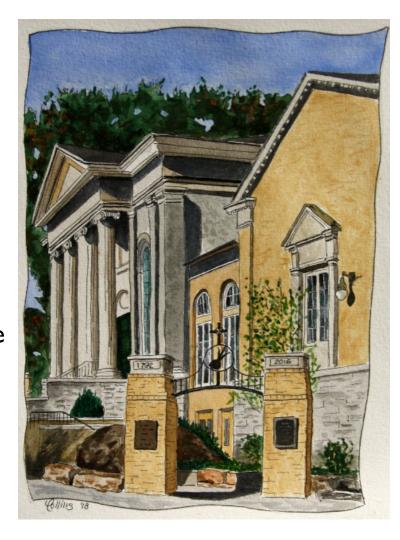


Wednesday Lenten Service

Sponsored by the Downtown Cooperative Ministry

March 29, 2023



First Presby ferian Church of 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 PARDONRev. Mark R. Curtis

SCRIPTURE Psalm 69:1-16

MEDITATION Rev. Meredith Loftis

SPECIAL MUSIC Just As I Am Arr. McDonald and Wood

Mark Pace, Harp

Prayer Rev. Mark R. Curtis

*CLOSING HYMN Ah, Holy Jesus 218

(Verses I, 2, 5)

*BENEDICTION/GRACE FOR THE MEAL

POSTLUDE Aberstwyth Ashley Grote
One License #83287

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.

<u>www.fpcknox.org</u> 865-546-2531

Holy Week Calendar of Events

Sun, April 2 Palm Sunday, I I 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

II: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.

^{*}Please stand in body...or in spirit.