

First Presbyterian Church

Established 1988 PCA

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Who is First Presbyterian Church?

We belong to the family of the Redeemed.
Transformed by the grace of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection,
we are delighting in the supremacy of God in all things
as we reach up to Him in worship,
reach in to one another with biblical teaching and shepherding care,
and reach out to the world with Christ.

*So that in everything He might be preeminent.
Colossians 1:18*

Order of Worship

*Please stand if you are able.

Bold text indicates congregational response.

Welcome and Announcements

The Season of Advent

Preparation for Worship

A Priestly Sacrifice

There is another reason why it was necessary for him who was to be our Redeemer to be true God and true man. It was his task to swallow up death. Who could do that but life itself? It was his task to conquer sin. Who could do that but righteousness? It was his task to overcome the power of the air, that is, the demons. Who could do that but a power greater than world or air? In whom, then, do life, righteousness and the power of heaven reside, but in God alone? Therefore, the Lord, in his great kindness, became our Redeemer when he chose to ransom us.

John Calvin

*Call to Worship

Psalm 98

AZMON C.M.

¹ O sing a new song to the LORD for wonders he has done,
His right hand and his holy arm the victory have won.

² The great salvation wrought by him, Jehovah has made known.
His justice in the nations' sight the LORD has clearly shown.

³ He mindful of his grace and truth to Isr'el's house has been.
The great salvation of our God all ends of earth have seen.

⁴ O all the earth, sing to the LORD and make a joyful sound.
Lift up your voice aloud to him; sing psalms! Let joy resound!

⁵ With harp make music to the LORD; with harp, a psalm O sing!

⁶ With horn and trumpet raise a shout before the LORD, the King.

⁷ Let seas in all their vastness roar, the world its living horde.

⁸ Let rivers clap, let mountains sing their joy before the LORD!

⁹ Because he comes, he surely comes the judge of earth to be!
With justice he will judge the world, all men with equity.

*Prayer of Adoration

Prophecy Made

Isaiah 53

Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Song of Rejoicing

Fullness of Grace

p.8

Fullness of grace in man's human frailty: this is the wonder of Jesus.
Laying aside his power and glory, humbly he entered our world.
Chose the path of meanest worth, scandal of a virgin birth.
Born in a stable, cold and rejected, here lies the hope of the world.

Fullness of grace, the love of the Father, shown in the face of Jesus.
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity, walking the Calvary road.
Christ the holy innocent took our sin and punishment.
Fullness of God, despised and rejected, crushed for the sins of the world.

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for, promise of God in Jesus.
Through his obedience we are forgiven, op'ning the floodgates of heav'n.
All our hopes and dreams we bring gladly as an offering.
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable: God's gift in love to the world.

Q. 25. How does Christ execute the office of a priest?

Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Gracious God of all time,

We confess that *waiting is not easy*.

From our childhood to adulthood, we all have opportunities to learn to wait.

We wait for many good things here on earth, but

I often wait impatiently.

We wait for many good things here on earth, but

I often demand that everything be done according to my will.

We wait for many good things here on earth, but

I fail to see how waiting is teaching me to long for the return of Jesus.

Forgive *my impatience*,

Forgive *my demanding ways*,

Forgive *my failure to long for the return of Jesus*.

By the resurrection power of your Holy Spirit, grant us grace for

waiting patiently, waiting according to your will,

and like Simeon and Anna, *longing more for being fully with Jesus,*

face to face.

*Assurance of Pardon

Hebrews 9:11-15

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

To all who have received the Gospel,
know that in Christ your sins are forgiven and be at peace.

Oh, the mercy our God has shown to those who sit in death's shadow!
The sun on high pierced the night! Born was the Cornerstone.
Unto us a Son is given; unto us a Child is born.

He who is mighty has done a great thing, taken on flesh, conquered death's sting,
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame! Holy is his name! Holy is his name!

Oh, the freedom our Savior won! The yoke of sin has been broken!
Once a slave, now by grace, no more condemnation.
Unto us a Son is given; unto us a Child is born. (Chorus)

Now my soul magnifies the Lord!
I rejoice in the God who saves!
I will trust his unfailing love!
I will sing his praises all my days! (Repeat, then Chorus)

Sermon

Nature of Redemption
Language of the Altar
Hebrews 8-10; Romans 3:21-26; 1 John 4:9-10

Pastor Andy Aikens

*Hymn of Expectation

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

p.10

The King shall come when morning dawns, and light triumphant breaks;
When beauty gilds the eastern hills, and life to joy awakes.
Not as of old a little child to bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

O brighter than that glorious morn shall this fair morning be,
When Christ, our King, in beauty comes, and we his face shall see.
And let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,
When right shall triumph over wrong and truth shall be extolled.

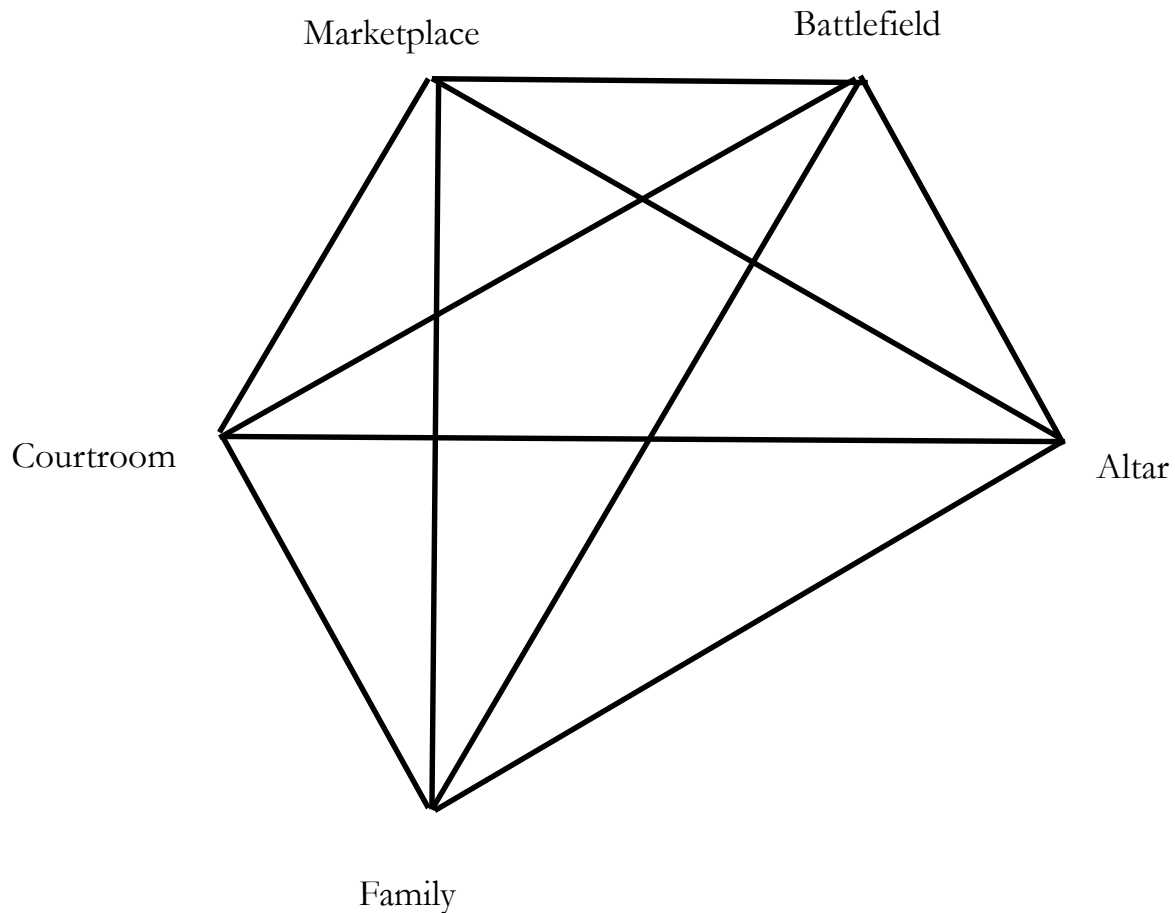
The King shall come when morning dawns, and light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray, come quickly King of kings.

*Benediction

I Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit
and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

New Testament Vocabulary for the Work of Christ



Language of the Marketplace (Redemption; Ransom; Purchase)
Romans 3:24; Mt. 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Language of the Battlefield (Victory; Deliverance)
Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:10, 14-15; Matthew 6:13

Language of the Altar (Sacrifice; Propitiation)
Hebrews 8-10; Romans 3:21-26; 1 John 4:9-10

Language of the Family (Reconciliation)
Language of the Courtroom (Justification)

Fullness of Grace

1. Full-ness of grace in man's hu-man frail - ty:
2. Full-ness of grace, the love of the Fa - ther,
3. Full-ness of hope in Christ we had longed for,

3 this is the wonder of Je - sus. Lay - ing a - side His
shown in the face of Je - sus. Stoop - ing to bear the
6 pro - mise of God in Je - sus. Through His o - be - dience
pow - er and glo - ry, hum - bly He en - tered our world.
weight of hu - ma - ni - ty, walk - ing the Cal - va - ry road.
9 we are for - gi - ven, o - p'ning the flood - gates of Heav'n.
Chose the path of mean - est worth, scan - dal of a
Christ the ho - ly in - no - cent took our sin and
12 All our hopes and dreams we bring glad - ly as an
vir - gin birth. Born in a sta - ble, cold and re - ject - ed,
pun - ish - ment. Full - ness of God, de - spised and re - ject - ed,
15 of - fer - ing. Full - ness of life and joy un - speak - a - ble:
here lies the hope of the world.
crushed for the sins of the world.
God's give in love to the world.

By Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend © 2004 Thankyou Music

He Who is Mighty

Word and Music by Rebecca Elliott & Kate DeGraide

1. Oh, the mer - cy our God has shown to
2. Oh, the free - dom our sa - vior won the

those who sit in death's sha - dow. The sun on high
yoke of sin has been bro - ken. Once a slave,
pierced the night born was the cor - ner - stone.
now by grace no more con - dem - na - tion.

Un-to us a Son is giv-en, Un-to us a Child is born.
He who is might-y has done a great thing, Tak-en on flesh,
con-quer-ed death's sting, Shat-tered the dark - ness and
lift-ed our shame, Ho - ly is His name. Ho - ly is His name.

name. Now my soul mag - ni - fies the Lord I re -
joice in the God Who saves. I will
trust His un - fail - ing love. I will
sing His prais - es all my days. My all my days.

1. 2. D.S. al Coda

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The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Ancient Greek Hymn,
Tr. John Brownlie, 1907

Gregory Wilbur, 2009

1. The King shall come when morn - ing_ dawns, and
2. O bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall
3
light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
this fair morn - ing be, when Christ, our King, in
6
east - ern_ hills, and life to joy a - wakes. Not
beau - ty_ comes, and we His face shall see. And
9
3. The
as of old a lit - tle_ child to
let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
11 King shall come when morn - ing_ dawns, and
bear and fight and die, But crowned with glo - ry
wea - ry saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
14 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy
like the_ sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
o - ver_ wrong and truth shall be_ ex - tolled.
peo - ple_ pray, come quick - ly King of kings.

News and Announcements

We will be gathering for worship on **Christmas Eve** at 6 p.m. We hope you make plans to join us.

The church office will be closed from Wednesday, **December 25**, through Wednesday, **January 1**. Normal hours will resume on Thursday, **January 2**.

A book study of *The Envy of Eve: Finding Contentment in a Covetous World* by Melissa Kruger begins on Thursday, **January 16**, from 6 to 7 p.m. For more information see Holly Kisly.

First Catechism (for children of all ages)

Weeks 1-5 God

Weeks 6-12 Creation

Weeks 13-19 Fall/Sin

Weeks 20-28 Salvation by grace alone, through Christ alone

Weeks 29-30 Repentance and Faith

Weeks 31-48 Growing in Grace

Weeks 49-52 Heaven now and in the future

Week 15, December 8

What is sin?

Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.

Week 16, December 15

What is meant by lack of conformity?

Not being or doing what God requires.

What is meant by transgression?

Doing what God forbids.

Schedule

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday Morning Worship Service | 10:45 a.m. |
| Sunday Morning Bible Study (all ages) | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Evening Study | 6:00 p.m. On Break for Winter Months |
| Women's Monday Theology Study | 2:00 p.m. |
| Men's Thursday Bible Study | 9:00 a.m. |
| Octogenarian/Nonagenarian (ON) Lunch | Monthly |
| Women's Tuesday Bible Study | 9:30 a.m. On Break |

Giving

General Fund

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| 2024 week 12/8 | \$ 6,487 |
| Giving YTD | \$ 572,958 |
| YTD Budget | \$ 339,277 |

Deacon's Fund

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 2024 YTD Giving | \$ 9,399 |
| 2023 Rollover | \$ 4,841 |
| 2024 Disbursements | \$ 6,616 |

Our Missionary Family

International

Lydia Goeglein, MTW Sofia Bulgaria
Brian & Becky Schrader, Pioneers in Africa
Lee Leadbetter, RUF International at UT
Julian & Rachel Bacon, MTW Brussels

Local

Christ Church Presbyterian in Powell
Plateau Pregnancy Services
Good Samaritans, 10th Street
RUF Tennessee Tech, Ryan Angel
Rural Church Development, Corey Pelton

Session

Andy Aikens TE, Senior Pastor
Robert Berman, RE '27
Bobby Duck RE '25
Jim Sparks RE '26
Forrest Marion RE, Clerk, '26

Deacons

Dave Miser, Chair '25
Greg Wood '24
Vince Grilley '26
John Reed '26

Staff

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Assistant Pastor | Dick Gillen TE |
| Music Director | Matt Bundy |
| Finance/Admin | Holly Kisly |

Security Team

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Today | Orville Ennis |
| Next Week | Richard Parks |

Ministry Support

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Treasurer | Bill Allbright |
| Newsletter | Darlene Gendjar |
| Technology Specialists | Matt Bundy, Jeff Nichols, Tom Buettner, Levi Powell, |
| Accompanists | Matt Bundy, Robert Berman, Scott Hewitt, Isabelle Aikens |
| Sanctuary Flowers | Sherry Hewitt |

Greeters

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Today | Holly Kisly |
| Next Week | David & Karen Phillips |

Nursery

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Today | Lynn Miser Amber Pacana Lorelei Pacana |
| Next week | Hope Aikens April Marion Brianna Sears |