

First Presbyterian Church

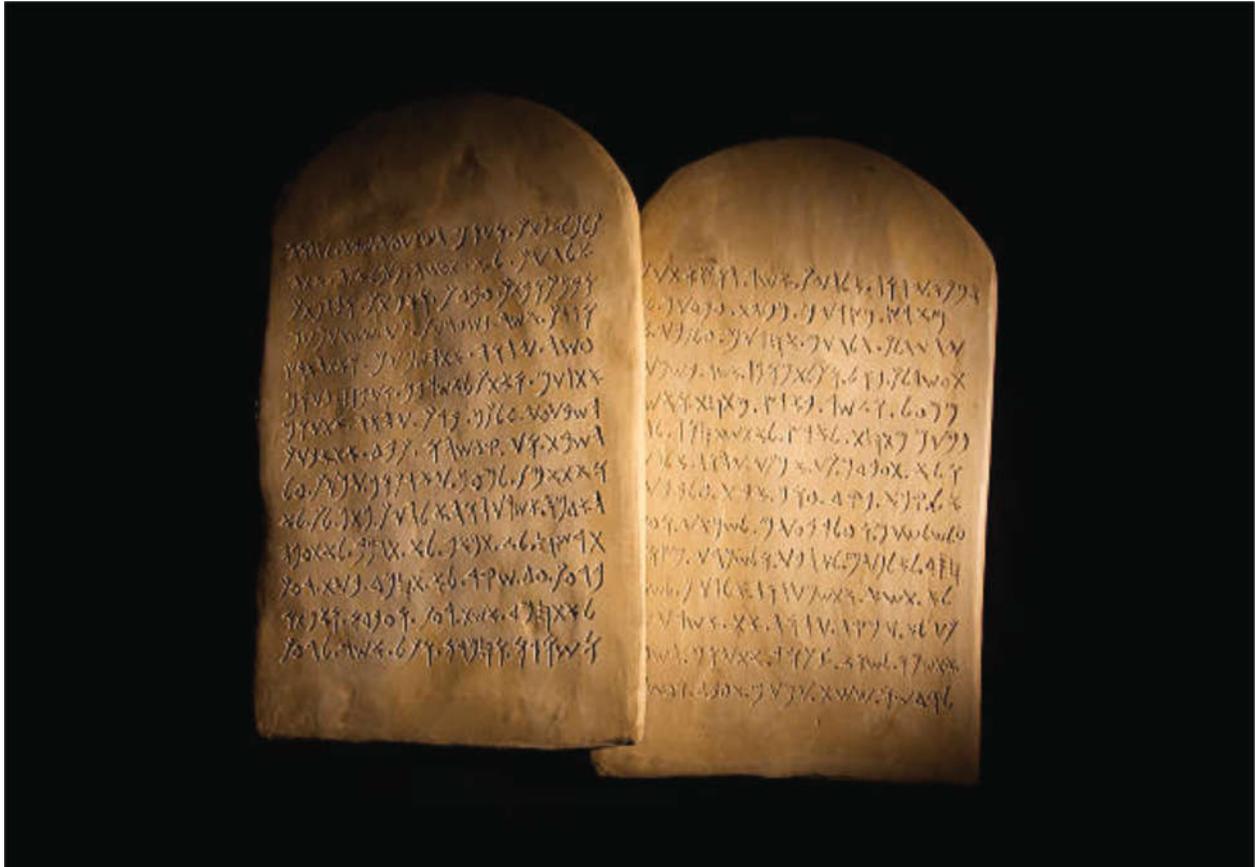
Established 1988 PCA

March 8, 2026

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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

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here today to worship the Triune God with us. Our prayer is that we will delight to:

Glorify God in all things,
Trust him for all things,
Proclaim him as King over all things,
So that we might love God and others through all things.

Our worship begins with God calling us into worship from his Word; we respond in adoration and praise.

We then hear our God speak to us in his Word, profess our faith in him, confess our sins to him, and hear his assurance of our pardon by the work of Christ.

This leads to a response of rejoicing as we prepare to hear the Word of God preached. Our church practices expository preaching. This means that the Bible determines the content of the messages. The messages “come out of” the text. Ordinarily, we preach through books of the Bible; currently, we are working our way through Exodus.

In the book of Exodus we see the invisible hand of God leading God’s people out of their sin and slavery into the promised land where they can worship him according to the instructions he gives. We are always looking for how these stories and instructions point us to Christ and the gospel empowered way to live.

Our Elders have been praying for you. May you encounter God today through his Word and by the presence of his Spirit.

Warmly,
Pastor Andy

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Psalm 121:1-2

Where does our help come from?
Our help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Preparation for Worship

O God, you are life, wisdom, truth, bounty, and blessedness, the eternal, the only true good; our God and our Lord, you are our hope and our heart's joy - we acknowledge with thanksgiving that you have made us in your image, and that we may direct our thoughts to you. Lord, make us know you aright, that we may love, enjoy, and possess you more and more through Jesus Christ.

-Anselm

Call to Worship

Psalm 99

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

² The LORD is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

³ Let them praise your great and awesome name!

Holy is he!

⁴ The King in his might loves justice.

You have established equity;

you have executed justice

and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵ Exalt the LORD our God;

worship at his footstool!

Holy is he!

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel also was among those who called upon his name.

They called to the LORD, and he answered them.

⁷ In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them;

they kept his testimonies

and the statute that he gave them.

⁸ O LORD our God, you answered them;

you were a forgiving God to them,

but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹ Exalt the LORD our God,

and worship at his holy mountain;

for the LORD our God is holy!

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn of Praise — Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light, nor
3. To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small; in
4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, thine
light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, most
want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; thy
all life thou liv - est, the true life of all; we
an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight, all
bless - ed most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, al -
ju - stice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove thy
blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree, and
praise we would ren - der; O help us to see 'tis
- might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
wi - ther and pe - rish but naught chang - eth thee.
on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Hymn of Praise — Praise Him, Praise Him

1. Praise him! Praise him! Je - sus, our bless - ed Re - deem - er!
2. Praise him! Praise him! Je - sus, our bless - ed Re - deem - er!
3. Praise him! Praise him! Je - sus, our bless - ed Re - deem - er!

Sing, O earth, his won - der - ful love pro - claim!
For our sins he suf - fered and bled and died;
Heav'n - ly por - tals loud with ho - san - nas ring!

Hail him! Hail him! high - est arch - an - gels in glo - ry;
he our Rock, our hope of e - ter - nal sal - va - tion,
Je - sus, Sav - ior, reign - eth for - e - ver and e - ver;

strength and hon - or give to his ho - ly name!
hail him, hail him, Je - sus the Cru - ci - fied.
crown him! crown him, Pro - phet and Priest and King!

Like a shep - herd, Je - sus will guard his chil - dren,
Sound his prai - ses! Je - sus who bore our sor - rows,
Christ is com - ing o - ver the world vic - to - rious,

in his arms he car - ries them all day long:
love un - bound - ed won - der - ful, deep, and strong:
pow'r and glo - ry un - to the Lord be - long;

Praise him! Praise him! Tell of his ex - cel - lent great - ness;

Praise him! Praise him! e - ver in joy - ful song!

Scripture Reading — Selected Texts

2 Timothy 2:1-2

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Titus 1:5

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you.

I Timothy 3:1-7

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Acts 6:1-6

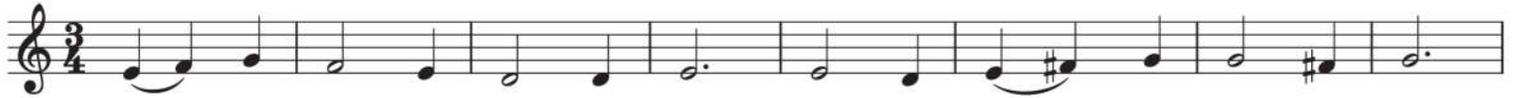
Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

Profession of Faith — Westminster Form of Church Government

Of the Officers of the Church

As there were in the Jewish church elders of the people joined with the priests and Levites in the government of the church; so Christ, who has instituted government, and governors ecclesiastical in the church, has furnished some in his church, beside the ministers of the word, with gifts for government, and with commission to execute the same when called thereunto, who are to join with the minister in the government of the church. Which officers reformed churches commonly called Elders.

Song of Confession — Hear My Words (Psalm 5)



1. Hear my words, O gra - cious Lord; to my thoughts, at - ten - tive be.
2. With the morn - ing light, O Lord, thou shalt hear my voice a - rise,
3. Thou art ho - ly, O my God; thou de - light - est not in sin.
4. In the full - ness of thy grace, to thy house I will re - pair;



Hear my cry, my King, my God; I will make my prayer to thee.
and ex - pec - tant I will bring pray - er as morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
E - vil shall not dwell with thee, nor the proud thy fa - vor win.
bow - ing toward thy ho - ly place, lost in love I wor - ship there.

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, we confess that often we have failed
to be an obedient church:
we have not done your will;

**we have broken your law;
we have rebelled against your love;
we have not loved our neighbors;
we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

Forgive us, we pray.

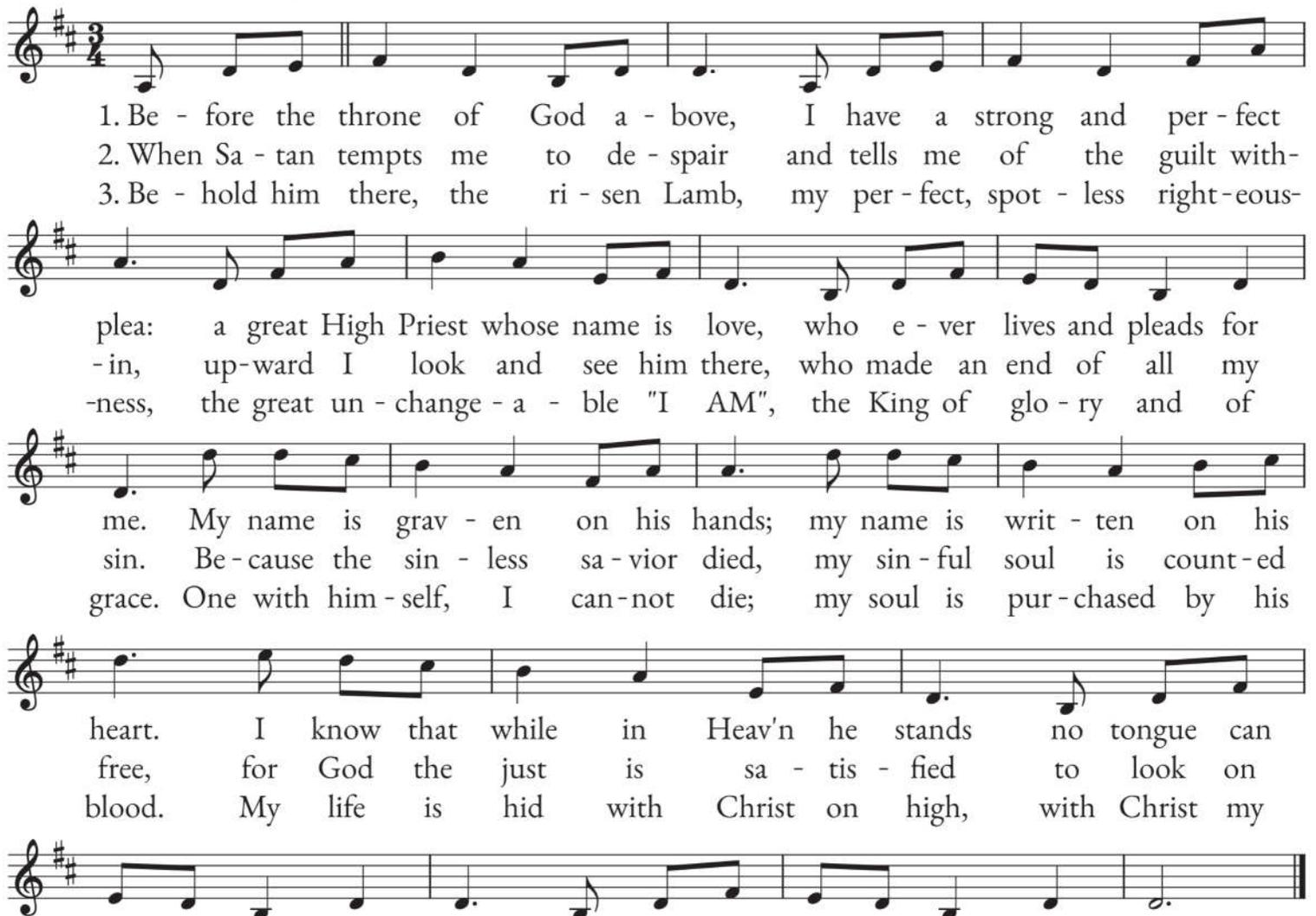
**Free us for joyful obedience.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Assurance of Pardon — Hebrews 9:11-14

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.

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

Hymn of Rejoicing — Before the Throne of God Above



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove, I have a strong and per - fect
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me of the guilt with-
3. Be - hold him there, the ri - sen Lamb, my per - fect, spot - less right-eous-

plea: a great High Priest whose name is love, who e - ver lives and pleads for
-in, up-ward I look and see him there, who made an end of all my
-ness, the great un - change - a - ble "I AM", the King of glo - ry and of

me. My name is grav - en on his hands; my name is writ - ten on his
sin. Be - cause the sin - less sa - vior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
grace. One with him - self, I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his

heart. I know that while in Heav'n he stands no tongue can
free, for God the just is sa - tis - fied to look on
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my

bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
Sa - vior and my God, with Christ my Sa - vior and my God.

Sermon

Jesus Orders His Church
Exodus 18

Pastor Andy Aikens

Sermon Notes:

Song of Response — How Firm a Foundation

1. How_ firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord, is___
 2. "Fear_ not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed; for___
 4. "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie, my___
 6. "The_ soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose, I___

laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What
 I am your God, and will still give you aid; I'll
 grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply; the
 will not, I will not de - sert to his foes; that

more can he say than to you he has said, to___
 strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand, up -
 flame shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign your___
 soul, though all hell should en - dea - vor to shake, I'll___

you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 -held by my righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
 ne - ver, no ne - ver, no ne - ver for - sake."

Benediction – Based on 2 Peter 3:17-18

You therefore, beloved,
 take care that you are not carried away
 with the error of lawless people
 and lose your own stability.
 But grow in the grace and knowledge
 of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.
 Amen.

News and Announcements

Join us for the Fine Arts School of Music Concert in the library at noon on Wednesday, March 25.

The women's Tuesday morning Bible study of *Esther: The Hidden Hand of God* by Lydia Brownback is March 17 – June 2, 9:30 - 11 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. A sign up sheet and books are in the hallway. The cost is \$10.

The First Fellowship Dinner of 2026 will be on March 22. The church is providing ham, bread, and beverages. There are sign up sheets in the hallway for salads, vegetables, macaroni & cheese, potatoes, and desserts.

First Catechism

What is the gospel and its reward?

God, the righteous Creator, rescues sinful people from separation to himself through Jesus' sinless life, death, and resurrection. Repenting of our sins and believing in Jesus' work unites us to Jesus and transforms us to grow in ways pleasing to God. The eternal presence of God is our reward!

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 27 - March 8

What does God the Father guarantee in the covenant of grace?
To justify and sanctify all those for whom Christ died.

Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship Service	10:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m. On Break
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. Begins March 17

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

North America & Local

Plateau Pregnancy Services
Good Samaritans, 10th Street
RUF Tennessee Tech, Ryan Angel
Rural Church Development, Corey Pelton
Myers Park Initiative, Greg Salazar
Mercy Presbyterian, Rob Herron
Occom Ministries, Native American Initiative

Session

Andy Aikens TE, Senior Pastor
Robert Berman, RE '27
Eric Larson, RE '28
Jim Sparks RE '26
Richard Parks RE '27
Forrest Marion RE, Clerk, '26

Deacons

Dave Miser, Chair '28
John Reed '26
Mike Tuuk '27
Greg Wood '28

Staff

Music/Sound Director	Matt Bundy
School of Music Director	April Stewart
Finance/Admin	Holly Kisly

Security Team

Today	Michael McCrabb
Next Week	Gary Thompson & John Reed

Ministry Support

Treasurer	Bill Allbright
Newsletter	Darlene Gendjar
Library	Kathy Pipkin
Children's Ministry	Hope Aikens

Greeters

Today	Orville & Audrey Ennis
Next Week	Greg & Lory Wood

Nursery

Today	Annalise Aikens Reba Norris
Next Week	Piper Larson Nancy Tuuk