

Morning Worship Service

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 2021

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

"To worship God is to humble everything about ourselves and exalt everything about him." (author unknown)

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Procession of Joy

Hal Hopson

ENTRY INTO WORSHIP

Leader: We might be tired or distracted,

People: but we have come to worship.

Leader: We might be stressed and overwhelmed with the past week or the week to come,

People: but we have come to worship.

Leader: We might have doubts, we might have fears, we might have anxieties,

People: but we have come to worship.

Leader: O God, remove all that gets in our way,

People: so that we may really worship.

PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Holy God, as the Psalmist says, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" And yet no matter how far away we try to run, you promise to never leave us. Thank you. No matter how much of a mess we make of our lives, you promise to forgive us. Thank you. No matter how many times and how long we stay away, you promise to welcome us back with open arms. Thank you. Thank you, God, for being a constant in our broken world.

God, may our worship this morning be real. May we focus completely on you. May it point us all week long to the one who taught us to pray saying,

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 361

How Firm a Foundation

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

(from Psalm 32:5)

Leader: As David said in the Psalms,

"Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.'

And you forgave the guilt of my sin."

Let us confess our sins to God...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God, give us courage to come before you with nothing hidden, knowing that we can hide nothing from you anyway. For the hurtful words that we have said to others, forgive us. For the hurtful words we have thought of ourselves, forgive us. For the ways we have overlooked those you have set in our path, forgive us. For the ways we have acted directly against you, forgive us.

We trust our own way, our own strength, and our own wisdom, Holy God, and it leads us farther and farther away from you. Help us to turn, putting our trust in your way, your strength and your wisdom. (Pause for reflection and meditation) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: As messy as we can make our lives, remember the words of Isaiah, “though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they be like crimson, they shall become like wool.” As messy as it gets, it is never too messy for God to completely heal. We are forgiven!

People: Amen! Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE – No. 579

“Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

COMMISSIONING OF THE 2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS

ANTHEM

This is My Father's World

Diane Bish

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Psalm 108](#)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Steadfast

Melissa McDuffie

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Prayer of St. Francis)

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was

crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 388

O Jesus, I Have Promised

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Preludium in C Major

Felix Mendelssohn

*Congregation standing as able.

- Before the service, speak to God.
- During the service, let God speak to you.
- After the service, speak to one another.

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on [YouTube](#)
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on [YouTube](#)
5:30 P.M. Youth

MONDAY, AUGUST 30

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

6:00 P.M. Faithbuilders & Youth
6:15 P.M. Adult Program, Dr. Jimmy Hardin, Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

7:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Holiday Inn
7:45 A.M. St. Luke Food Pantry Shift 1 volunteers
9:45 A.M. St. Luke Food Pantry Shift 2 volunteers

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9:00 A.M. Helping Hands Food Pantry volunteers

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Are you looking for a church home? If so, please speak to our minister following worship.

As a courtesy to those around you, kindly turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

The Flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in honor of Mary Elizabeth Williams and in memory of Dr. Fayette Williams, Jr. for the occasion of their fifty-third wedding anniversary on September 3, by Dr. and Mrs. Fayette Williams, III, Creed, and Hunter Williams.

Please remember to dedicate your offering this morning. The offering plates are located in the Narthex. Contributions may also be mailed to: FPC, P.O. Box 1725, Tupelo, MS 38802.

Nursery care is available for newborns through 4-year-olds. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery if you are visiting for the first time.

After the children's sermon, pre-kindergarteners through second graders are invited to attend "**Wee Kirk**" with Heather Crotwell. This is a time of age appropriate lessons, songs, and games intended to prepare our children to fully participate in worship. However, all children are welcome in worship! If you excuse yourself and your child, you can hear the service over speakers in McFadden Hall (directly behind the Sanctuary).

Both the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. services are live streamed and available for viewing on YouTube.com by those unable to be with us this morning. Search *firstprestupelo*. We also invite you to visit our website at www.firstprestupelo.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join our team to assist at Helping Hands Food Pantry next Saturday, September 4, from 9:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. The team will help stock shelves and bag groceries for neighbors in need. We do this every four weeks. Children are welcome. Helping Hands Food Pantry is located at 314 S. Church Street, Tupelo, MS and is an extension of First United Methodist Church of Tupelo. For more information, contact Rick Jones at rickjones2525@gmail.com or 662-213-1520.

This year's Confirmands are Andrew Goad, Lucy Gratz, Joey McDuffie, Aryanna Phyfer, Emma Claire Wallace, and Loren Zimmerman.

September is here, and Wednesday night programming begins a new season. Please make your plans to participate with church friends and visitors on Wednesday, September 3, with activities and programs beginning at 6:00 P.M. for Faithbuilders and Youth. Programs for adults begin at 6:15 P.M. All programs conclude at 7:00 p.m. There will be no supper this week.

Dr. Jimmy Hardin, Director of the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University, will be with adults this week to discuss recent archaeological finds in the Holy Land.

For more information, please read the Faithbuilders schedule for September through December posted on church bulletin boards and in Sunday bulletins and weekly online newsletters.

The Presbyterian Women Event scheduled for today was cancelled due to the increase in Covid-19 numbers. We hope to reschedule it when case numbers go down.

St. Luke UMC Food Pantry is a food bank that serves families each Thursday from 8:00 A.M. until noon, 50 weeks a year. On the first Thursday of each month, they are particularly busy, meeting the needs of 400-450 families. They have asked for volunteers on **Thursday, September 2**, to assist in food distribution. There are two time slots—7:45 A.M.-10:00 A.M. and 9:45 A.M.-12:00 P.M. If you are interested or need more information about this local mission opportunity, please call or text Sally Kate Collins at (662) 871-3761.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatments: Aimee McDonald Burrow, Julie Seiler, Mike Thomas

Homebound: Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Jack Price, Joe Sheffield

College Students: Henry Seiler, Ivy Wells, Lucy Wells

Please continue to pray for Lori Cockrell, who is still missing. She is the sister of Butch Cockrell and Mitzi Moore. Please keep these families in your prayers.

The Session

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Moderator

Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

Class of 2022

Steve Bryson

Anne Marie Littrell

Pete McMurry

Mary Pace

Buddy Stubbs

Virginia Tolivar

David Williams

Class of 2023

Kirk Biddle

Susan Boone

Amy Fagan

Mitzi Moore

Aubrey Patterson, Jr.

Grayson Robbins

Debra Robison

Class of 2024

Kim Burleson

Cindy Faucette

Leslie Geoghegan

Michael Gratz, Jr.

Chauncey Godwin

Alice Rogers

Mike Thomas

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education

Heather Crotwell, Children's Church Director

Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

Seth Shelnut, Audio/Visual Technician

Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Nannette Comer, Church Librarian

Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian

Helen Curtis, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent

Joyce Richardson, Housekeeper

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

COMMISSIONING OF CONFIRMANDS

Hear the promise of God! “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” *(John 3:16)*

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.” *(Psalm 23:1)*

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

“But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.” *(Matthew 6:33)*

He was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any one should boast.” *(Ephesians 2:8-9)*

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell.

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” *(Psalm 27:1)*

The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” *(John 14:27)*

From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

“I am the light of the world. Those who follow Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the gift of life.” *(John 8:12)*

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Christian Church,

“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act.” *(Psalm 37:5)*

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes.” *(Romans 1:16a)*

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**All: All of these are God's promises, and all of these are ours!
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

September 1

Jimmy Hardin & Archaeology Update

September 8

The one & only Jim Curtis

September 15

The one & only Olin McBride

September 22

The one & only Olin McBride

September 29

Rise Against Hunger

FELLOWSHIP HALL

6:15 P.M.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS

FAITHBUILDERS AT FPC RESUMES

6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1!

Ages 2 through Kindergarten

Cherub Choir and Activities

Teachers for music and activities are Leslie Geoghegan, Beth Anne Ellzey, and Kathy Wallace.

Grades 1-5

Faithbuilders

Music teachers are Danielle Ratliff and Brittany Rogers.
Activities teachers are Heather Crotwell and Corey Littrell.



Christmas in July!

Start thinking about Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes today! Now is a good time to purchase school supplies for shoeboxes. Ideas include chalkboards, chalk, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, scissors, backpacks, small zippered bags, glue sticks, etc. **NO liquids, lotions, or candy!** How about filling a box at home and bringing extra supplies to the church to add to boxes that are filled at the church? There is a box just outside the Library for your donated supplies. For more information, contact Cindy Faucette at cfaucette@bellsouth.net or Jean Magee at jeanmagee@comcast.net.