

# Morning Worship Service

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

*The purpose of this sermon will be to emphasize the importance of love in the life of faithful discipleship.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J. S. Bach

INTROIT *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* arr. Ovid Young

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 117

Leader: Praise the Lord, all you nations!

**People: Extol him, all you peoples!**

Leader: For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**People: and the faithfulness of the Lord endures.**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: Let us worship God with our hearts, our hands, and our voices.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 376 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Gracious and merciful God, You are the author and Giver of all life. It is from You that all life begins and to You that all life returns. We are grateful for this most precious of gifts. Open our hearts, our minds, and our souls so that during our time upon this earth we may walk with You along Your paths of righteousness and peace. Make us sensitive to the movement of Your Holy Spirit so that the life we live today may be the abundant life You promise in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whose name we offer the prayer he taught his disciples to pray...

**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.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: As Scripture reminds us, God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever should believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. Friends, let us confess and repent of our sins and be redeemed by the power of God's cleansing love. Let us join together in praying the prayer of confession provided in this morning's bulletin.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of love, You call us to love one another, just as Jesus loved us. You ordain us to be one with each other, even as the Father and the Son are one. Yet we fight with and are at enmity with our sisters and brothers; our divisions defame Your good name. Forgive us in Your great mercy. Baptize us anew with Your Spirit of love, with grace to accept those whom You accept, to love those whom You love, to forgive one another**

**as You have forgiven us, and to live and work in united witness; through our Risen Lord, Christ Jesus. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Listen to the comforting assurance of the grace of God, promised in the Gospel to all who repent and believe: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In the name of Jesus the Christ, your sins have been forgiven. Amen.

\*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.*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

ANTHEM

*The Gift of Love*

Hal H. Hopson

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[John 13:31-35](#)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“What’s Love Got to Do with It?”

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH (Unison)

The Reign of God

**The Church in its worship and service is a living sign of the reign of God, which is both a present reality and a future promise. The Church’s activities do not bring about God’s realm; they are our grateful response to the grace of God at work in the world. We seek to worship and serve God faithfully, with the confidence that God’s reign has already been established and the hope that it will soon be revealed in fullness and glory.**

**We do all of this in the name of Jesus, looking for the day when “every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”** (Philippians 2:10-11). *Book of Order, Worship and the Reign of God, W-5.0401*

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION 335

*Though I May Speak*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Aria*

George F. Handel

\*DOXOLOGY No. 592

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Send Your Holy Spirit upon this offering, Lord: surround it, touch it, use it, and multiply it, so that a thousand tongues may newly proclaim that Jesus is Lord. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN

*They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* (see insert)

\*BENEDICTION

\*Congregation standing as able

### 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.

**Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.** You may also view the digital version of the bulletin by visiting our website at [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org). See the bulletin link at the top of the homepage.

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

**After the 11:00 Children's Sermon,** preschoolers and kindergarteners are invited to attend "**Wee Kirk.**" This is a time of fun childcare with age appropriate songs and games. 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).

**The Flowers** are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in honor of Lexye Devita and Tyler Hathcock's marriage at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 14.

**Ritual of Friendship**—Members and Visitors: Please sign the black attendance register every Sunday and pass it down your pew. Please read the names, greet one another, and meet new members and visitors.

**We care about you** as we care about each other. If you would like to submit a prayer request, you may use the blue cards in the pews or in McFadden Hall, and our pastoral staff and prayer partners will pray for you.

**Leading the worship service today:** Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

**Liturgist:** 9:00-Melissa McDuffie; 11:00-Lisa Nichols

**Greeters:** 9:00-Leslie Geoghegan, Kathy & Pete McMurry, Lisa Nichols  
11:00-Gay Abney, Abbey & Leslie Hastings, Theresa White

**The service is live streamed** and available for viewing on [YouTube.com](https://www.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](http://www.firstprestupelo.org).

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**It's time to sign up for VBS 2022!** Wednesday, June 1 through Friday, June 3, 9:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M. Ages 3 year old - 5th grade invited! Registration deadline for church members and our regular visitors is May 21. See today's insert for signup information or call the church office, 662-842-5681.

**Summer is just around the corner** and your Christian Education Committee would like to give our Cherub (preschool aged) and Faithbuilder (elementary aged) Sunday School teachers some well-deserved time off. If you would like to volunteer to cover any of the Sundays in the upcoming summer months, please contact Melissa at 662-871-2046 or [mcduffiemel18@gmail.com](mailto:mcduffiemel18@gmail.com).

**Did you know?** The most overdue library book in history was 288 years late! Don't let this be you! Please check your shelves for First Presbyterian Library books and return them. No fines and no questions asked!

## THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

### SUNDAY, MAY 15

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
10:00 A.M. Sunday school  
11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
12:00 P.M. Outreach/Mission Committee meeting, Guatemala Room  
5:30 P.M. Youth

### MONDAY, MAY 16

11:30 A.M. Friends' Lunch, Weezie's  
5:00 P.M. Steering Committee meeting  
6:00 P.M. Session meeting  
7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

### TUESDAY, MAY 17

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih  
10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting, Library  
5:30 P.M. Officer training, Fellowship Hall  
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers  
5:30 P.M. Officer training, Fellowship Hall  
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

### THURSDAY, MAY 19

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn  
1:30 P.M. Shepherd's Center meeting

### FRIDAY, MAY 20

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

### **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Weekly Budget: \$16,837                      Amount Received 5/8/22: \$4,271  
YTD Budgeted Income: \$382,831        YTD Income Received: \$470,035

### **ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

9:00 A.M.: 50    11:00 A.M.: 124

### **PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Cancer Treatments:** Sam Pace, Julie Seiler

**Homebound:** Faye Moreland, Betty Nash, Claudia Neelly

**College Students:** Cooper Moore, Jon Timothy Posey, Ross Reeder

**Service Members:** Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

## **THE SESSION**

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Moderator  
Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

### Class of 2022

Steve Bryson  
Anne Marie Littrell  
Pete McMurry  
Mary Pace  
Buddy Stubbs  
Virginia Toliver  
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. Taylor Todd, Interim Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care  
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education  
Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music  
Dr. Ray Harris, Organist  
Seth Shelnut, Audio/Visual Technician  
Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs  
Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian  
Helen Curtis, Church Secretary  
Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary  
Debbie Merritt, Receptionist  
Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent  
Joyce Richardson, Housekeeper  
Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

# They'll Know We Are Christians 595

*Unison*

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.  
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.  
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.  
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.  
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

*Refrain*

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,

Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

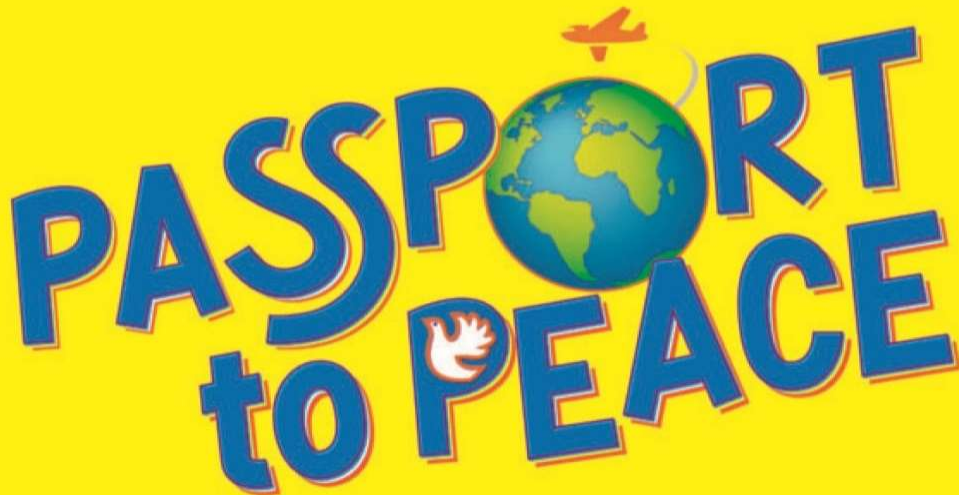
WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes (1938- ); para. John 13:35

Lyrics and Music © 1966, 1967 F&L Publications. Arranged 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company

CCLI#887992

# SIGN UP TIME!

## PASSPORT to PEACE



It's time to sign up for FPC VBS 2022,  
**PASSPORT TO PEACE!**  
Held June 1-3, 2022 from 9 am to 12 pm.  
Snacks will be included daily  
as well as lunch at the Luau on Friday!

See the Eventbrite registration to register  
for children ages 3 through 5th grade.  
Church members and regular visitors  
registration starts now and our friends  
can register starting May 1.  
Deadline to register is May 21.

Please contact Roxie Clayton (662) 231-9537 or  
Sally Kate Collins (662) 871-3761 with questions  
or if you are interested in volunteering!

**REGISTER FOR VBS!**

HIP, HIP,  
HOORAY!

JOIN US TO



*Shower  
Baby Monts*

MAY 22ND, 1:30-3 PM  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

*Boy or girl? It's a surprise!*

REGISTERED AT REED'S AND  
[BABYLIST.COM/BABY-ALLI-MONTS](http://BABYLIST.COM/BABY-ALLI-MONTS)