

# *Morning Worship Service*

## *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

May 22, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

*The purpose of this sermon is to celebrate the benefits of the peace God grants us through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

*Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven*

Don Hustad

INTROIT

*Spirit of the Living God*

Daniel Iverson

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Surely God is here. Now. In this place.

**People: Let us recognize God's presence. Let us recognize ourselves in God's presence. So many changes come. Here. In this time.**

Leader: Day after day, the old familiar patterns yield to strange ways. There is always something new, something different, disturbing, challenging, and upsetting. So many changes come. And then they too pass away, like grass in the field that is first green, then grey, then brown, before finally it withers. Or like a flower that buds, then blossoms in radiant splendor, before its petals fall away, and it dies.

**People: Yet God does not change. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Surely God is here. Now. In this place.**

Leader: This calls for a celebration. Let it begin here and now as we praise and worship God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 151

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: We give, O God, our thanks for gathering us as members of Your eternal church, that we may worship You in spirit and in truth. You have shielded us with Your love and have guided us by Your Word. Pour into our lives such love for You and one another that we may have a taste of the fellowship which is reserved for us in the new kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord who shows us the way to Your truth and who gave to his disciples his prayer we now join together in praying...

**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: Do not let your hearts be troubled; but confess your sins, and God will give you peace.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and glory, the wideness of Your mercy extends beyond all we could even imagine. In kindness You have drawn us to Yourself, claiming us who were far from You as Your own beloved people. Yet we refuse mercy to those who offend us, to those who differ from us, to those we deem unlovely or unworthy.**

**Forgive our rush to judgment; by Your Spirit, tenderize our hearts so that we would show mercy to others, even as we have received mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Let your hearts be still, for God loves you and forgives all your wrongdoing. Beloved, receive the peace of Christ.

\*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 (9:00)

ANTHEM

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

arr. Mark Barnard

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[John 14:22-27](#)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Give Peace a Chance”

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH (Unison)

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.**

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 324 *Open My Eyes That I May See*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

What an honor and privilege it is to come before God and offer to Him our various gifts and offerings. As we do so, let us give with a generous and cheerful heart.

OFFERTORY

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Dale Wood

\*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: Giving God, as spring bursts forth its blossoms in witness to Your love, You bless us from generation to generation with the new life of Easter faith. All that we have and all that we are come from You, O God, so we gladly share this offering, that others too may be blessed, for the sake of Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 319

*Spirit*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Toccata in F Major*

Dietrich Buxtehude

\*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 memory of Mike Thomas.

**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-Virginia Toliver; 11:00-Doyce Deas

**Greeters:** 9:00-Martha & Bobby Dale, Kathy & Pete McMurry  
11:00-Anne Marie & Corey Littrell, Mitzi & Jeff Moore

**The service is 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](http://www.firstprestupelo.org).

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations to our college graduates:** Gatlin Farrar (attending University of Mississippi); Ben Gibens (attending Mississippi State University); Abbey Hastings (attending University of Mississippi); and Henry Seiler (attending University of Mississippi).

**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 22

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
10:00 A.M. Sunday school  
11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
1:30 P.M. Baby Shower for Alli Monts  
5:30 P.M. Youth

### MONDAY, MAY 23

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

### TUESDAY, MAY 24

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih  
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers  
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

### THURSDAY, MAY 26

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn

### FRIDAY, MAY 27

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

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$16,837      Amount Received 5/15/22: \$4,275  
YTD Budgeted Income: \$382,831      YTD Income Received: \$474,385

### ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 50    11:00 A.M.: 82

### PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

**Christian sympathy** is extended to the family of Michael Ruff Thomas ("Mike"), who died May 14. He was the husband of Daintry Thomas; the father of Ruff Thomas (Angelia), Field Thomas (Amy), and Natalie Ellis (Bryan); and the grandfather of Anne Bailey and Emerson Thomas, Gia, Chris, and Bryan Ellis, and Cam Thomas. Other relatives include his sister, Kathryn Ann "K.K." McNally (Gary); brother, Glenn Thomas (Mary); sister-in-law, Judy Thomas; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. Services were held at FPC on Wednesday, May 18.

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

**Homebound:** Sarah Parker, Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Jack Price

**College Students:** Lilee Rose, George Seiler, Henry Seiler

**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

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)