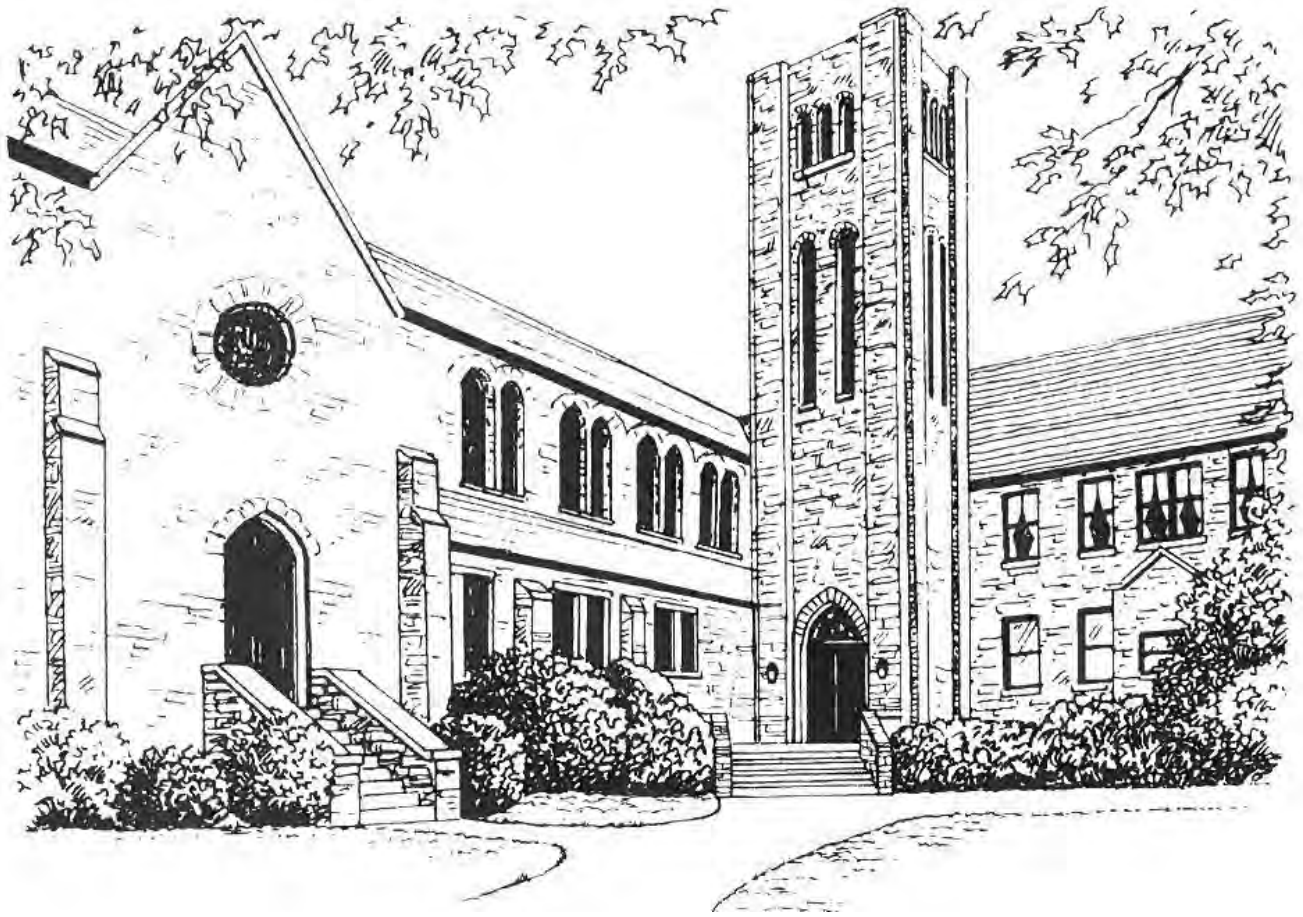


# First Presbyterian Church

400 Jefferson Street  
Tupelo, Mississippi



## THE MISSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO:

*Learn the Word of God in worship and study.*

*Live the Word of God in our homes and communities.*

*Lead others to the Word of God in love.*

Visit us online. [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/FPCTupelo>

662.842.5681

# *Morning Worship Service*

## *Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

JULY 27, 2025

10:30 A.M.

“We rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ  
Jesus our Lord.”

- *A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH*

\*Congregation standing as able.

**Bold** is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

*Jesus Loves Me*

ALBERT TRAVIS

INTROIT

*Thine is the Glory* G.F. HANDEL/ARR. PAUL WRIGHT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

In life and in death, we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we are joined together in worship.**

We trust in the one true God—  
whom alone we worship and serve.

**Let us rejoice in the good news:  
God creates, redeems, and sustains us.**  
*Come, let us worship the living God.*

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,  
You made us to live in faith, hope, and love.  
By Your Spirit, gather us now:

to glorify You,  
to rejoice in Your justice and mercy,  
and to serve You with our whole lives.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 151      *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

CALL TO CONFESSION

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
But we confess that we do not always live as children of grace.  
Let us return to the Lord in humility and faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God,  
We confess that we doubt Your goodness,  
ignore Your Spirit,  
and resist Your call.  
You made us in Your image  
to live in community,  
but we turn from our neighbors and pursue selfish aims.  
You redeem us through Jesus Christ,  
but we forget His mercy and fail to follow His way.  
Forgive us, O God.  
By Your grace, set us free to love as You love,  
to seek justice, and to live in peace.  
Through Christ we pray.**

*(Time of Silent Confession)*



## KYRIE

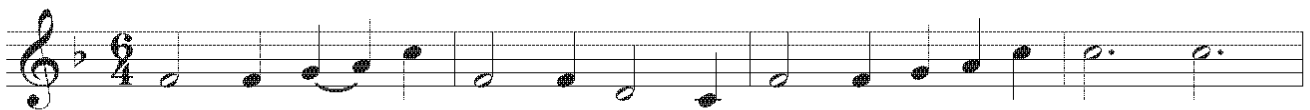
## Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

Kyrie Eleison

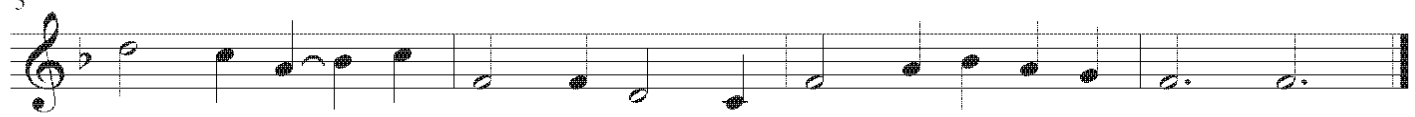
America! folk hymn

arr. Richard Proulx



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

5



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's love never lets us go.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## \*RESPONSE NO. 579

*Gloria Patri*

***Gloria 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

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 27:1-10

**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?

**When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
they shall stumble and fall.**

**Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;**

though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.

**One thing I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:**

to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,

**to behold the beauty of the LORD,  
and to inquire in his temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;

**he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.**

Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,

**and I will offer in his tent**

**sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

**I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’**

**Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

**Do not hide your face from me.**

Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.

**Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!**

***If my father and mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me up.***

ANTHEM

*Who Can Separate Us?*

LARRY SHACKLEY

*Who can separate us from the love of Christ?  
Not tribulation or distress, not persecution or the sword.  
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors  
Through Jesus Christ the Lord.  
For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels,  
Nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present,  
Nor things to come, nor height, nor depth,  
Nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us  
from the love of God.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ROMANS 8:31-39

PEW BIBLE, PG. 158

SERMON

“Nothing in All Creation”

REV. JOHN BROCK

\*STATEMENT OF FAITH — *A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH*

**We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love, God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God’s image  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.  
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God’s commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God’s condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.  
Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

**\*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 384**    *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

**ST. MARGARET**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Lord, in your mercy,**

**Hear our prayer.**

**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.**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

*Dank sei Dir, Herr  
(Thanks Be to God)*

**SIEGFRIED OCHS**

*Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.  
Thou who has made Thy people free.  
All grateful thanks be to Thee.  
Like a great flock Thy hand ever led us.  
Lord, Thy hand leads us,  
By all Thy goodness salvation is ours.*

**\*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.***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God,  
You bless us so that we may be a blessing.  
Use these gifts, and use our lives,  
to proclaim good news,  
pursue justice,  
and embody Your love.  
Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 467

*How Great Thou Art*

O STORE GUD

POSTLUDE

*Rondeau*

JEAN-JOSEPH MOURET

\*BENEDICTION

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**WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Are you looking for a church home?** If so, please speak to our minister following worship or email him at [pastor@firstprestupelo.org](mailto:pastor@firstprestupelo.org).

**Large print hymnals are available from the ushers.**

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

**The flowers** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in honor of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Mark and Janice Reynolds who were married at First Presbyterian Tupelo.

**All children are welcome in worship!** Children's activity bags and special bulletins are available for all ages and are located with our regular worship bulletins in the Narthex. 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.



**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).

**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.

**All of the liturgy today** was adapted from the *A Brief Statement of Faith*.

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

**Liturgist:** Sheree Lence

**Greeters:** Jack and Aubre Wells Family

As of **7/1/2025**, we have received more **key fobs**. Unfortunately, the cost of the fobs has increased. Starting 7/1/2025, key fobs will cost **\$15.00**. If you need a fob, please fill out the form in the church office and leave your name and payment in the office for Ms. Kay. The following Sunday, you may pick up your new key fob in the office. **Alternatively, MJ is available in the office Monday-Thursday from 8-5 and is more than happy to make you one while you wait!**

For August, I want to try something different. I am going to send out the main passage I will be preaching from, and I would like anyone who is interested in reading the passage and sending me their thoughts on the passage to participate. **The passage for August 3 is Proverbs 1:1-7.** If you have any thoughts or ideas or questions from the passage, please email me at [pastor@firstprestupelo.org](mailto:pastor@firstprestupelo.org) or **come by the office!** Please do so by **Wednesday, July 30**, so I will have time to think about and integrate your ideas into the sermon.

**Nominating Committee** is beginning its work to propose a slate of elders for the Class of 2029. If you have any suggestions for members of the church you would like the Committee to consider, please use the QR code provided here in the bulletin or go to the following link:

**<https://forms.gle/JtFTc3nGxG8Ff5Pu8>**



## **PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Cancer Treatment:** Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

**Homebound:** Daisy Aycock, Mary Ann Chiles, Carolyn Gaston

**College Students:** Magalie Martin, Isabella Posey, Ashton Posey

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

## **ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

One Service at 10:30 A.M.: 162

## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Weekly Budget: \$19,644

Amount Received 7/20/25: \$22,458

YTD Budgeted Income: \$595,863

YTD Income Received: \$622,040

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## **MORE UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, July 28 at 11:00 A.M.** We will continue meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room. This group enjoys engaging discussions and fellowship and is open to everyone. This week, we will be studying Luke 16.

**Today is the LAST Sunday of our Summer Worship schedule.** Beginning next Sunday, we will return to our regular two service schedule with Sunday Worship at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. and Sunday School at 10:00 A.M.

**Join us for RALLY DAY!** Rally Day will be next Sunday, August 3. We will enjoy brunch and pass out bibles to incoming first graders. Also, we will hold the annual blessing of the backpacks. In addition, we will hold our 2024-2025 Teacher Recognition and 2025-2026 Teacher Commissioning. Join us for a wonderful time of celebration brought to us by our Christian Education Committee.

**We are now accepting a “Love Offering” to allow current and former members of our congregation to support WINDWARD,** the project started by Ann Kelly’s Leland Presbyterian Church. They have converted part of their building to host visiting tornado and Delta mission teams. At this point, they need approximately \$7,500 for appropriate kitchen and laundry appliances. Please designate WINDWARD when you make your donation! Donations will be accepted from Sunday, June 22 through Sunday, August 3.

# The Church

This Saturday 8/2:

9 A.M. Helping Hands

## At Worship and Work

Sunday

27

July

\*\*\*Last Sunday of the Summer Worship Schedule\*\*\*

9:30 A.M. Sunday School, Fellowship Hall

10:30 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary

4:00 P.M. Bible Study, Bolton/Sistahood Classroom

4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts, Room B205

Monday

28

July

7:30 A.M. CASA, Gym

11:00 A.M. Bible Study

Tuesday

29

July

7:30 A.M. CASA, Gym

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting

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

Wednesday

30

July

7:30 A.M. CASA, Gym

3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg-Stewart Clayton SS Rm.

Thursday

31

July

7:30 A.M. CASA, Gym

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

Friday

1

August

7:30 A.M. CASA, Gym

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

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### **THE SESSION**

Rev. John Brock, Moderator  
Lisa Nichols, Clerk of the Session

#### **CLASS OF 2026**

Glen Davidson, Sr.  
Jim Fisher  
Ben Hunter  
Bob Lence  
Corey Littrell  
Helen Monts  
Aubre Wells

#### **CLASS OF 2027**

Heather Crotwell  
Amanda Davis  
Beth Anne Ellzey  
Mac Godwin  
Mary Margaret Gratz  
Debra Robison  
Liz Rose

#### **CLASS OF 2028**

Jim Bruce  
Tatum Collins  
Lee Herman  
Trey Phyfer  
Buddy Stubbs  
Virginia Toliver  
Kathy Wallace

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. John Brock, Pastor  
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education  
Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music  
Dr. Ray Harris, Organist  
John Buchman, Audio/Visual Technician  
Claire Leeke, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs  
Dr. Kathy McMurry, Treasurer  
Cindy Faucette, Church Librarian  
MJ Whitt, Church Secretary  
Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary  
Penny O'Quinn, Morning Receptionist  
Lucy Wells, Afternoon Receptionist  
Ricky Kimbrell, Maintenance Superintendent  
Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus



