

First Presbyterian Church

400 W 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
<https://www.facebook.com/FPCTupelo>

662.842.5681

Morning Worship Service

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 5, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“Abraham said, ‘My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant.’”

- GENESIS 18:3

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Ariosio

J. S. BACH

INTROIT

Here in This Place

MARTY HAUGEN

(Congregation is Invited to Join and Sing the Verses 3&4)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

God invites us to green pastures and leads us beside still waters.

The Lord restores our souls and guides us in paths of righteousness.

Even in the darkest valleys, we will not be afraid, for God is with us.

God’s goodness and mercy will follow us all our days.

We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Come, let us worship the God who welcomes us home.

We come with joy to worship the Lord!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

You welcome us with open arms,

prepare a table before us,

and invite us into your holy presence.

In this hour of worship, quiet our anxious hearts,

refresh us with your Spirit,

and renew us with your Word.

Make us ready to receive Christ’s hospitality

and to share it with the world.

Through Jesus Christ, our host and Savior, we pray. Amen.

Here In This Place

Gather Us In

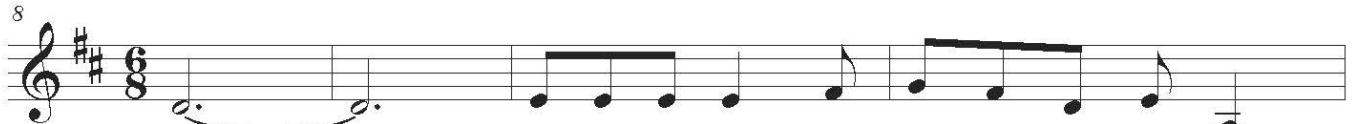
Marty Haugen



Here in this place a new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness van - ished a - way.
We are the young, our lives are a mys - 'try, we are the old who yearn for your face.
Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter. Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav-en light years a - way.



See in this space our fears and our dream-ings brought here to You in the light of this
We have been sung through - out all of his - 'try, called to be light to the whole hu-man
Here You shall call Your sons and Your daugh - ters. Call us a - new to be salt of the
Here in this place the new light is shin - ing, now is the king-dom and now is the



day. _____ Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en,
race. _____ Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty,
earth. _____ Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,
day. _____ Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er,



gath-er us in, the blind and the lame. Call to us now and we shall a - wak - en,
gath-er us in, the proud and the strong. Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
give us to eat the bread that is You. Nour-ish us well and teach us to fash - ion
gath-er us in and make us Your own. Gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire of our love in our flesh and our bone. _____

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
You welcome us to your table,
but we confess that we often fail to welcome others.
We close our doors to strangers
and our hearts to those in need.
You call us to trust you like little children,
yet we cling to control and fear what we do not know.
Forgive us, Lord.
Open our hearts to your generous Spirit.
Teach us to see your face in the guest,
your image in the neighbor,
and your presence even in the stranger.
Through Christ we pray.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

America folk hymn

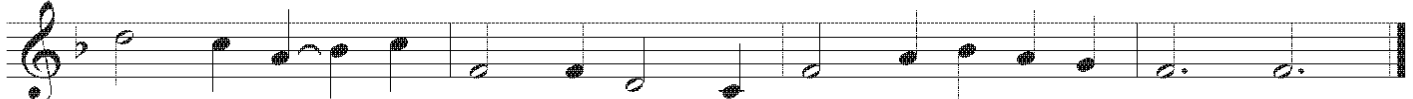
Kyrie Eleison

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

Friends, hear the good news:
God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free
to welcome others as we have been welcomed.
Thanks be to God!

***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.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

UNISON READING

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.**

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.**

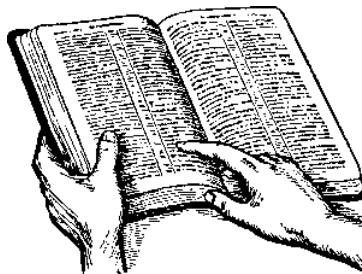
**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:15-17

PEW BIBLE, PG. 81



ANTHEM

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ARR. BRADLEY ELLINGBOE

*Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Christ is able to make us one,
at His table, He sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the word around: loaves abound!
Jesus calls us in, sends us out,
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 18:1-10

PEW BIBLE, PG. 14

SERMON

“God Shows Up at Our Doorstep”

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 513** *Let Us Break Bread Together* **LET US BREAK BREAD**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Brother James' Air

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.***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God,
we bring these gifts as signs of our gratitude
for your faithful care.
Bless what we offer,
that it may provide hospitality to the stranger,
comfort to the weary, and hope to the hurting.
Through Christ, our host, we pray. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S 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.

*CLOSING HYMN No. 267 *All Things Bright and Beautiful* ROYAL OAK

POSTLUDE *Toccata in E Minor* JOHANN PACHELBEL

*BENEDICTION

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.

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 memory of Mike Thomas by Michelle and Joey Hutto.

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.

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. John Brock, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

Liturgist: 9:00: Melissa McDuffie

11:00: Anne Marie Littrell

Greeters: 9:00: Charles & Betty Reece

11:00: Phyfer Family

Crucifers: 9:00: Carter McDuffie

11:00: Gia Ellis

This Week at FPC

Sunday, October 5

World Communion

9:00 A.M. Worship Service

10:00 A.M. Sunday School

11:00 A.M. Worship Service

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

5:30 P.M. Youth

Monday, October 6

11:00 A.M. Bible Study

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

6:45 P.M. Circle 3, Maddin Hutto's House

Tuesday, October 7

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

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

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

Wednesday, October 8

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

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

5:00 P.M. Tower Ringers

5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Program

7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 9

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

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

Friday, October 10

12:00 P.M. AA Meeting

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Annette Thornton, Gladys Wilson, Mary Ann Chiles

College Students: Afton Gable, Lindley Gibens, Maggie Gibens

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 52 11:00 A.M.: 104

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$21,281

Amount Received 9/28/25: \$16,445

YTD Budgeted Income: \$766,110

YTD Income Received: \$761,167

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

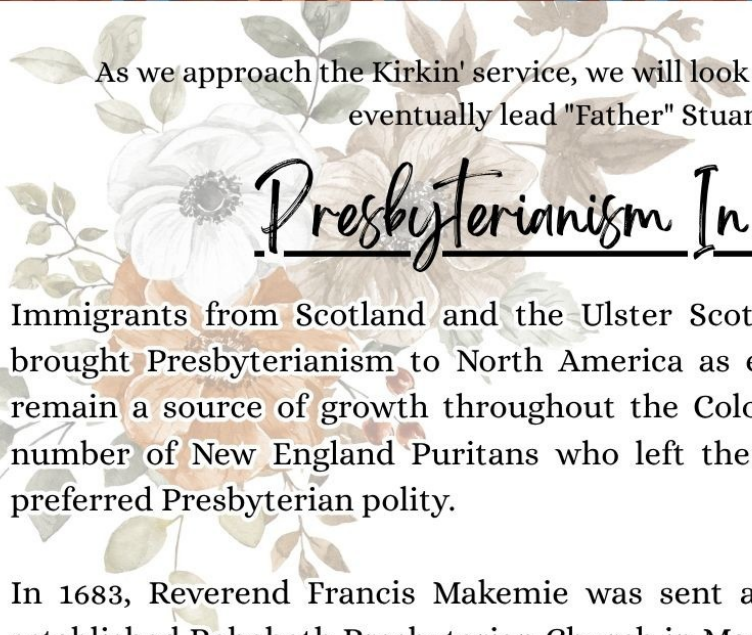
Our weekly Bible study will NOT meet this Monday. We look forward to resuming on Monday, October 20 with Luke 23 in the Bolton/Sistahood Room.

In Worship during the month of October, we will be focusing on the theme of *Welcome All*. For October 12, the mini-theme will be "See Christ in Every Person," and our scripture passage will be from **Matthew 25:31-46**.



Sign up by noon Wednesday to hold your place for our Wednesday Night Supper and Program using the QR Code provided, using today's Attendance Register, or by calling the church office at 662-842-5681. This week the cost is \$7 per person, and we will enjoy Pulled Smoked Pork Sandwiches, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Baked Beans, Cheese Grits, Slaw, Rolls and Buns, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad Bar, and Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be a Presentation by Trey

Leeke on "The Weight of Glory" by CS Lewis . We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, October 8!**



As we approach the Kirkin' service, we will look at the various influences that would eventually lead "Father" Stuart to establish FPC.

Presbyterianism In The Colonies

Immigrants from Scotland and the Ulster Scots of northern Ireland ("Scotch-Irish") brought Presbyterianism to North America as early as 1640, and immigration would remain a source of growth throughout the Colonial era. They were joined by a large number of New England Puritans who left the Congregational Church because they preferred Presbyterian polity.

In 1683, Reverend Francis Makemie was sent as a missionary to America where he established Rehobeth Presbyterian Church in Maryland—the oldest Presbyterian church in America. In 1706, he and seven other ministers founded the Presbytery of Philadelphia in that city. In 1707, he was arrested by Lord Cornbury, Governor of New York for preaching without a license from the Crown. After a two month imprisonment, he was acquitted and released in what would become a landmark case in favor of religious freedom in America.

The First Great Awakening of 1730-1740 had a major impact on American Presbyterians. In the South, Presbyterians were evangelical dissenters who were more energetic and held services more attuned to frontier life while the Anglicans were largely only popular in larger established communities. Presbyterian emphasis on biblical simplicity and congregational psalm-singing appealed more to the emotional needs of pioneering people than formality and decorum.

After the United States achieved independence from Great Britain, Presbyterian leaders felt that a national denomination was needed and formed the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1789. At that time, the church had four Synods, 16 Presbyteries, 177 ministers, 419 congregations and an estimated membership of 18,000. The Reverend John Witherspoon, Chaplain of the Second Continental Congress and the only minister to sign the Declaration of Independence, was the first Moderator of the General Assembly.

Next week: Presbyterianism in the USA



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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

