

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

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”
- ROMANS 13:12B

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

DIANE BISH

INTROIT

Prepare the Way, O Zion

SONDRA K. TUCKER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The prophet Isaiah
made this invitation to his listeners,
and he extends it to us again today:

**Come let us go up
to the mountain of the LORD.**

**Let us go to the house
of the God of Jacob and Rachel.**

**May God teach us
to walk in God's paths.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

9:00: Judy Griffie & David Williams

11:00: Bob & Carolyn Kelly

CALL TO CONFESSION

You know what time it is:

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

Salvation is near!

Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve Your judgment and condemnation. Yet, You remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace amid our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and His path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

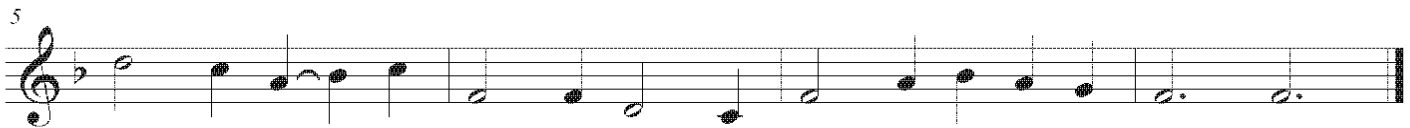
Kyrie Eleison

America folk hymn

arr. Richard Proulx



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



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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, in your baptism
you were bathed in light
and clothed with grace.

Therefore, believe the good news of the gospel,

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

I was glad when they said to me,
 ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’

**Our feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem — built as a city
 that is bound firmly together.

**To it the tribes go up,
 the tribes of the LORD,**
 as was decreed for Israel,
 to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

**For there, the thrones for judgment were set up,
 the thrones of the house of David.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 ‘May they prosper who love you.

**Peace be within your walls,
 and security within your towers.’**

For the sake of my relatives and friends
 I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’

**For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
 I will seek your good.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

PEW BIBLE, PG. 631

ANTHEM

The Yearning

CRAIG COURTNEY

*There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.
 There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a
 yearning for tomorrow.*

*There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.
 There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to
 bring to us salvation.*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.

*There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.
 There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed
 within our hearts the yearning.*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

ROMANS 13:11-14

PEW BIBLE, PG. 162

SERMON

“Awake, for the Light Has Come”

REV. JOHN BROCK

STATEMENT OF FAITH — *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.**

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION No. 5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**God of Salvation,
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

People, Look East, the Time is Near

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

**We give You thanks and praise, O God,
that you have built us up in faith
and bound us together in love.
By Your grace, may all that we do
show the glory of Your name
and serve the good of your people;
through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN No. 20 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* ABERYSTWYTH

POSTLUDE *Toccata on Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* GORDON YOUNG

*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 and in memory of Ernest and Frances Joyner by Dan and Frances Joyner Brasfield and their family.

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.

Children in first through fifth grade are invited to join our Sunday version of Faithbuilder's during the 11:00 A.M. Sunday service. This fall, we will meet weekly through December 14 to give us extra time to prepare for the Joy Gift program. We meet **after the children's sermon** for a fun and engaging time of learning about the structure of our church service, with activities to help kids grow in their understanding and participation in worship. If your child attends, you can pick them up in the gym area after the service.

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.

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

Liturgist: 9:00: Liz Rose

11:00: Anne Marie Littrell

Greeters: 9:00: Bess & Grayson Robbins

11:00: Lee & Michael Herman, Judy Thomas, Perry Clayton

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: John Gaston, Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash

College Students: Tyler Goad, Charlie Gratz, Lucy Gratz

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 37 11:00 A.M.: 239

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$17,025

Amount Received 11/23/25: \$18,747

YTD Budgeted Income: \$936,357

YTD Income Received: \$924,676

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will NOT meet this Monday, December 1. We will resume meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room on Monday, January 5 with our Intro to Acts.

In Worship during the month of December, we will focus on the theme of *Advent*. For December 7, our scripture passages will be from **Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, and Matthew 3:1-12.**



Sign up by noon Wednesday to hold your place for our Wednesday Night Supper and Program by using the QR Code provided, by using today's Attendance Register, or by calling the church office at 662-842-5681. The cost for supper is \$7 per person, and the menu includes Taziki's Greek Grilled Chicken and Basmati Rice, Fried Chicken Tenders, Roasted Vegetables, Homestyle Green Beans, Rolls, Taziki's Greek Salad, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad Bar, and Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be 1920s Christmas by John Brock. We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, December 3!**

Joy Gift Program will be on December 14 at 5:00 p.m. this year. We ask that each person give from their hearts to provide support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Our Choir Program is December 21. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

***Through the Darkness into the Light* by Lori Dickerson** is now available on Amazon!

The Longest Night Service is December 22 this year. Join us as we celebrate a night of hope, reminding people they are not alone in their pain, and that even in the longest night, light and hope will ultimately prevail.

Cuba Mission needs your support! We are in need of over the counter medicine - such as Tylenol, Advil, Aspirin, Aleve, - vitamins for children and adults, cold and cough medicine, bedpans, oral hydration packets—such as Liquid IV, PurAqua Hydration, etc.—toothbrushes, sunglasses, and regular glasses. Please place all donations in the **Cuba Mission Box** in the Breezeway. **Pills, chewable, and gummies are preferred to liquids due to weight reasons.**

This Week at FPC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - 1ST WEEK OF ADVENT

9:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE
4:00 P.M. ADVENT MADE WITH LOVE
4:30 P.M. BOY SCOUTS, RM. B205

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

2:30 P.M. CASA GYM
6:45 P.M. CIRCLE 3, MEMBER'S HOME

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:00 A.M. T'AI CHI CHIH
2:30 P.M. CASA GYM
7:00 P.M. AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

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, DECEMBER 4

7:45 A.M. ST. LUKE'S FOOD PANTRY
8:00 A.M. MEN'S BREAKFAST, HILTON GARDEN INN
2:30 P.M. CASA GYM
6:00 P.M. BRAVER ANGELS, FELLOWSHIP HALL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

12:00 P.M. AA MEETING
2:30 P.M. CASA GYM





CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



PREPARE THE WAY

ISAIAH 40

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025
5:00 P.M.



THE PERFECT GIFT.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Your children are welcome to join us for a night of crafts - making Advent wreaths for your home, crafts to share with our shut-ins, and more - reminding us that even the smallest hands can share the greatest love this season. Come be a part of a night filled with warmth, creativity, and the spirit of giving!



REGISTER:



INFORMATION:

Sunday, November 30
4:00 - 6:00 P.M.
For Children of All Ages
Crafts, Dinner, & Hot Cocoa Bar!

OUR ADDRESS:

400 W. Jefferson St.
Tupelo, MS 38804
First Presbyterian Church,
Fellowship Hall

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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

