

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 after Christmas

December 28, 2025

10:00 A.M.

"I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that He has shown them according to His mercy, according to the abundance of His steadfast love..."

- ISAIAH 63:7

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Variations on Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

FÉLIX-ALEXANDRE GUILMANT

INTROIT

In the Bleak Midwinter

GUSTAV HOLST/GARRETT BREEZE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God spoke,
and the sun, and the moon,
and the bright stars were created.

**Praise God from heaven,
praise God in the heights!**

God spoke
and gave breath
to all the people and rulers of the earth.

**Praise God from heaven,
praise God in the heights!**

God spoke,
and strengthened the people,
opening the gates of freedom.

**Praise God from heaven,
praise God in the heights!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Maker of the universe,
all creation sings Your praise,
for all things exist for You
and through You.

We come to You this day
with our joys and sorrows,
our victories and struggles,
our minds and souls,
our flesh and bones,
with everything we are.

We sing to You this day,
joining whispering winds
and clapping leaves
in their song of love. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 40**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

CALL TO CONFESSION

Once we knew only the shadows;
now we know the glory of God.
Once we lived in deep despair;
now the love of God shines upon us.
Trusting in God's grace,
let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O LORD our God, we confess that we still stumble in the shadows. We are captive to our desires and limit those who long for freedom. We indulge in our weaknesses and use our strength to hurt others. Forgive us, O LORD our God. Break the yoke of oppression, and destroy the weapons of war. Set us free to serve You, and fill us with Your peace. Establish Your holy realm of justice and righteousness, now and forevermore; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

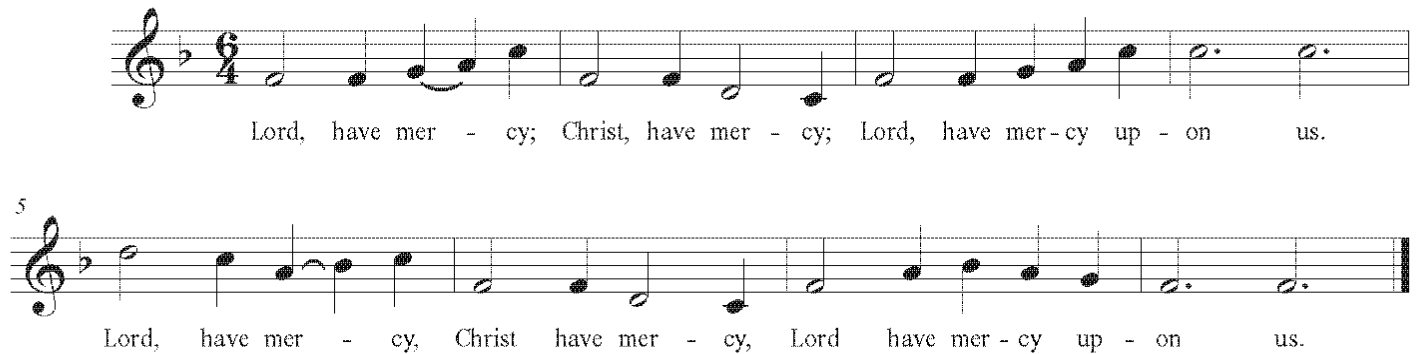
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

Kyrie Eleison

American 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

A child has been born for us
with the power and authority
to set us free from sin forever.
This child will be called
wonderful and mighty,
everlasting gift of peace.

Friends, 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

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise Him in the heights!

Praise Him, all His angels;

praise Him, all His host!

Praise Him, sun and moon;

praise Him, all you shining stars!

Praise Him, you highest heavens

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for He commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever;

He fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling His command!

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for His name alone is exalted;

His glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for His people,

praise for all His faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to Him.

Praise the LORD!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

PEW BIBLE, PG. 219

ANTHEM

Breath of Heaven

ARR. CRAIG COURTNEY

*I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a babe inside.
And I wonder what I've done
Holy Father, You have come
And chosen me now to carry Your son.*

*I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now.*

*Refrain:
Breath of heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me, breath of heaven.
Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness
Pour over me Your holiness for You are holy,
Breath of heaven.*

*Do You wonder as You watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of Your plan,
Help me be strong..... help me be..... help me.*

Refrain

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

PEW BIBLE, PG. 693

SERMON

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of 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

O Sanctissima

ARR. DIANE BISH

*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

Gracious and loving God, in this season of giving and receiving gifts, we thank You for Your indescribable gift of Your only Son, our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. With gratitude and joy, we bring our tithes and offerings today. With Your blessing, may they be multiplied and used to share the good news and love of Jesus Christ. Thank you, God, for Your many blessings and Your claim on our lives to share them with others. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN No.22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

POSTLUDE

Noël Étranger

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

*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 Mollie Gratz by Steve and Lucy Nash.

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. 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: 10:00: Lori Dickerson

Greeters: 10:00: Pete & Kathy McMurry

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will NOT meet this Monday, December 29. We will resume meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room on Monday, January 5 with our Intro to Acts.

For January 4, our scripture passages will be from **Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, and John 1:(1-9) 10-18.**

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.**

Our Wednesday night program starts back on December 7 with a special Epiphany Service. Come join us for good food and an even greater message.

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, January 1. We wish you all a Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 25, we will have our **Annual Congregational Meeting** at 10 A.M. We will not have adult Sunday School that day.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Betty Nash, Ruby Katherine Patterson, Barbara Price

College Students: Walt Rose, Jenkins Wells, Ana Morgan Beckham

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

10:30 A.M: 245

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$21,281

Amount Received 12/21/25: \$7,521

YTD Budgeted Income: \$1,021,480

YTD Income Received: \$1,013,717



FEBRUARY 9, 2026



JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Cuba & Guatemala Water Missions

How You Can Help:

- Donate any amount of money
- Sponsor a family or individual
- Share our cause with your network
- Donate the items listed below to our collection box in the breezeway:
 - 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

Be a part of the change today!

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

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CONTACT US

This Week at APC

*Happy
New Year*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

4:30 P.M. BOY SCOUTS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00 A.M. T'AI CHI CHIH

7:00 P.M. A.A. MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE

10:00 A.M. STAFF MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

7:45 A.M. ST. LUKE'S FOOD PANTRY

8:00 A.M. MEN'S BREAKFAST, HILTON GARDEN INN

6:00 P.M. BRAVER ANGELS, FELLOWSHIP HALL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

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

