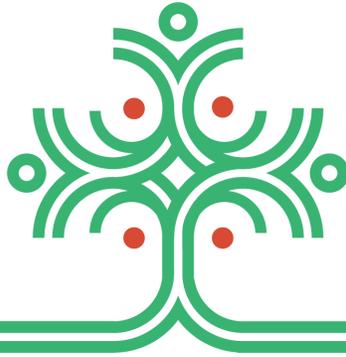


*Fifth Sunday of
Lent*



the good news is..

**rooted in justice, mercy,
& faithfulness**

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

First Presbyterian Church

400 W Jefferson Street

Tupelo, Mississippi 38804

662.842.5681

www.firstprestupelo.org

Morning Worship Service

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, ‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’” - JOHN 8:7

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

O God, Thou Faithful God

MAX REGER

INTROIT (11:00 A.M.)

Pie Jesu from *Requiem*

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God’s house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

You do not deal with us according to our sins, but remove our transgressions as far as the east is from the west. Forgive us for carrying stones in our hands while hiding sin in our hearts — for being precise in our religion and careless with mercy. Teach us again what is weightier: to act justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with You. As we gather around Your Word today, remind us that You are

the God who says to the condemned: Go. Begin again. Shape us into people who extend what we have so freely received. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 280 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus once said to a crowd, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.”

Friends, none of us are without sin.

None of us get it right all the time.

None of us can get by without God’s grace.

In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth.

We put down our stones,
and we turn to God for forgiveness.

Join me in this act of transformation.

Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

we love to live our lives by the rules.

We love clear answers.

We love right and wrong.

We love swift justice.

We love to pick up stones,

but You show us another way.

You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.

You prioritize mercy over legality.

You prioritize people over tradition.

You prioritize love over everything.

Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.

Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to You.

Forgive us. Soften our hearts.

Root us in mercy, justice, and love.

With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

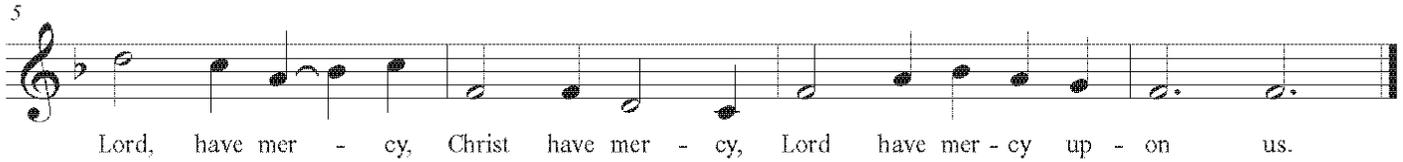
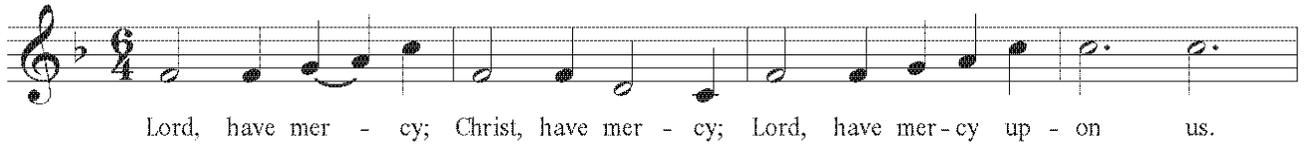
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

Kyrie Eleison

American folk hymn

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Church family,

Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way.

Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion,
and the same can be said for us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our God is a God of mercy.

Our God is a God of compassion.

Our God is a God of grace.

We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.

Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.

Amen.

*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 103

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 23:23

PEW BIBLE, PG. 26



*Beneath the cross of Jesus, I long to take my stand;
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat and the burdens of the day.*

*Upon the cross of Jesus my eyes at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
The wonder of His glorious love, and my unworthiness.*

*I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.*

GOSPEL READING

John 8:2-11

PEW BIBLE, PG. 100

SERMON

Neither Do I

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

God makes Himself known in Jesus Christ. Jesus' involvement in the human condition is God's involvement. His compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion. His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God's demand. His willingness to suffer rejection is God's willingness. Jesus' love for the very people who reject Him is God's love.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

We Limit Not the Truth of God
(see insert on page 8)

ELLACOMBE

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

Morning Has Broken

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

You have shown us that what You desire most is not our offerings, but our hearts — not religion performed, but justice lived, not coins counted, but mercy given freely. Receive these gifts as tokens of our gratitude, and receive us along with them. May what we give and how we live reflect the grace You have so lavishly shown us — withholding condemnation, restoring the broken, and calling us to go and do the same. In the name of Jesus, who gives all things. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
(see insert on page 9)

HYFRYDOL

POSTLUDE

Deo Gracias

JOHN DUNSTABLE

*BENEDICTION

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash, Ruby Kathryn Patterson

College Students: Olivia Reynolds, Walt Rose, Jenkins Wells

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M: 52 11:00 A.M: 124

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106

Amount Received 3/15/26: \$6,636

YTD Budgeted Income: \$265,272

YTD Income Received: \$424,183

We Limit Not the Truth of God

ELLACOMBE

George Rawson, 1878

Gesangbuch der Hirtenbergischen, 1784



We lim - it not the truth of God to
Who dares to bind to their dull sense the
O Fath - er, Son, and Spi - rit, send
our poor reach of mind by no - tions of our
or - a - cles of heav'n for all the na - tions,
in - crease from a - bove; en - large, ex - pand all
day and sect, crude, par - tial, and con - fined. No,
tongues, and climes, and all the age - es giv'n? That
Christ - ian souls to com - pre - hend Thy love; and
let a new and bet - ter hope with - in our hearts be
un - i - verse, how much un - known! That o - cean un - ex -
make us all go on to know with no - bler pow'rs con -
stirred. The Lord hath yet more light and truth to
plored! The Lord hath yet more light and truth to
ferred the Lord hath yet more light and truth to
break forth from His word.
break forth from His word.
break forth from His word.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Hyfrydol

Frederick William Faber, 1854

The musical score is written in a single system on a grand staff (treble clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or bar lines. The score is divided into measures by bar lines, with measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, and 29 marked at the beginning of their respective lines.

There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy
For the love of God is broad - er
5 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion
like the wide - ness of the sea.
6 than the mea - sures of the mind.
9 in the blood that has been shed.
There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice
13 And the heart of the e - ter - nal
There is joy for all the mem - bers
which is more than li - ber - ty.
17 is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
in the sor - rows of the head.
There is no place where earth's sor - rows
21 But we make His love too nar - row
There's a grace e - nough for thou - sands
are more felt than up in heav'n.
25 by false li - mits of our own.
of new worlds as great as this.
There is no place where earth's fail - ings
and we mag - ni - fy His strict - ness
29 There is room for fresh cre - a - tions
have such kind - ly judge - ment giv'n.
with a zeal He will not own.
in that up - per home of bliss.

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 are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Audrey & Alice Lee Fleming and Hunter & Elizabeth Stokes by John & Vivian Fleming.

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 every 2nd and 4th Sunday. 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: Sheree Lence

11:00: Larry Crowell

Greeters: 9:00: Tracy Kramer and Lisa Nichols

11:00: Mike & Mary Margaret Gratz and Mark & Janice Reynolds

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will **NOT** meet this Monday, March 23. We will resume meeting Monday, March 30.

For March 29, our scripture passages will be from **Mark 11:1-11, 2 Corinthians 5:14-20, and Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29.**



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 Chicken Supreme Casserole, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Pizza, Homestyle Green Beans, Tater Tots, Pasta Salad, Rolls, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad Bar, and Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be a *Confirmation Program*. We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, March 25.**

Lenten Lunch will be held at **First United Methodist** on Thursday, March 26 at noon.

True Witnesses Voices from the Margins of Holy Week by **Lori Gallagher Dickerson** are available for you to pick up on the table by the church office. These copies were provided by the Christian Education Committee. Please help yourself!

If you would like to make a gift to the **Spring Flower Bulb Drive** with an honorarium or memorial in the name of a loved one, please send your donation with the name and designation to the church office by this **Thursday, March 26.** Envelopes may be found on the back table in the sanctuary or on the table outside the church office. **Minimum of \$20 for each name.**

After Church Today: Please join us for a baby shower honoring **Katelyn & Ivy Wells** from 1:00-2:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers Needed—We need you to help sub as a camera monitor on Sundays! If you can take a shift (9:00 Worship, 10:00 Sunday School, or 11:00 Worship), please contact Kathy Wallace. We appreciate any help you can give.

Join us for **Easter Brunch** on Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 A.M in the Stuart Garden. Bring a dish if you are able!



First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo

Spring Flower

Bulb Drive

**Get your Bulb Fund
Envelopes in the back
on the table or on the
table by the office door!**

To God be the glory for the gift of Spring and the beautiful colors that it brings.

If you would like to make a gift to the bulb fund with an honorarium or memorial in the name of a loved one, please send your donation with the name and designation to the church office by Thursday, March 26. Envelopes may be found on the back table or by the church office. Minimum of \$20 for each name.



Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 5, 2026

10:00 AM

**Join us for brunch in the Stuart
Garden between services this Easter!**

*If you are able, bring a dish to
share!*



After Church Today!!



*Hello
Baby Girl*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
A BABY SHOWER HONOURING

**KATELYN &
IVY WELLS**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
1:00-2:30

REGISTERED AT ELIZABETH CLAIR'S,
REEDS, AND BABYLIST.COM

WEEKLY

FPE Schedule

Sunday

9:00 A.M. Worship
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship
1:00 P.M. Wells' Baby Shower
4:00 P.M. Confirmation
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts
5:30 P.M. Youth

3/22

Monday

2:30 P.M. CASA
5:30 P.M. Session Training, Bolton Room

3/23

Tuesday

St. Patrick's Day

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi
2:30 P.M. CASA
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

3/24

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA
3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg
5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Program
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

3/25

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast
2:30 P.M. CASA

3/26

Friday

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

3/27

Saturday

3/28

Notes

- The 29th is Palm Sunday & Youth Confirmation.
- St. Luke's on the 2nd of April!

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.

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

