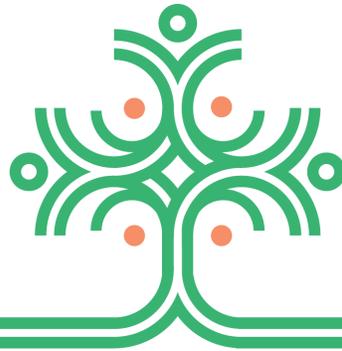


*Third Sunday of
Lent*



the good news is..

together, the impossible
is possible

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 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

Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.” - EPHESIANS 3:20

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *“Prière à Notre-Dame” from Suite Gothique* LÉON BOËLLMANN

INTROIT *At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing* ARR. JAMES BIERY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

If you need good news,
settle into this space.

We have good news to share.

If you need a word of hope,
then trust us when we say,
there is hope enough to go around.

If you need a glimmer of joy,
then you’re in luck!

We have resilient joy abounding.

If you need to feel God’s presence in your midst,
then know that this is God’s house.

This is the good news of the gospel.
God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.

Let us worship our with-us God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Abundant God,
You spread a table in the wilderness
and made little become more than enough.
When we see scarcity, You see possibility.
When we doubt, You provide.
Gather us together today.
Bless what we bring and multiply it for Your purposes.
Feed us with Your Word,
and send us out to share Your impossible grace.
Through Christ, who does far more than we can ask or imagine. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 464 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, we are like the disciples.
The day that Jesus fed 5,000, His disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger. They
told Jesus to send the crowds away.
We often do the same.
Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot
imagine how we could play a part.
That is why we need the Prayer of Confession.
For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference.
So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling.
Join me in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Prayer of confession Holy God,
with You the impossible is possible.
5,000 can be fed.
The blind can see.
The hopeless can find hope.
With You the impossible is possible,**

but we are quick to forget that.

We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.

We forget that You empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.

We forget that You are always with us.

Forgive our small-minded ways.

Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.

But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

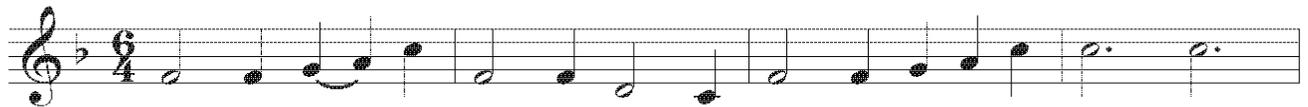
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American 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

Family of faith,

no matter how many mistakes the disciples made,

Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved.

The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

Today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.

We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.

What good, good news. 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 78:19-29

They spoke against God, saying,

“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?

**Even though he struck the rock so that water gushed out
and torrents overflowed,
can he also give bread
or provide meat for his people?”**

Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of rage;

a fire was kindled against Jacob,

his anger mounted against Israel,

**because they had no faith in God
and did not trust his saving power.**

Yet he commanded the skies above

and opened the doors of heaven;

**he rained down on them manna to eat
and gave them the grain of heaven.**

Mortals ate of the bread of angels;

he sent them food in abundance.

**He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,
and by his power he led out the south wind;**

he rained flesh upon them like dust,

winged birds like the sand of the seas;

**he let them fall within their camp,
all around their dwellings.**

*And they ate and were well filled,
for he gave them what they craved.*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 3:20-21

PEW BIBLE, PG. 193



*My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain:

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]*

*His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found:
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeem'd to stand before the throne! [Refrain]*

GOSPEL READING

Mark 6:32-44

PEW BIBLE, PG. 41

SERMON

Nothing Is Impossible with God

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. 343 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

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

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,
You take what we offer and make it more than enough.
Receive these gifts — and receive us —
and use them to feed the hungry,
welcome the stranger,
and reveal Your abundant love.
Do far more through them than we can ask or imagine,
for the glory of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN No. 485

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

POSTLUDE

"Toccata" from Suite Gothique

LÉON BOËLLMANN

*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 are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in memory of Molly Gratz by Martha & Bobby Dale.

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: Virginia Toliver

11:00: Liz Rose

Greeters: 9:00: Glenn Koehler and Jim Fisher

11:00: Mike & Mary Margaret Gratz, Grayson & Bess Robbins, and Alix Roaten

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, March 9 at 11:00 A.M. We will continue meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room. This group enjoys engaging discussions and fellowship, and it is open to everyone. This week, we will study Acts 6.

For March 15, our scripture passages will be from **Psalm 139:1-14 and John 20:24-29.**

We will **not** have a **Wednesday Night Program and Meal** this week for **Spring Break.**

Lenten Lunch will be held at **St. James Catholic Church** on Thursday, March 12 at noon.

Today's anthem, "**My Hope is Built on Nothing Less**" was commissioned by our church in 2016 to honor **Dr. Ray Harris'** years of service to our church. He has now blessed us all in worship for 32 years.

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 **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.**

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Barbara Price, Gladys Wilson

College Students: Magalie Martin, Aryanna Phyfer, Ashton Posey

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M: 55 11:00 A.M: 93





*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
4:30 P.M. BOY SCOUTS

DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME
STARTS

3/8

MONDAY

11:00 A.M. BIBLE STUDY
2:30 P.M. CASA
5:30 P.M. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3/9

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M. T'AI CHI
10:00 A.M. MARTHA'S, KITCHEN
12:00 P.M. CIRCLE 24, SHEFFIELD RM
2:30 P.M. CASA
6:00 P.M. CIRCLE 5, BUSYLAD
7:00 P.M. AA MEETING

3/10

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

3/11

THURSDAY

8:00 A.M. MEN'S BREAKFAST
2:30 P.M. CASA

3/12

FRIDAY

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

3/13

SATURDAY

9:00 A.M. HELPING HANDS

3/14

Notes

- ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS THE 17TH.
- COOK FOR THE SALVATION ARMY ON THE 17TH.

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

