

# First Presbyterian Church

400 W Jefferson Street



## 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](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)

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

# *Morning Worship Service*

## *Third Sunday of Easter*

April 19, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.”

- LUKE 24:30-31A

\*Congregation standing as able.

**Bold** is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

*Prelude on “Ash Grove”*

ARR. DOUGLAS E. WAGNER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Followers of Jesus,

by His cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

**Alleluia!**

By His rising we are free from the fear of death.

**Alleluia!**

By His love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God,

You ransomed us from futility  
with the precious blood of Christ.

We can hardly believe

how precious we are to You!

Holy Spirit, help us to believe this truth

fully with our whole life:

flesh, bone, and spirit. Amen.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 343

*Called as Partners in Christ’s Service*

BEECHER

## CALL TO CONFESSION

1 Peter 1:21 says, “Through Christ you have come to trust in God, who raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.” It is because of our trust in the resurrection that each week we confess together the ways our faith and hope have not been set on God. When we confess, we name our sins and commit to turn toward the life God calls us into again. With that in mind we join our voices praying together.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, even as we proclaim the saving life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we fail to see the living Christ in our midst. We find ourselves preoccupied with our own well-being and success, forgetting Your imperative to love our neighbor as ourselves. We turn away from systems that challenge our way of thinking, choosing to justify our actions instead of examining our intentions.**

**Show us again how to live a resurrection faith, a faith that sees life and hope in the midst of death and destruction. Transform our hearts so that where they are hardened toward You, neighbor, and self, they may once again be filled with love and moved to actions of grace and mercy. In Your holy name, we pray.**

*(Time of Silent Confession)*

## KYRIE

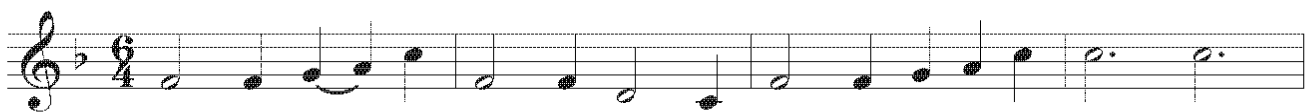
### Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

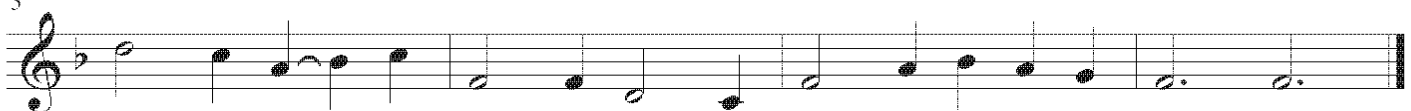
Kyrie Eleison

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

In Acts 2:39, Peter says: “For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the LORD our God calls to Him.” Receive the good news, Children of God, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*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 116:1-4, 12-19

I love the LORD because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

**Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

**Then I called on the name of the LORD,  
“O LORD, I pray, save my life!”**

What shall I return to the LORD  
for all his bounty to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD;**

I will pay my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.

**Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful ones.**

O LORD, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.

**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

I will pay my vows to the LORD

in the presence of all his people,  
**in the courts of the house of the LORD,**  
**in your midst, O Jerusalem.**  
*Praise the LORD!*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

EPISTLE READING	1 Peter 1:17-23	PEW BIBLE, PG. 236
ANTHEM	<i>Lift High the Cross</i>	ARR. LLOYD LARSON
GOSPEL READING	LUKE 24:13-35	PEW BIBLE, PG. 90
SERMON	Our Eyes Were Opened	REV. JOHN BROCK

\*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *The Confession of Belhar*

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit, it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.**

**That this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.**

\*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 324 *Open My Eyes That I May See* OPEN MY EYES

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

*Aria*

G. F. HANDEL

\*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

**Lord, we know that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We pray that the gifts of time, talent, and treasure we have offered today will work for the good of the world, so Your love will be known not just in word but in action. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 108

*Christ Is Alive!*

TRURO

POSTLUDE

*Postlude on "Old Hundredth"*

FRED BOCK

\*BENEDICTION



**New &  
Prospective  
Member Class**

Sundays at 10:00 A.M.  
**April 12, April 19, & April 26**

All are invited to attend

# Weekly

## FPC Schedule

### Sunday

9:00 A.M. Worship  
10:00 A.M. Sunday School  
10:00 A.M. New Member Orientation class  
11:00 A.M. Worship  
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts

4/19

### Monday

2:30 P.M. CASA  
5:00 P.M. Steering Committee  
6:00 P.M. Session Meeting

4/20

### Tuesday

11:00 A.M. Bible Study  
9:00 A.M. Tai Chi  
2:30 P.M. CASA  
2:30 P.M. Cook for the Salvation Army  
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

4/21

### 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

4/22

### Thursday

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast  
2:30 P.M. CASA  
5:30 P.M. Session Training, Bolton Room

4/23

### Friday

12:00 P.M. AA  
2:30 P.M. CASA  
5:30 P.M. Bunch Wedding Rehearsal

4/24

### Saturday

Bunch Wedding

4/25

*Notes*

## 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](mailto: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 given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Frances Erin Stubbs and William Restus Roberts, II, on Saturday, April 18. Erin is the daughter of Mary and Buddy Stubbs.

**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](http://www.firstprestupelo.org).

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

**Liturgist:** 9:00: Bob Lence

11:00: Rud Robison

**Greeters:** 9:00: Kathy and Pete McMurry

11:00: Kory and Ben Hunter, Julie and Leighton Gibens

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, April 21 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 11.

For April 26, our scripture passages will be from Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, and John 10:1-10.



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 Million Dollar Chicken Casserole, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Corn on the Cob, Broccoli Salad, Tater Tots, Rolls, Full Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, and Assorted Desserts. Our program will be *North MS Animal Control*. We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at 5:30 P.M. Wednesday, April 22.

**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.

**New & Prospective Member Class** - For the last three Sundays of April, Rev. Brock will be teaching a New & Prospective Member Class in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. Any one is welcome to attend! If you have any questions, please email or call.

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### PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

**Cancer Treatment:** Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

**Homebound:** Gladys Wilson, Mary Ann Chiles, Carolyn Gaston

**College Students:** Magalie Martin, Aryanna Phyfer, Ashton Posey

**Service Members:** Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

### ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M: 49 11:00 A.M: 119

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 4/12/26: \$8,114

YTD Budgeted Income: \$353,696 YTD Income Received: \$492,232

**Save the Date!**

**Vacation Bible School**

**May 27-29, 2026**

**Registration Details to**

**Come!**

JOIN US FOR

*Bible Study*

TUESDAYS @ 11 AM

BOLTON/SISTAHOOD ROOM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Spring Picnic

IN THE STUART GARDEN

weather permitting

Wednesday, April 29

5:30 PM

JOIN US FOR A COMPLIMENTARY  
MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP!

MARK REYNOLDS' PULLED PORK  
BBQ, HOTDOGS, AND ALL THE  
FIXINGS!



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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

