

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

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

Teach us to turn away from false idols
and to turn to You in faith;
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
Who is risen from the dead. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 447

Lead On, O King Eternal

LANCASHIRE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Siblings,
God not only asks us to repent,
but also assures us of forgiveness.
Therefore, let us confess our sins
to the One Who is Steadfast Love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God,
we do not always keep Your commandments;
we fail to love You;
our conscience is not clear.
Wash us in the water of life
that we may live again
through the grace and mercy of Jesus,
our resurrected Savior.**

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

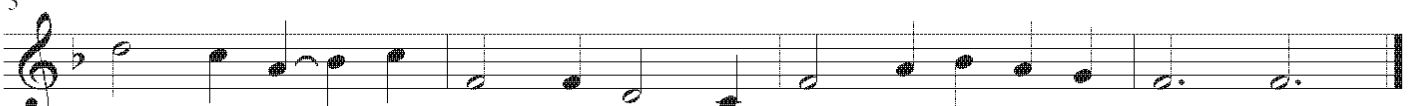
Kyrie Eleison

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

Siblings,
God forgives, restores, and strengthens us
through the risen Christ.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Alleluia! 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 66:8-20

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
**who has kept us among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**
For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.
I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay you my vows,
**those that my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.**
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.
Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.
**I cried aloud to him,
and he was extolled with my tongue.**
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.

**But truly God has listened;
he has heard the words of my prayer.
*Blessed be God,
who has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.***

CHILDREN'S SERMON

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

PEW BIBLE, PG. 234

ANTHEM

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

ARR. MARY McDONALD

*Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.*

*Holy Spirit, come abide within; may Your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover every sin in each thought and deed and attitude,
Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace. breath of God, show Christ in all I do.*

*Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth; cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise. lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.*

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 14:15-21

PEW BIBLE, PG. 109

SERMON

Not Alone

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *The PC(USA) Study Catechism*

Question 54: What do you believe when you confess your faith in the Holy Spirit?

Apart from the Holy Spirit, our Lord can neither be loved, nor known, nor served. The Holy Spirit is the personal bond by which Jesus Christ unites us to himself, the teacher who opens our hearts to Christ, and the comforter who leads us to repentance, empowering us to live in Christ's service. As the work of the one Holy Spirit, our love, knowledge, and service of Christ are all inseparably related.

Question 55: How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

By receiving the Word of God. As the midwife of the new creation, the Spirit arrives with the Word, brings us to rebirth, and assures us of eternal life. The Spirit nurtures, corrects, and strengthens us with the pure spiritual milk of the Word (1 Peter 2:2).

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 326 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* MORECAMBE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, in Your mercy,
Receive 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

Chorale on "Canonbury"

ALICE JORDAN

*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

O Lord, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend, accept and multiply the gifts we give today to be for Your glory and for the good of Your people. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING SENIORS

GRADUATION LITANY

We are gathered together to celebrate the accomplishments of members of our community.

We give blessings to you for all that you have achieved and many more achievements yet to come.

One part of your life's journey is complete. You will prepare to begin another phase that will take you to unimaginable places.

As you prepare for your next journey, we hope that you remember the ones you leave behind, who have loved and supported you throughout the years.

We give blessings of good will and love as you journey forth into the world.

We thank you for the laughter and fellowship that you have shared with us and pray that as you begin your next journey, remember the times that we all shared with you.

Use these memories as a beacon to guide you on your path. Don't look back; continue only forward, while using those memories to create a new path.

We pray that God will give you strength and determination to develop new relationships that will help to strengthen and sustain your faith.

Because we are made in the image of God we have been blessed with free will to make choices and decisions.

We pray that you make wise and rational decisions, always turning to God for help. God hears. God listens. God is always with you. Do not forget that. Always keep in mind that God is around and if you turn to him, he will guide you.

And now we speak this blessing to you:

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN No. 317

Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness

GENEVA

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe

GEORGE F. HANDEL

*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 in memory of Hollis C. Kinsey, II, by the perpetual gift as intended by Delores Duncan Kinsey's will, dated 1986.

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: Sheree Lence

Greeters: 9:00: Steve & Lucy Nash

11:00: Larry & Miriam Crowell, Keith & Elizabeth Grisham

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, May 12 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 14.

For May 17, our scripture passages will be from **Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, and John 17:1-11.**

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.

Flowers in the Sanctuary Update - Beginning August 1, the cost per arrangement is moving to \$75. If you have put your name down already for flowers after this date and would like to remove it, feel free to scratch it out on the calendar by the kitchen. We feel the price is still more than fair compared to the florists, but with prices going up, we had to as well. Thank you for understanding.

Join us for the **Chandler Baby Shower** after church next Sunday, May 17, from 1:00pm - 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Theme - Diapers & Dinner! Sizes 1-2 for diapers, please.

We will swap to **ONE SERVICE on May 24** until the fall. Worship with us at 10:30 A.M. and Sunday School at 9:30 A.M. We will not have Sunday School on May 24.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Scarlett Reeder, Tom McDonald

Homebound: Mary Ann Chiles, Carolyn Gaston, John Gaston

College Students: Ana Morgan Beckham, Daniel Crotwell, Anne Crotwell

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Youth Sunday: 114

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 5/3/26: \$5,507

YTD Budgeted Income: \$442,120 YTD Income Received: \$526,150



Diapers

Dinner

and

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
BABY SHOWER HONOURING

Elizabeth Stokes Chandler,
Jake Chandler & Baby Clara

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Sunday, May 17, 1:00-2:00

DIAPERS IN SIZE 1 OR 2 AND/OR
GIFT CARDS TO LOCAL RESTAURANTS



OFFICE CLOSED

FOR

Memorial Day

5/25/26

ONE SERVICE

BEGINNING

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

PENTECOST SUNDAY

&

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION
OF ELDERS

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
MAY 24

WORSHIP
10:30 AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TUPELO



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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

