

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

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 23, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M

“Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’” - Matthew 16:16

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Prelude on “Rhosymedre”* RALPH VAUGHN WILLIAMS

SPECIAL MUSIC *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* ARR. FABER

INTROIT *Come, Labor On* ARR. RYAN MURPHY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear O Israel! I am calling! Are you listening?

We are here and we are ready.

Beloved Children, who do you say that I am?

**You are our rock and our redeemer. Our trust is in you. Our hearts,
minds, and souls belong to you!**

I created you, named you, and have a calling for your life.

We give thanks with our whole hearts for your steadfast love!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

whose compassion embraces everyone,

gather the outcast and the lost,

heal the wounds of fear and distrust,

and make us a community of reconciliation

that we may embody your merciful love

and rejoice in your astounding grace

in Jesus Christ. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

You call to us, Lord, but we struggle to listen. As we come before you with our hearts open, quiet the noise of the world, of our pressing thoughts and fears, so that we may hear your Spirit fully.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of truth, like a moth that gnaws at wool, our brokenness eats away at our souls. We allow the cacophony of greed, selfishness, apathy, and ignorance to drown out your voice as you call us to see the suffering in our world and respond to the needs of your children. In our busy lives, we convince ourselves that there is no time to help, no space for prayer, and no need for justice. Forgive us. Remind us that only when we slow down and breathe deeply of your Holy Spirit and holy Word can our ears hear your voice. Inspire us to greater love for you and one another.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

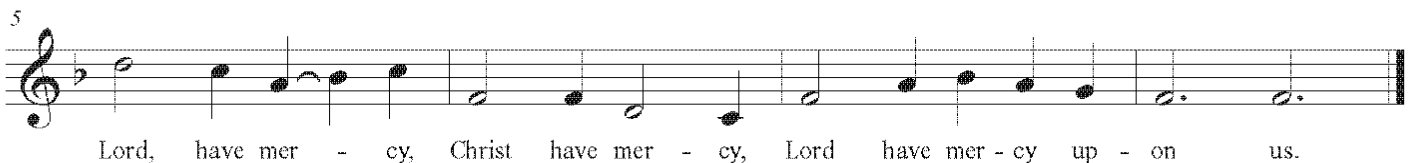
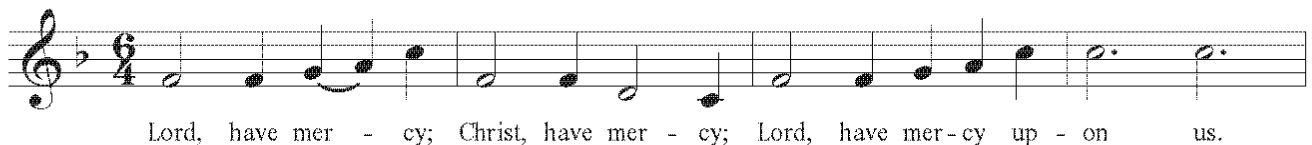
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The prophet Isaiah wrote, “Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me.”
Jesus promised, “I will give you the keys to the kingdom.”

We know love and forgiveness because God first loved us and has been calling out to us forever, “You are my beloved!” May we respond to such abundant grace with deep gratitude for God’s unending forgiveness.

God loves me, heals me, strengthens me and calls me by name. Through Jesus I am made whole! 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 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.**

On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength of soul.

**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.

**For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;

**you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.**

***The lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.***

CHILDREN’S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

PEW BIBLE, PG. 681

ANTHEM

Jesus Paid it All

ARR. ROBERT STERLING

I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small.

Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all.”

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;

Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I where-by Thy grace to claim;

I’ll wash my garments white in the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb.

And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete,

“Jesus died my soul to save,” my lips shall still repeat.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

PEW BIBLE, PG. 18

SERMON

Who Do You Say That I Am

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *The Confession of 1967*

The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries.

The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics.

But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God’s purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail.

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the word of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 343 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* BEECHER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, be with us.

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 *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* EMMA LOU DIEMER

*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

God of Abundance, we have received blessings from you and today we hear your call to share our time, our talent, and our treasure with your beloved community. May these gifts bring your light, love, and hope to all who need them.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 446 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* AUSTRIAN HYMN

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune* HENRY PURCELL

*BENEDICTION

This Week @ FPC

Sunday

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

8/23

Monday

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

8/24

Tuesday

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi
11:00 A.M. Bible Study
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

8/25

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg

8/26

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast
@ Talbot House
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

8/27

Friday

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

8/28

Saturday

8/29

Next Week:

- Wednesday (9/2): Meal & Program start back
- Thursday (9/3): St. Lukes & Braver Angels



WEDNESDAY NIGHT KICK-OFF

NO COST SO COME JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP!

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

Dinner at 5:30. Games to Follow!
in the Stuart Garden (weather permitting!)

Fun, family friendly event
Light menu of pizza, chicken tenders, pasta
salad, chips, and cookies for dessert



RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED!



save the date

FALL FESTIVAL

DOWNTOWN | TUPELO, MS

FAIRPARK

SEPTEMBER

12

10 AM - 4 PM

- LOCAL ARTISTS
- VENDORS
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- RAFFLE

RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE:
CONTACT MARGARET PARKER
662.687.2027

FOR VENDOR INFORMATION:

Please text Jean Watson

662.322.2878

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 today to the glory of God and in honor of my son, Davis Johnson, for his birthday from Fletcher and Claire Johnson.

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 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 our 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: Melissa McDuffie

11:00: Anne Marie Littrell

Greeters: 9:00: Steve & Lucy Nash

11:00: Jim, Genie Alice, Lorretta, & Ada Bruce

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

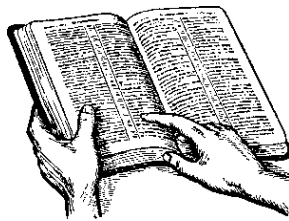
Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, August 25 at 11:00 A.M.. We will continue meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room. This group enjoys engaging discussions and fellowship, and it is open to everyone. This week, we will study Acts 26.

For August 30, our scripture passages will be from **Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b, Romans 12:9-21, and Matthew 16:21-28.**

Flowers in the Sanctuary Update - As of August 1, the cost per arrangement moved 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.



The Nominating Committee is working to propose a slate of elders for the Class of 2030. If you have any suggestions for members of the church you would like the Committee to consider, please use the QR code provided.



PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Emily Barber

Homebound: Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Barbara Price, Gladys Wilson

College Students: Emma Claire Wallace, Jenkins Wells, Daniel Crotwell

Service Members: Patrick Hstings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 49 11:00 A.M.: 102

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 8/16/26: \$5,141
YTD Budgeted Income: \$707, 391 YTD Income Received: \$745, 526

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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 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

CLASS OF 2029

Richard Hastings
Jimmy Milam
Curtis Monts
Mary Ellis Pace
Margaret Parker
Daintry Thomas
Al 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
Jeff Nock, 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

