

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

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

August 9, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M

“But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’” -
MATTHEW 14:27

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Prelude in Classic Style

GORDON YOUNG

INTROIT

How Firm a Foundation

ARR. TOM TRENNEY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Upon Mount Horeb, Elijah heard the voice of God, not in the wind,
or the earthquake, or the fire, but in the sound of sheer silence.

**Holy God, quiet our minds and our hearts, rid us of distraction, so
we can hear You and know You are among us.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God with us,
Your word is near,
on our lips and in our hearts.
In this moment,
You come to us, not as fire, storm, or quaking ground,
but as the intimacy of our very breath,
the sound of sheer silence.
Be present in our places of fear,
speak stillness to our trembling hearts,
minister to us with bread and water and rest.
Then send us from that rest

to be present with all who long
for the beautiful promise of Your good news
and the serenity of Your steadfast love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 562 *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

MELITA

CALL TO CONFESSION

God makes no distinctions among us—
the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous.
Indeed, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved.
Confessing our sins,
we depend on God's generosity and grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,
You call us to step out in faith, trusting in You for all things.
We respond to Your command but then sink in doubt and fear.
We hide from the challenges of bold discipleship.
We are not able to fulfill Your commandments,
for our purposes are never in full accord with Yours.
Forgive us, we pray, when we confess with our lips
but do not believe in our hearts.
Help us to practice our faith in all circumstances.
Lift us out of sin into the arms of Your mercy.
Though we are distracted by noise all around,
allow us to hear Your voice
even when it is the sound of sheer silence...**

(Time of Silent Confession)



KYRIE

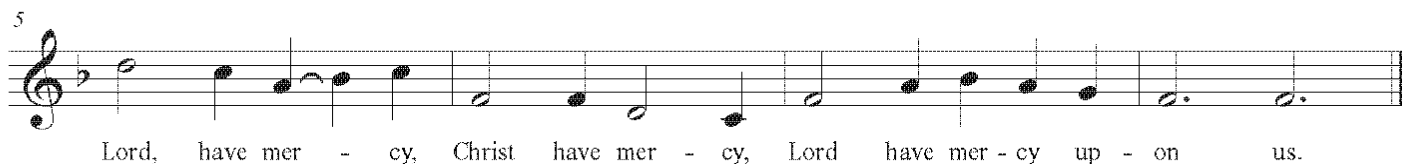
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus is Lord!

God raised him from the dead
and we are saved through him.

This is the good news we believe in our hearts
and confess with our mouths:

in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

This is good news to share with all people!

*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

UNISON READING

PSALM 85:8-13

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before him
and will make a path for his steps.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 19:9-18

PEW BIBLE, PG. 326

ANTHEM

Be Still My Soul

ARR. MACK WILBERG

*Be still, my soul, the Lord is on your side;
With patience bear thy cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul, thy best, thy heav'nly friend
Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul, the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still my soul, when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:22-33

PEW BIBLE, PG. 16

SERMON

“It Is I; Do Not Be Afraid”

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

Love Lifted Me
(see insert on page 9)

SAFETY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of steadfast love,

Draw near.

**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, Savior, Pilot Me

DON HUSTAD

*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

Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that You have given us. Take these offerings, we pray, and multiply them for Your use. May our offerings be a blessing to those most in need, to those most vulnerable. May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, abate the desire to hoard, and spread the desire to share. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN No. 308 *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* KINGSFOLD

POSTLUDE *The Solid Rock* DON HUSTAD

*BENEDICTION

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, August 11 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 24.

For August 16, our scripture passages will be from **Genesis 45:1-15, Psalm 133, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, and Matthew 15:21-28.**

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.



The Nominating Committee is beginning its work 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.



After Service Today, we will celebrate **Maggie Thomas & Christian Zaytoun** with a **wedding shower** in the Fellowship Hall from **1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.** Please join us in honoring them. They are registered at Amazon, Reeds, and Williams Sonoma.

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 wife, Kory Hunter, with love and gratitude from Ben Hunter.

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: Virginia Toliver

11:00: Andy Crotwell

Greeters: 9:00: Bill & Lori Dickerson

11:00: Vivian Fleming, Lisa Johnson, Corey & Anne Marie Littrell

89

Love Lifted Me

WORDS: James Rowe, 1912

MUSIC: Howard E. Smith, 1912

LOVE LIFTED ME

Irregular with Refrain

1. I was sink-ing deep in sin, far from the peace-ful shore, ver - y deep-ly
 2. All my heart to Him I give, ev - er to Him I'll cling, in His bless-ed
 3. Souls in dan-ger, look a-bove, Je - sus com-plete-ly saves; He will lift you

stained with - in, sink-ing to rise no more; but the Mas-ter of the sea
 pres - ence live, ev - er His prais-es sing. Love so might-y and so true
 by His love out of the an - gry waves. He's the Mas-ter of the sea,

heard my de-spair-ing cry, from the wa-ters lift - ed me, now safe am I.
 mer - its my soul's best songs; faith-ful, lov-ing serv-ice, too, to Him be-longs.
 bil - lows His will o - bey; He your Sav-ior wants to be; be saved to - day.

Refrain
 Love lift - ed me! e - ven me! Love lift - ed me! e - ven me! When noth - ing

1 else could help, love lift - ed me. 2 love lift - ed me.

Weekly

FPC Schedule

Sunday

900 AM Worship
1000 AM Sunday School
1100 AM Worship
430 PM Boy Scouts

8/9

Monday

230 PM. CASA. Gym
530 PM. Committee Meetings

8/10

Tuesday

900 AM Tai Chi
1100 AM Bible Study
230 PM. CASA. Gym
700 PM. AA Meeting

8/11

Wednesday

1000 AM Staff Meeting
230 PM. CASA
300 PM. Mah Jongg

8/12

Thursday

800 AM. Mens Breakfast Talbot House
230 PM. CASA. Gym

8/13

Friday

1200 PM. AA
230 PM. CASA. Gym

8/14

Saturday

900 AM Helping Hands Volunteers

8/15

Notes

• Next Week:

- Monday - Steering & Session
- Tuesday - Cook for the Salvation Army
- Thursday - Shepherd's Center Mtg

TODAY!!



MAGGIE



Thomas

CHRISTIAN

zanytown

wedding shower

august 9, 2026

one to two thirty pm

fellowship hall



registered at Amazon, Reeds
and Williams Sonoma

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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

