

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

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 20, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M

“Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...” - PHILIPPIANS 1:27

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Jesus Loves Me

ALBERT TRAVIS

INTROIT

How Will They Know?

NATALIE SLEETH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

When we embrace God’s call in our lives or when we try to avoid it,

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Whether we grew up in church or only recently entered a life of faith,

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

When our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

We praise God’s name forever and ever!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Generous God,

You come to us again and again,

no matter how late it is in the day

or in our lives.

You call to us,

gather us in,

give us your good work to do,

daily bread,

and boundless grace.

Increase in us a generous spirit
 so that we may do your work with joy.
 May we feel your presence among us
 as we worship together this morning,
 as we serve as your disciples
 in all the places we are called to this week.
 In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 466 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP LIZ ROSE

CALL TO CONFESSION

We do not always live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.
 Acknowledging this, let us confess before God and one another our sins and
 shortcomings. In repentance, let us turn toward God for grace and mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of abundant goodness, we confess that we expect your grace for
 ourselves, but often wish for the punishment of others. We judge the
 efforts and motives of others while ignoring the faults of our own. Forgive
 us, we pray, when we let jealousy overtake us. Forgive us, we pray, when
 we are petty even in the presence of your generosity. We once again ask for
 your mercy, so that we can be merciful to others. We pray in the name of
 Christ Jesus, by whose grace we are saved. Amen.**

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God gives us mercy infinitely beyond what we deserve and grace beyond our ability to earn it. Friends, we believe this good news! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

*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.

THE BAPTISM OF CATHERINE LUCILLE STEINWINDER & MORRIS JONES STEINWINDER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 78:1-4,12-16

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children;

we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might
and the wonders that he has done.

In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

He divided the sea and let them pass through it
and made the waters stand like a heap.

In the daytime he led them with a cloud
and all night long with a fiery light.

He split rocks open in the wilderness
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

He made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 16:2-15

PEW BIBLE, PG. 62

ANTHEM

I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus

ARR. BARLOW BRADFORD

I'm trying to be like Jesus, I'm following in His ways.

I'm trying to love as He did in all that I do and say.

*At times I am tempted to make a wrong choice,
but I try to listen as the still small voice whispers,*

"Love one another as Jesus loves you.

Try to show kindness in all that you do.

*Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought,
for these are the things Jesus taught."*

I'm trying to love my neighbor, I'm learning to serve my friends.

I watch for that day of gladness when Jesus will come again.

*I try to remember the lessons he taught,
and the holy spirit enters into my thoughts, saying,*

"Love one another as Jesus loves you.

Try to show kindness in all that you do.

*Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought,
for these are the things Jesus taught."*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 1:21-30

PEW BIBLE, PG. 196

SERMON

Our Sermon

MELISSA MCDUFFIE

*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.

Continue on next page

**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 (SEE INSERT) *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

LEMMEL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S 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**

**Lord, giver of all good gifts, thank you for the gifts gathered here. Use
them for the advancement of your kingdom; in Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN No. 525**

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM

POSTLUDE

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

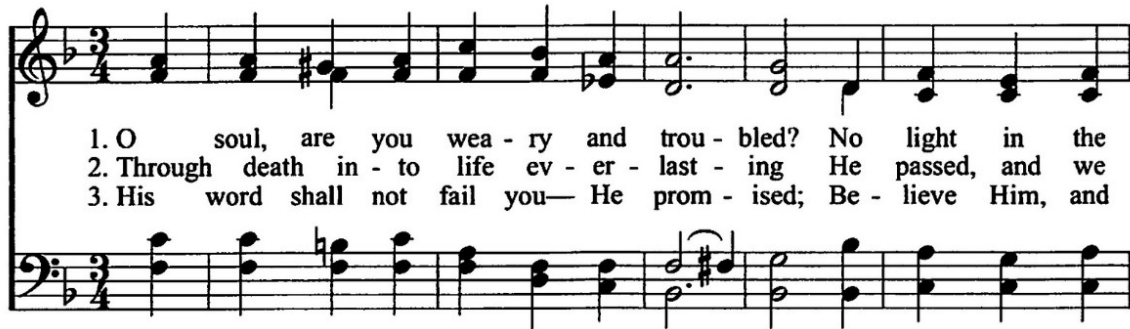
J.S. BACH

***BENEDICTION**

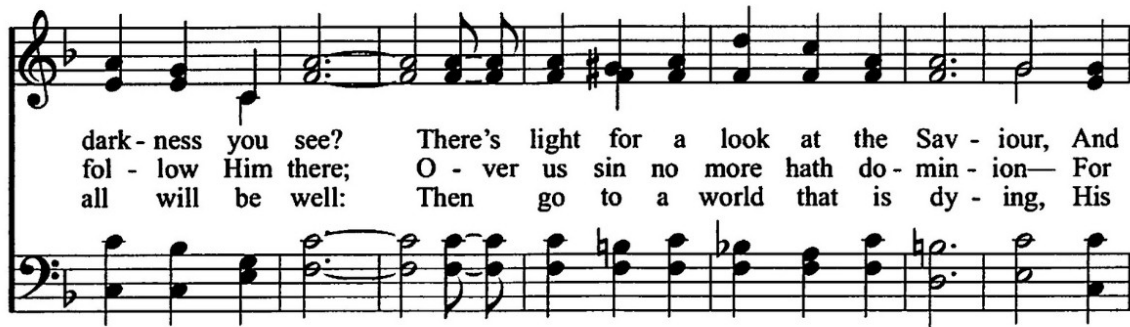
Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

HELEN H. LEMMEL

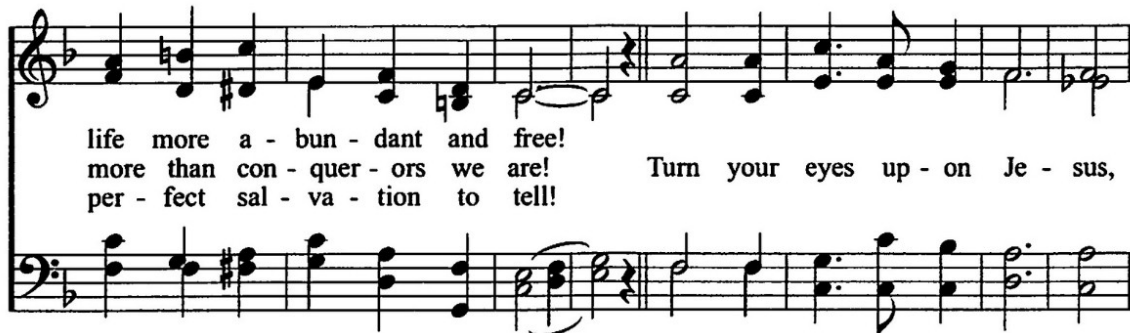
HELEN H. LEMMEL



1. O soul, are you wea - ry and trou - bled? No light in the
2. Through death in - to life ev - er - last - ing He passed, and we
3. His word shall not fail you— He prom - ised; Be - lieve Him, and



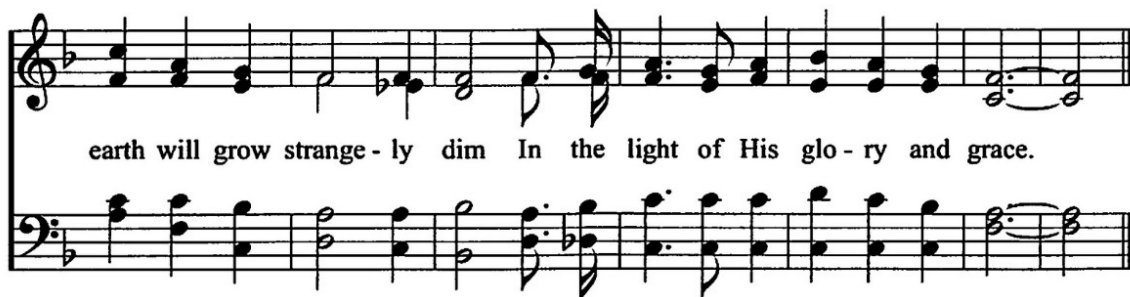
dark - ness you see? There's light for a look at the Sav - iour, And
fol - low Him there; O - ver us sin no more hath do - min - ion— For
all will be well: Then go to a world that is dy - ing, His



life more a - bun - dant and free!
more than con - quer - ors we are! Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus,
per - fect sal - va - tion to tell!



Look full in His won - der - ful face, And the things of



earth will grow strange - ly dim In the light of His glo - ry and grace.

Wednesday Night MENU & INFORMATION

WE NEED YOUR HELP each week with desserts!

(Can be left on the kitchen island Tuesday or Wednesday of each week.)

9/23 MEATLOAF MASHED POTATOES PURPLE HULL PEAS SALAD BAR KIDS: CHICKEN TENDERS	9/30 SPAGHETTI GREEN BEANS FRENCH BREAD SALAD BAR KIDS: PIZZA	10/7 ROTEL CHICKEN SPAGHETTI GREEN BEANS FRUIT SALAD SALAD BAR KIDS: CHICKEN TENDERS
10/21 BBQ SANDWICHES BAKED BEANS POTATO SALAD SALAD BAR KIDS: PIZZA	11/4 BEEF STROGANOFF SAUTEED VEGGIES FRIED OKRA SALAD BAR KIDS: CHICKEN TENDERS	11/11 PORK TENDERLOIN MAC & CHEESE ENGLISH PEAS SALAD BAR KIDS: PIZZA
11/18 CHICKEN & DRESSING SWEET POTATO CASS. MAC & CHEESE GREEN BEANS SALAD BAR KIDS: CHICKEN TENDERS	12/2 CHICKEN ALFREDO STEAMED BROCCOLI GLAZED CARROTS SALAD BAR KIDS: PIZZA	12/9 TACO SOUP CHILI CHICKEN GNOCCHI POTATO SOUP SALAD BAR KIDS: CHICKEN TENDERS

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MONDAY OF EACH WEEK

Dessert bar included with all meals.

DINNER SERVICE
STARTS AT
5:30 PM

NEW PRICING
Adults: \$10/each
*Kids (12 and under): \$5/each
Family: \$40/max

*KIDS MENU AVAILABLE
FOR AGES 13+ AT ADULT
PRICING.
PLEASE SPECIFY WHEN
YOU MAKE YOUR
RESERVATION.*

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

9/20

Monday

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

9/21

Tuesday

9:00 A.M. Tai Chi
11:00 A.M. Bible Study
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

9/22

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg
5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Program & Meal
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

9/23

Thursday

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

9/24

Friday

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

9/25

Saturday

9/26

Next Week:

- Thursday - St. Luke's

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 loving memory of Anne's grandmother, Marjorie Anderson Lampkin, on her birthday by Anne & Chris Kramer.

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: Melissa McDuffie, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

Liturgists: 9:00: Rev. John Brock

11:00: Rev. John Brock

Greeters: 9:00: Jim & Hudson Fisher

11:00: Bryan, Natalie, Gia, Chris, and Bryan Thomas Ellis; Daintry Thomas

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, September 22, 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. We will study **Acts 28** this week.

For September 27, our scripture passages will be from **Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Philippians 2:1-13, and Matthew 21:23-32.**



Our **Wednesday night supper and program** will take place in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, September 23,** at 5:30 P.M. We will hear from the local non-profit organization The Shine Foundation in this week's program. The menu includes meatloaf, mashed potatoes, purple hull peas, garden salad, rolls, and dessert. Chicken tenders and tots are on the kids' menu. Adults are \$10/person, kids (12 & under) are \$5/person, and there is a \$40 maximum per family. The kids' menu is available to ages 13+ at adult pricing. Please specify when making your reservation. **Sign up by noon on Monday** by scanning the QR code or by calling the church office at 662-842-5681.

There will be an **organizational meeting** for the **2027 Guatemala Mission Trip** on Wednesday, **September 23, at 6:15 P.M.** in the Mission Room. This is not a commitment, rather an informative meeting to gauge interest and get information out to those who may be interested.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Emily Barber

Homebound: Carolyn Gaston, John Gaston, Joy Hyatt

College Students: Joey McDuffie, Aryanna Phyfer, Ashton Posey

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 62 11:00 A.M.: 167

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 9/13/26: \$18,262
YTD Budgeted Income: \$795,816 YTD Income Received: \$800,689

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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

