

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

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 6, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” - Matthew 18:20

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

In His Presence

SANDI PATTI/ARR. JOYCE JONES

INTROIT

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

SEBASTIAN TEMPLE/
MARK HAYES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We know what time it is.

It is time to wake up from our sleep!

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

The night is far gone, the day is near!

Where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name,

God is here among us.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

whose ways are far beyond our understanding,

help us to trust your judgements

so that we may do your will

by loving you and one another.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 559

We Gather Together

KREMSER

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our sins weigh us down,
and we struggle to live in freedom and joy.
When we turn and return to the God who loves us,
God finds pleasure.

We turn now, confessing our sins against God and neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

From evil, when it masquerades as good,
merciful God, deliver us.

From selfishness and vain desires,
merciful God, deliver us.

From irresponsible behaviors, quarreling, and jealousy,
merciful God, deliver us.

From hurtful disagreements and irreconcilable differences,
merciful God, deliver us.

Turn us away from the death sin inflicts.

Lead us into the abundant life Christ brings.

**Forgive us, we pray,
and teach us to forgive,
through Jesus Christ.**

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

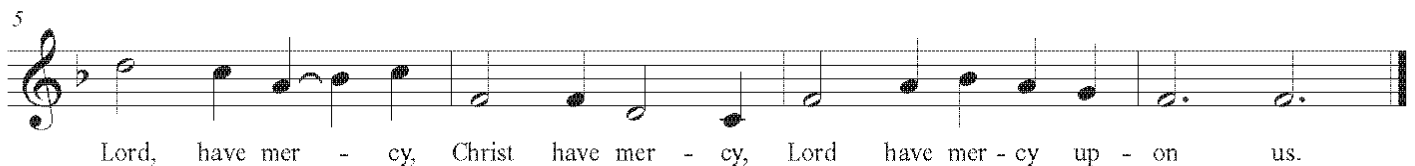
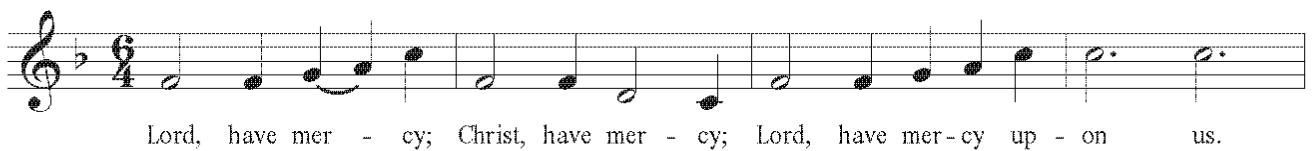
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

Kyrie Eleison

American folk hymn

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Laying aside the works of darkness,
we live in the light of Christ.

Gathered in Christ's name,
surely he is among us,
full of grace and truth.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven
and lifted up to new life.**

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 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

**Turn my heart to your decrees
and not to selfish gain.**

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
be gracious to me according to your word.

**Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

**See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness be gracious to me.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 13:8-14

PEW BIBLE, PG. 162

ANTHEM

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ARR. MACK WILBERG

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down.

Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art.

Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, o breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast.

Let us all in Thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

end of faith as it's beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all Thy life receive.

Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as they hosts above.

Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.

Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee.

Changed from glory into glory till in heaven we take our place;

till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20

PEW BIBLE, PG. 20

SERMON

Working Together

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is,

seen and unseen.

Continue on next page

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 441 *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

ST. THOMAS

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Let Us Break Bread Together

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.***

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION 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.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, these offerings seem insignificant in light of all that you have offered us. We give because you gave. We love because you first loved us. Receive our gifts and our lives, and use them, we pray, for your reconciling work in the world you love. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN (SEE INSERT) *Where Two or Three are Gathered*

NETTLETON

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

MARK OTTERSTAD

*BENEDICTION

Where Two or Three Are Gathered

NETTLETON

W. H. Lawrence

Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Lord, Your heart is with Your peo-ple; two or three and You are there; there with
Fa - ther You re-veal in Je - sus more than pre - sent sight can see: Christ the
all Your gifts and gra - ces full and flow - ing glad to share. Where You
home of all the na - tions, Christ, our glo - rious des - ti - ny. Ev - ry_

are can - not be sha - ken. You are here and all is well. O what
peo - ple, ev - ry per - son all one fam' - ly now be - gun. One with

peace! And O what glo - ry! Praise to You, Em - man - u - el.
You, our lov - ing Fa - ther, ful - ly joined in Christ Your Son.

Capital Campaign Dinner

Sunday, September 13

5:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church Gym

No cost - Reservations Requested



Weekly

FPC Schedule

Sunday Communion
Two Cents a Meal

9:00 A.M. Worship
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts 9/6

Monday Labor Day
Office Closed

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
6:45 P.M. Circle 3,
Member's Home 9/7

Tuesday
9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi
10:00 A.M. Martha's, Kitchen
11:00 A.M. Bible Study
12:00 P.M. Circle 24,
Frances Sheffield Rm.
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
7:00 P.M. AA Meeting 9/8

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 9/9

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

9/10

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

9/11

Saturday
Haynes/Griffie Wedding

9/12

Next Week:

Sunday – Capital Campaign Dinner
Monday – Committee Meetings
Tuesday – Cook for the Salvation Army
Thursday – Shepherd's Center Meeting
Saturday – Helping Hands

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 in loving memory of Sudie Crockett by Jimmy Crockett, Becky Easley, and Janice Reynolds.

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

Liturgists: 9:00: Virginia Tolliver

11:00: Liz Rose

Greeters: 9:00: Sarah Hardison, Tracy Kramer

11:00: Gay Abney, Bess & Grayson Robbins

Crucifers: 9:00: Emma McDuffie

11:00: Oliver Grisham

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will meet this Tuesday, September 8 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 27.

 Our **Capital Campaign Dinner** will take place on **Sunday, September 13, at 5:30 P.M. in the gymnasium.** This is a **free event for all ages.** Children will be asked to participate in part of the program before being dismissed to their own activity. Nursery care will be provided. **Please scan the QR code to register** you and your family.

For September 13, our scripture passages will be from **Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114, Romans 14:1-12, and Matthew 18:21-35.**

The calendar for **flowers in the sanctuary for 2027** is posted by the kitchen for sign-up.

 Our **Wednesday night supper and program** will take place in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, September 9,** at 5:30 P.M. Our program this week will be exploring the question, *"What do you wish you could change in your community?"* with John Brock. This week's menu includes poppyseed chicken, green beans, mac & cheese, garden salad, rolls, and dessert. Adults are \$10/person, kids (12 & under) are \$5/person, and there is a \$40 maximum per family. **Sign up by noon on Monday** by scanning the QR code or by calling the church office at 662-842-5681.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Emily Barber

Homebound: Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash, Ruby Kathryn Patterson

College Students: Lindley Gibens, Andrew Goad, Charlie Gratz

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 49 11:00 A.M.: 122

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 8/30/26: \$26,640
YTD Budgeted Income: \$618,968 YTD Income Received: 706,179

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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

