

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

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

9:00 & 11:00 A.M

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” - MATTHEW 22:37b-40

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Arioso

J. S. BACH

INTROIT

Jesus in the Morning

TRADITIONAL

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Love the Lord your God!

Yes, we will love the Lord

with all our heart, mind, and soul!

Love your neighbor!

Yes, we will love our neighbors

as we would love ourselves,

as we would love God.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Creation,

You have made us to be nourished in Your care,

and You test us so that we will turn again

and again toward Your gifts.

Show us how to love our neighbors and ourselves,

and teach us to delight in Your law

so that we will know the way of gratitude and thanksgiving.

In the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us speak the truth about ourselves,
to our neighbors and to God,
acknowledging what we have done
and what we have left undone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Your holiness, O God, commands that we confess:
We have neither loved our neighbors as ourselves
nor honored ourselves as Your beloved creation.
We have judged unjustly,
regarded others ungenerously,
profited at the losses of those near and distant,
born grudges, desired vengeance,
and kept silence in the face of wrongdoing.
We love to live in accord with Your desire
that Your way of compassion, kindness, and honesty
will govern our hearts and minds,
turning us toward lives of peace.
Forgive us and lead us.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

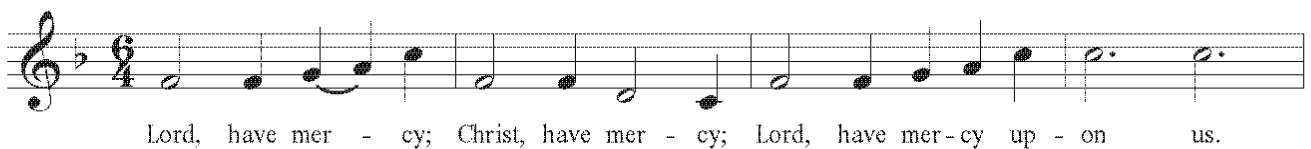
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

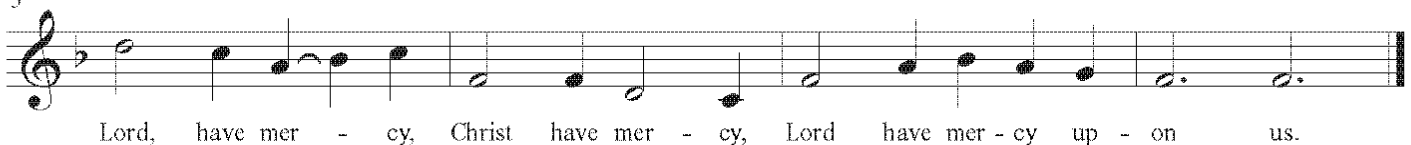
American folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Siblings in Christ,
the Holy One promises forgiveness for those who confess.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,
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.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

UNISON READING

PSALM 1

Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked
**or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,**
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
**They are like trees
planted by streams of water,**
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

PEW BIBLE, PG. 203

*“My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heav’n thereby,
Nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally.
Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me upon the cross embrace;
For me didst bear the nails, the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace.
Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love Thee well?
Not for the hope of winning heaven, or of escaping hell;
Not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward;
But as Thyself hast loved me, O ever-loving Lord!
E’en so I love Thee, and will love, and in Thy praise will sing;
Solely because Thou art my God, and my Eternal King.”*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:34-46

PEW BIBLE, PG. 25

SERMON

“Won’t You be my Neighbor?”

REV. JOHN BROCK

**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.
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 NO. 372 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God,
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

O God, Thou Faithful God

MAX REGER

*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

Generous God, we bring our gifts to You. May these gifts yield the fruits of Your Spirit, meeting scarcity with Your abundance, and fear with Your love. Use our offerings and our lives in love and service. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

The Lord Is God
(see insert)

AZMON

POSTLUDE

Voluntary on "Ein Feste Burg"

GORDON YOUNG

*BENEDICTION

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The Lord Is God

1 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise
2 With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
3 At night or day, at home, a - way, to - geth - er and a - part,
4 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise

to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.
O peo - ple, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.
O chil - dren, take these ho - ly words and keep them in your heart.
to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Lord Is God'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 for the first system and the continuation of the lyrics for the second system. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a children's songbook.

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 memory of Lucy Jeanelle Wells, Susan Williams, Billy Jenkins Jordan, and Wilson D. “Buck” Simmons by Jack, Aubre, Ivy, Katelyn, Elizabeth, Lucy, Jenkins, and Witt Wells.

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: Sheree Lence

11:00: Bob Lence

Greeters: 9:00: Lori & Bill Dickerson

11:00: Roxie, Claude, & Perry Clayton, Judy Thomas

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will be taking a break until Tuesday, November 10. We will begin studying the book of Proverbs when Bible Study resumes.

For November 1, our scripture passages will be from **Joshua 3:7-17, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, and Matthew 23:1-12.**

Our **Operation Christmas Child** collection is coming up soon! If you have not started your shoebox yet, now is a great time. Shoebox gifts can include toys, school supplies, personal care items, clothing accessories, and other small gifts. Every box is an opportunity to show a child that he or she is loved and remembered. More information on what to include can be found at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>. We ask that you pre-pay your shipping label or provide \$10 to help cover shipping fees for your shoebox. You can also support the project with a monetary donation, which our youth will use to shop for and pack additional boxes. Cash may be placed in an envelope labeled for **Operation Christmas Child**, or checks may be written with “OCC” in the memo/for line. Completed shoeboxes should be returned to the church by **Sunday, November 15**. Contact Morgan Ricks or Anne Kramer with questions.



Join us this Wednesday for our Fall Festival! Our meal will consist of Fried/Grilled Chicken Tenders, Pizza, Salad, Mixed Fruit, & Chips. Meal cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12. Dinner is at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall, then come on over to the Gym for our Fall Festival. Entrance Fee is a box of cereal per person!

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Emily Barber, Margaret Murphey

Homebound: Charlie Barber, Mary Ann Chiles, Carolyn Gaston

College Students: Andrew Goad, Charlie Gratz, Lucy Gratz

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 46 11:00 A.M.: 173

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$22,106 Amount Received 10/18/26: \$1,864

YTD Budgeted Income: \$884,240 YTD Income Received: \$843,309



First
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Church

Tupelo, Mississippi



REGISTER FOR SUPPER

FESTIVAL

GAMES - FELLOWSHIP - FUN!

OCTOBER 28

MEAL @ 5:30

FESTIVAL @ 6:00

ADULTS: \$10

KIDS: \$5

- FRIED/GRILLED CHICKEN TENDERS
- PIZZA
- SALAD
- MIXED FRUIT
- CHIPS

ENTRANCE FEE:

**A BOX OF
CEREAL**

**LOTS OF FUN FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY!!!**

***** COSTUME CONTEST *****

This Week @ FVAC

Sunday.

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

10/25

Monday.

2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

10/26

Tuesday.

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

10/27

Wednesday.

FALL FESTIVAL

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
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

10/28

Thursday.

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

10/29

Friday.

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

10/30

Saturday.

HALLOWEEN

10/31

Next Week:

Sunday. - Communion, Two Cents a Meal, All Saints Day Service, Youth to Camp Hopewell, Daylight Savings Time ends

Monday. - Circle 3

Thursday. - St. Luke's Food Pantry

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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

