

Morning Worship Service

Third Sunday after Epiphany

JANUARY 21, 2024

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“...for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.” – Jonah 4:2b

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Toccata in Seven* John Rutter

INTROIT *Come, Labor On* arr. Ryan Murphy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from the Lord.

People: God only is my rock and my salvation; I shall not be shaken.

Leader: Trust in the Lord at all times, O people; pour out your heart before God.

People: Our trust is in the Lord. We worship God's name.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 371 *Lift High the Cross* CRUCIFER

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: You are our rock and our strength, O God, and in you rests our deliverance. You defend us in the midst of adversity; you protect us from ultimate harm. You humble the mighty with acts that manifest your transcendent power; the lowly you comfort with your tender embrace. We gather this day, saved by your mercy. Hear now our praises as we herald your greatness, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who taught us to pray, saying...

All: 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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus calls to us: change your hearts and change your lives! Repent, and believe the good news. The mercy and forgiveness we have already received enables us to be honest about the places in our lives in need of transformation. Let us confess our sin together.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, we confess that we have settled down in Nineveh.
We have gotten comfortable in our categories:
haves and have-nots,
makers and takers,
bigots and bystanders,
self-starters and subordinates,
law-abiders and illegals,
the perpetrators and the innocent.
We confess that we are comfortable living
under systems of injustice and exploitation.
We confess our discomfort in speaking truths
that unmask idolatries.
Make us ready to follow Jesus,
ready to repent,
and eager to change our hearts and lives.
Call to us again, and show us your mercy.
Let us hear your good news again.**

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE NO. 565

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie Eleison – (Lord, have mercy)
Christe Eleison – (Christ, have mercy)
Kyrie Eleison – (Lord, have mercy)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God desires relationship with us, and reconciliation for all of creation.
Jesus comes bearing the good news of forgiveness and transformation.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **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.*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

[Mark 1:14-20](#)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Can Hear the Savior Calling

Krimm/Martin

I can hear the Savior calling "Come to me and find release."

In the shadows He is singing in His music there is peace.

In the season of my sorrow, in my moments of despair.

I can hear the Savior calling, in the stillness He is there.

I can hear the Savior pleading poor and sinful though we be.

Like a Shepherd He is leading calling "Come, and follow Me."

In His grace is hope and comfort, we are safe within His care.

I can hear the Savior calling, in the stillness He is there.

His voice is like a whisper; a love song in the night.

His song can wake the morning with glorious light!

He speaks and there is comfort; His voice can calm the sea.

His song can fill the world with hope and peace.

I can hear the Savior calling, "Take up your cross and follow Me."

Through the valleys, over mountains, walk by faith and let Him lead.

Walking worthy of the calling and the gospel that we share.

I can hear the Savior calling. He is faithful; He is there.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

[Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"If At First You Don't Follow, Try Try Again"

Rev. John Brock

*UNISON PROFESSION 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. 525 *Here I Am, Lord*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Today We All Are Called To Be Disciples* 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

**Merciful God, you have saved us for a purpose.
We dedicate these gifts as we dedicate our lives to you,
that you will make us fishers of people. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 307 *Fight the Good Fight* DUKE STREET

POSTLUDE *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* J.S. Bach

*BENEDICTION

*Congregation standing as able.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Are you looking for a church home? If so, please speak to our minister following worship.

As a courtesy to those around you, please turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

The Flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in honor of Martha and Bobby Dale by Marion Linde.

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.

Ritual of Friendship—Members and Visitors: Please sign the black attendance register every Sunday and pass it down your pew. Please read the names, greet one another, and meet new members and visitors.

We care about you as we care about each other. If you would like to submit a prayer request, you may use the blue cards in the pews or in McFadden Hall, and our pastoral staff and prayer partners will pray for you.

The service is live streamed and available for viewing on [YouTube.com](https://www.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. Robert Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. A. Taylor Todd

Greeters: 9:00: Pat Agnew, Lori and Bill Dickerson

11:00: Teresa Biddle, Cindy Faucette, Lisa Nichols, Judy Thomas

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2024 flower sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board near the kitchen. If you would like to contribute flowers for worship, please leave your name and phone number. One arrangement costs \$60 if the Flower Guild ladies create it; otherwise, you may use a florist of your choice.

The Congregational Care Committee is looking for people interested in decorating sugar eggs. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Faucette cfaucette@bellsouth.net or call the church office at 662-842-5681.

Be sure to join church friends and our visitors for supper at 5:30 P.M., Wednesday, January 24 in the Fellowship Hall. The menu: Meatloaf, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Cheesy Potato Casserole, Corn on the Cob, Rolls, Full Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, Presly's World Famous Chocolate Bread Pudding, and Assorted Homemade Desserts.

The Adult Program begins at 6:15 P.M. and will be led by Tyson Quinn, whose program is "Real Men Stand Up."

Sign up by Noon Wednesday using Sunday's attendance register, the link in Friday's newsletter, or call the church office at 662-842-5681. Wednesday programs for Faithbuilders and youth begin at 6:00 P.M., Cherubs begin at 6:10 P.M. All programs conclude at 7:00 P.M.

The January meeting of Session is at 6:00 P.M. Monday, January 22.

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. The meeting will fulfill the requirement of holding an Annual Meeting of the congregation. Business to be conducted includes the following:

- 1) The congregation will receive as information the 2023 Annual Report of the committees.
- 2) Act on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to elect the following members to the Elder Class of 2027: Heather Crotwell, Amanda Davis, Beth Anne Ellzey Andrew (Mac) Godwin, Mary Margaret Gratz, Debra Robison, Elizabeth Rose. Nominations from the floor will be allowed. Please make sure those whom you nominate have agreed to serve if elected.
- 3) Elect a new Nominating Committee for 2024.

Members of the 2023 Nominating Committee include: Session members: Lucy Nash and Chauncey Godwin. Congregational members: Gay Abney, Holly Ingram, Anne Marie Littrell, Kathy McMurry and Buddy Stubbs.

As per the by-laws of FPC, “The Church Officer Nominating Committee shall be made up of two (2) Elders from the outgoing class appointed by the Session. One will serve as chairperson and the other as vice-chair. There shall be five (5) at-large members of the congregation elected at the Annual Meeting. These members will be a fair representation of the church membership. “

Nominations for these at-large members will be made from the floor during the congregational meeting. Please make sure those you nominate have agreed to serve.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Homebound: Betty Nash, Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Jack and Barbara Price

College Students: Lucy Wells, Ana Morgan Beckham, Teddy Brock

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

Confirmants: Alice Fagan, Hudson Fisher, Gracie Wallace, and Kelsey Whitten, along with their teachers and elder mentors.

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

9 & 11 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
4:00 P.M. Confirmation Class
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts, Room B205
5:30 P.M. Youth

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym
5:00 P.M. Coordinating Committee, Bolton/Sistahood Room
6:00 P.M. Session Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
11:00 A.M. Bible Study, Bolton/Sistahood Room
2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym
3:00 P.M. Mah-Jongg, Stewart Clayton Room
5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers
5:30 P.M. Supper, Fellowship Hall
6:00 P.M. Faithbuilders, Youth
6:10 P.M. Cherubs - Parents may drop off children in the Preschool Room
6:15 P.M. Adult Program, Tyson Quinn, Fellowship Hall

7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn

2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym

THE SESSION

Rev. John Brock, Moderator

Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

Class of 2024

Kim Burleson

Cindy Faucette

Leslie Geoghegan

Michael Gratz Jr.

Chauncey Godwin

Charles Reece

Alice Rogers

Class of 2025

Richard Hastings

Trey Leeke

Lucy Nash

Chris Rogers

Mary Stubbs

Glenn Thomas

Presly Wallace

Class of 2026

Glen Davidson, Sr.

Jim Fisher

Ben Hunter

Bob Lence

Corey Littrell

Helen Monts

Aubre Wells

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. John Brock, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education

Dr. Robert Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

Seth Shelnut, Audio/Visual Technician

Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Cindy Faucette, Church Librarian

Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian

Helen Curtis, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

Jen Baylor, Receptionist

Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus