

Serving Today

**GUEST ORGANIST:** Robert Holbrook  
**LITURGISTS:** Virginia Wooten - Chapel  
Elizabeth Wilkins - Sanctuary  
**SOUND:** Dan Dietrich  
**GREETERS & USHERS:** Stewart Baggett - Chapel  
**GREETERS & USHERS:** Gary and Mary Beth Hallen - Sanctuary  
**TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES:** Mark Davis  
**FLOWER DELIVERY:** Barbara Maston

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
in loving memory of Doris Vannoy Wells  
on her birthday  
by Greeley and Sue Wells.  
\*\*\*\*\*

# First Presbyterian Church

Kingsport, Tennessee

*Seeking to see the face of Christ...  
Striving to be the hands of Christ*



Service of the Lord's Day  
July 16, 2023  
8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

BELLS OF GOD’S PRESENCE

WELCOME

(PRELUDE 8:30) *Robert Holbrook, guest organist*

GATHERING MUSIC (10:00)

No. 2284 “Joy in the Morning”  
No. 2282 “I’ll Praise the Lord” (“I’ll Fly Away”) M. Davis

*This glad morning with the rising sun, I’ll praise the Lord! Gathered in this holy place as one, I’ll praise the Lord! I’ll praise the Lord in glory, I’ll praise the Lord! As I rise, heaven’s glory fills my eyes; I’ll praise the Lord!*

*Cast aside the sorrows of this earth, come, bless the Lord! Rise with Jesus in the second birth! Come, bless the Lord! I’ll praise the Lord in glory, I’ll praise the Lord! I will sing Hallelujah to my King! I’ll praise the Lord!*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come from full and empty lives, searching for God who gives meaning and purpose.

People: **God is our refuge, a present help in times of trouble.**

Leader: We leave work finished and undone, remembering God’s rest on the seventh day.

People: **God meets us here; God inhabits the praise of his people.**

Leader: We gather to worship God, who sustains us when we feel like giving up and guides us when we are overwhelmed by life.

People: **Our hope and our help is in God, who made the heavens and the earth.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 664 “Morning Has Broken”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Persistent God, your love for us is everlasting. We need reminders of your grace because we often stumble. We blindly push our own way and we wonder why others lag behind us. The short-term good we try to do can create long-term problems. Some days, nothing seems to go right. Let your love sustain us so that we may learn to wait on your strength. Teach us endurance until we can rise on eagles’ wings; until we can run and not faint; until we can walk and not be weary. In the name of Jesus, we pray...**

*(silent prayer)*

KYRIE D. Johnson

*Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's love dries our tears; God's forgiveness picks us up; God's peace settles our worry.

In the name of the risen Christ, we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

\*SUNG RESPONSE “Give Thanks”

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks, because we’re given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now, let the weak say, “We are strong”; let the poor say, “We are rich, because of what the Lord has done for us!” Give thanks. Give thanks.*

\*PEACE OF CHRIST

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (10:00) Mark Davis

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

*I Kings 18: 41-46*

GOSPEL READING

*Luke 7: 18-23*

SERMON

“Life’s Poorest Throw: Throwing in the Towel”

Mike Shelton

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 819

“Be Still, My Soul”

\*A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

PCUSA

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. He proclaimed God’s reign.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain, and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life, who justifies us by grace through faith, who sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION (10:00) ~ Open Books for Guatemala

Jami Arrowsmith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD  
(8:30)

“Hymn of Promise”

N. Sleeth

*In God’s loving gift of Jesus, I receive God’s mystery;  
in His death I am forgiven, in His rising I am free;  
in the gift, O Lord, You offer, I now give myself to Thee;  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

(10:00)

“O Love”

E. Hagenberg

*O Love... that will not let me go; O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee.  
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.*

*O Joy... that seeks me through the pain; O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God, receive these gifts given in your Son's name as we seek to walk in your ways. Use them to bring the healing, kindness, and justice of Christ's humble love to all those in need. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

\*HYMN OF SENDING NO. 821

“My Life Flows On”  
(How Can I Keep from Singing?)

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CONCLUDING PRAISE

“Finlandia, Op.26”

Jean Sibelius

*\*Those who are able please stand*