

Serving Today

GUEST ORGANIST: Carolyn McPherson
LITURGISTS: Mark Davis - Chapel
Claudia Mihovk - Sanctuary
SOUND: Olin Babb
GREETERS & USHERS: Ella Miller and Steve Miller - Sanctuary
TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES: Russ Pearson
FLOWER DELIVERY: Kim Alvis

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
in honor of our grandchildren
Gemma, Palmer, Kelton and Elijah
by Mitch and Greta Robinette.

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 30, 2023

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

BELLS OF GOD’S PRESENCE

WELCOME

(PRELUDE 8:30) “Poor Wayfarin’ Stranger” Arr. Teresa Patterson Wilhelmi
Carolyn McPherson, guest organist

GATHERING MUSIC (10:00)
No. 2163 “He Who Began a Good Work in You” (Choir, then ALL join second time)
No. 705 “You Are Holy/Prince of Peace” (Choir, then ALL join second time)

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: We come to worship the God of compassion, even in a world where there is much cruelty.
People: **We gather to proclaim the gospel of Christ again, though we often lack the courage of truth and love in daily life.**
Leader: Christ, by your presence among us, give us courage to live as your people day by day.
People: **We gather as witnesses that God is at work in our midst, and that love, not cruelty and cowardice, will triumph in the end.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 772 “Live Into Hope”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God, sometimes it is hard to be a Christian. We say we model our lives on Christ's life. We try to be faithful, to love our neighbors, to offer hospitality to strangers, to fight for justice, but then we justify our lack of effort with excuses. We believe that Christ died for all so that they might have new life, but then we squander our opportunities to bear witness to him. We hear Paul say, “that it is no longer he who lives, but Christ who lives in him” but we cringe at what it may cost us if we lived that way. God, have mercy upon us and inspire us to let Christ live in and through us every day...
(silent prayer)

KYRIE D. Johnson
Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Leader: Hear the good news: all who trust in Christ receive forgiveness of sins through him. The burden is lifted; we are free to live and love.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

*SUNG RESPONSE “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” No. 607
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore! Amen.**

*PEACE OF CHRIST

HEARING GOD’S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES (10:00) Russ Pearson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Philippians 1: 15-26*

GOSPEL READING *Mark 8: 31-39*

SERMON “Having Nothing to Lose and Everything to Gain” Mike Shelton

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 2074 “Shout to the Lord” Sing the Faith
(Choir/Leader): My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you. All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love. My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength. Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship you...
(ALL): Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing - power and majesty, praise to the King. Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands, forever I’ll love you, forever I’ll stand. Nothing compares to the promise I have in you! (repeat refrain)

*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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD
(8:30) “Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord” No. 707
Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray; give us the mind of Christ each passing day; Teach us to know the truth that sets us free; grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee. Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will; through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill. We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all; we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

(10:00) “Hymn of Promise” N. Sleeth

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
God, you have made us to be your people in your own image. We are members of Christ, and we dedicate ourselves to becoming one in spirit with him. Take our gifts and use them to your glory. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN OF SENDING NO. 2080 “All I Need Is You” Sing the Faith

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONCLUDING PRAISE
(8:30) “Shall We Gather at the River” Arr. Cindy Berry
(11:00) “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Arr. John Innes

**Those who are able please stand*