

Serving Today

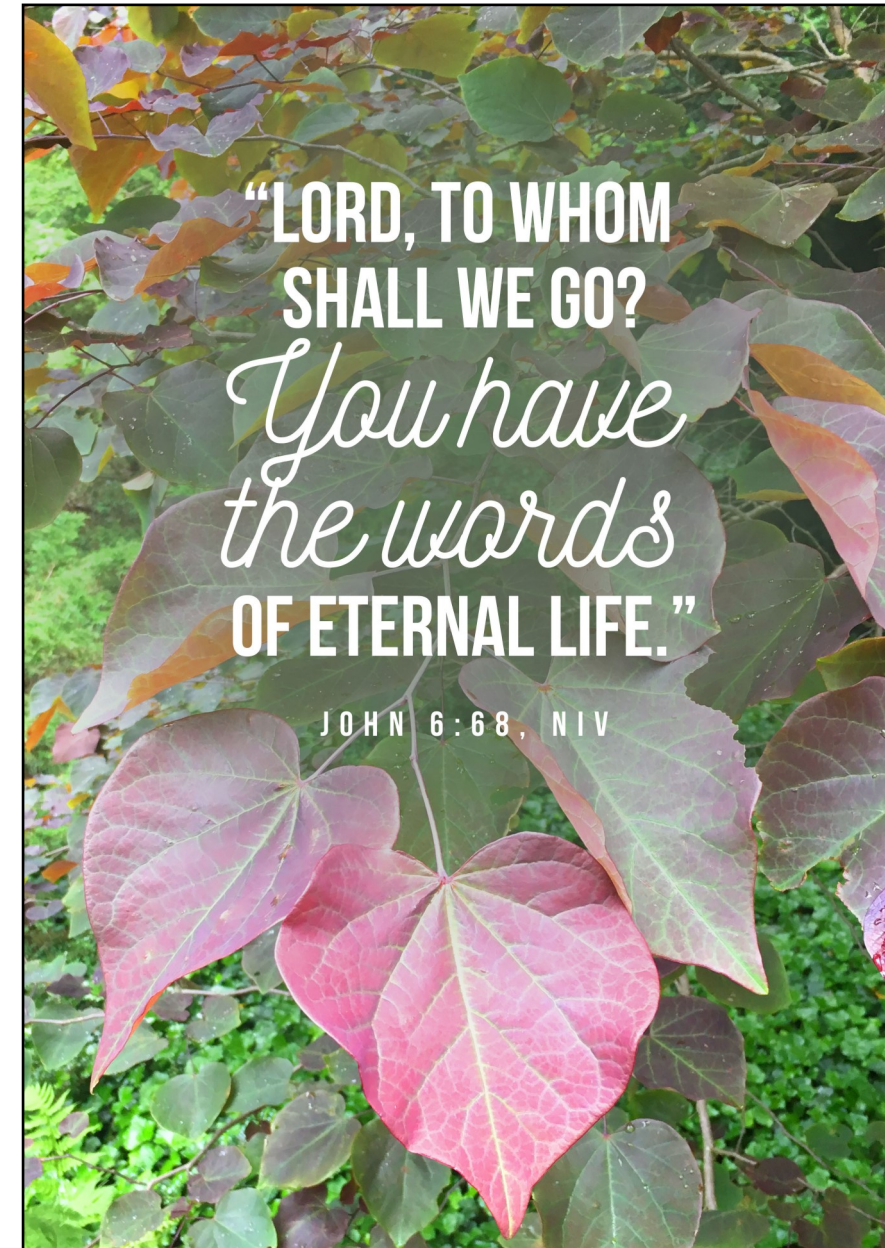
GUEST ORGANIST: Tim Hagy
LITURGISTS: Don Thompson - Chapel
Allen Wright - Sanctuary
SOUND: Olin Babb
GREETERS & USHERS: Sharon Engel - Sanctuary
TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES: Russ Pearson
FLOWER DELIVERY: Virginia Wooten

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
in loving memory of Tom Lightfoot
by the Lightfoot Family.

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
September 17, 2023
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

BELLS OF GOD’S PRESENCE

WELCOME

(PRELUDE 8:45) “Un poco adagio” (Sonatina in C) Clementi
Tim Hagy, guest organist

GATHERING MUSIC (11:00)

No. 2005 “Arise, Shine” (*choir, then All*)
No. 2007 “Holy, Holy, Holy” (*twice*)
No. 2244 “People Need the Lord” (*Choir, then All*)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God has called us to freedom through Jesus Christ.

People: **No longer under the law, we may serve one another in love.**

Leader: God has given us the Spirit, that we may be fruitful in his service.

People: **The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**
May we strive to bear those fruits in our lives.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 462 “I Love to Tell the Story”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we waste too much of our lives in anxious fretting. Even in our bodies we bear the marks of the strains and stresses that shadow our days. And peace? There is no peace. We confess to you the faithless fears and worldly anxieties that make us old before our time and undermine the integrity of our witness to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Give us the ability to remain calm amid a crisis when those around us are out of their minds with worry and fear. Give us the self-control and the wisdom to allow our ordered lives to bear witness to your peaceful Presence at the core of our being. For Jesus' sake. Amen...
(silent prayer)

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: When we reach out in faith, God comes near in love. When we humbly seek forgiveness, God responds with mercy and grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING *II Peter 1:3-11*

GOSPEL READING *John 6:52-71*

SERMON “Living in Reactionary Mode” Mike Shelton

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 740 “Lead Me, Guide Me” (*Choir/Leader; then All on Repeat*)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

(8:30) FINLANDIA

O God of hope, we lay our lives before you; we have one claim, to trust in Christ, our Lord. When this world fades, the more we shall adore you; when answers fail, we trust more in your Word. Now, by your grace, Lord, sanctify our journey, that in your image we may be restored.

Within your Spirit, goodness lives unfading. The past and future mingle into one. All joys remain, unshadowed light pervading. No valued deed will ever be undone. Your mind enfolds all finite acts and offerings. Held in your heart, our deathless life is won!

(11:00) “God Be In My Head” R. J. Greene, Jr.

God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in my eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my head, my eyes, my mouth; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at my end, and at my departing.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With what shall we come before the Lord? With a flock of rams, with a river of oil for anointing? No, we bring only ourselves, and our gifts, freely offered and lovingly given. Let us give generously. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN OF SENDING NO. 834 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONCLUDING PRAISE (8:45) “Allegro” (Sonatina in C) Clementi
(11:00) “Postlude” William Mathias

**Those who are able please stand*