

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KINGSPORT, TN
Seeking to see the Face of Christ...Striving to be the Hands of Christ
Sunday, March 2, 2025 ~ 11:00 a.m.

BELLS OF GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Aria"
Carolyn McPherson, guest organist

Iris Ackenhusen

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is like the gentle shepherd,

People: Leading us beyond our wants,

Leader: Leading us beyond our fears,

People: Leading us to a place of rest,

Leader: Where we sing the music of God's love

People: And feel new strength to walk through the valleys and shadows of life.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 22

"God of the Sparrow"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that, in a culture that places so much emphasis on outward signs of success and "having it all together," we struggle to live from the inside out. We feel the pressure to act like something we are not. We don our masks, pretend that things are fine when they are not, and keep our vulnerabilities hidden away. We feel isolated. We fear that if the truth about us were known, we would be rejected. God, remind us of your healing love. Call us into your light where truth and grace shine. Take our guilt, and shame and in their place renew us with your forgiveness and acceptance. For the sake of Christ, we pray... (silent prayer)

KYRIE

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

D. Johnson

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: It is for freedom that Christ delivers us from the guilt of our sin.

Let us walk in the truth of our infinite worth, for we are eternally loved by the God of the universe!

People: Alleluia, Amen!

*SUNG RESPONSE

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

*PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Russ Pearson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6: 27-36

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ruth 1: 1-5, 11-22

SERMON

"Life's Most Beautiful Teacher: Love"

Mike Shelton

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 519

"You Are My Strength When I Am Weak" (*sing twice*)

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

