

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KINGSPORT, TN
Seeking to see the Face of Christ... Striving to be the Hands of Christ

Sunday, March 23, 2025 ~ 11:00 a.m. ~ Third Sunday of Lent

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

BELLS OF GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ~ Election of Nominating Committee

Gail Cole

PRELUDE

Celtic Medley

Turlough O'Carolan

Tammie Davis, Linda Waltner, hammered dulcimers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In turbulent times, when the knot of fear tightens,

People: Take heart, trust God and step out.

Leader: When doubt needles us and despair encircles us,

People: Take heart, trust God, follow Jesus and walk on.

Leader: As depression threatens to sink us and grief tries to bury us,

People: Take heart, trust God, follow Jesus and sing your song.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 1

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we bow before you in humble confession of the wrongs we have done, as well as the acts of love we have not done. We have bent the truth to serve our purposes. We have been slow to apologize and swift to condemn. We have coveted things we do not need. We have spoken more than we have listened. We have been slow to serve, but quick to demand service of others. We think that we can manage other people, yet we haven't learned to manage our own lives. For Jesus' sake, have mercy on us. Forgive also the personal wrongs we name now in silence... (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, give us new opportunities each day to start anew. Through God's Spirit we are empowered to celebrate life and all the gifts of life. God, may we be empowered to begin again filled with hope.

People: Alleluia, Amen!

*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

Russ Pearson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 39: 1-5

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8: 26-30

SERMON

"Does Everything Happen for a Reason"

Mike Shelton

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 2206

“Without Seeing You”

*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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION ~ UETHDA Neighborhood Service Center

Martha Dixon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

“Poor Wayfaring Stranger”

arr. K. Christopher

Linda Waltner, hammered dulcimer

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of life and new beginnings, we offer our gifts that the money we give might provide a new beginning for those who need it most. As we dedicate the gifts we bring, let us dedicate ourselves to make our intentions reality as we follow Jesus to Jerusalem ... and beyond. Amen.

THE SENDING

HYMN OF SENDING NO. 543

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

(Please remain seated for the final hymn and concluding praise)

CONCLUDING PRAISE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

arr. Carol Tornquist

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**Those who are able please stand*

Serving Today

GUEST PIANIST:	Donna Hathaway
GREETERS & USHERS:	Gerry Morie and Gray Stothart
SOUND:	Olin Babb
LITURGIST:	Richard Meyer
TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES:	Russ Pearson
FLOWER DELIVERY:	Mary Easley

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD

and in loving memory of Ben Larkey (husband)

and Ginger Larkey (daughter)

and in honor of David Larkey (son)

by Ann Larkey.
