

Psalm 46C



1. God is our ref - uge and our strength, a help - er ev - er near us.
2. God's cit - y is for - ev - er blest with liv - ing wa - ters well - ing;
3. Be - hold what God has done on earth; his wrath brings des - o - la - tion.

We will not fear though earth be moved, for God is nigh to cheer us.
since God is there, she stands un - moved 'mid tu - mulds round her swell - ing.
His grace, com - mand - ing wars to cease, brings peace to ev - 'ry na - tion.

Al - though the moun - tains quake and earth's foun - da - tions shake, though an - gry
God speaks and all is peace, from war the na - tions cease; the Lord of
Be still, for he is Lord, by all the earth a - dored; the Lord of

bil - lows roar and break a - gainst the shore, our might - y God will hear us.
hosts is nigh. Our fa - ther's God Most High is our e - ter - nal dwell - ing.
hosts is nigh. Our fa - ther's God Most High is our strong hab - i - ta - tion.

Paraphrase
The Psalter, 1912

EIN' FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7.
Martin Luther, 1529

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES

Tennessee Valley Reformation Hymn Festival – October 27

Please join us in celebrating the Reformation alongside Lookout Mountain Presbyterian on Sunday, October 27, at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary! Childcare is available upon request; please email MC@1stPresbyterian.com **by the end of the day today**. Learn more about Reformation Sunday at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

New Sunday School Class – starting October 27

We're excited to announce the kick-off of a new Sunday class offering in the Fellowship Hall: the Foundations Class! Led by Pastor Ron Brown, the purpose of the Foundations Class is to equip in word and faith through the teaching and studying of God's word and to be a launching pad for newcomers, with no long-term commitment required. If you're not currently connected with a Sunday School class, please take this opportunity to explore the initial teaching series: "Order of Salvation – This Is Your Life! God's plan for your life, past, present, and future." First Pres Forum leaders are excited to transition to this new offering!

Inquirer's Class – November 2

Are you interested in learning more about 1st Pres or would you like to become a member? Come hear about our church's vision for the city, what we believe, and discipleship and ministry opportunities at our next Inquirer's Class on Saturday, November 2, in the Nell Davis Room from 8:30am - 12:00pm! A light breakfast will be provided. Register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events by Tuesday, October 29.

First Cup – November 5

1st Pres men are invited to First Cup, our monthly men's breakfast, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00am in the Nell Davis Room! We'll enjoy delicious egg & cheese biscuits from Bluegrass Grill (\$5 charge), lots of coffee, fellowship, and a soul-quenching devotional.

Camp Vesper Point Summer Registration

Registration for Vesper Point 2025 opened this past Monday, and we were overwhelmed and humbled with over 1,000 registrations! Camper space is **very** limited, so make sure you register your child as soon as possible at VesperPoint.org. Feel free to call the camp office at 423-332-1849 with any questions.

First Takes, a podcast from First Pres

Check out the latest episode from *First Takes* on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or wherever you get your podcasts! Featured this week is our Youth Ministry team Isabella Bridges, Jackson Fleming, and Cherie Brown, who discuss changes to the ministry and challenges youth are facing like learning to engage in-person and managing their time with full schedules.

Midweek – continues October 23

Break from your usual weeknight routine and join us for dinner & teachings starting at 5:30pm! Learn more at 1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek.



New to 1st Pres?
We'd love to connect with you!
Scan with your phone camera
to fill out a connect card!



To make a secure contribution
to 1st Pres, scan with your
phone camera or go to
1stPresbyterian.com/Give.

Information on our Sunday School options can be found at
1stPresbyterian.com/SundaySchool.



At First Presbyterian, we seek to be a healthy church exhibiting all the fullness of Christ as we disciple believers who develop spiritually, connect relationally, and engage missionally to reach Chattanooga and the world with the gospel.

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

11:00 AM

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTION

Our sermon text (Nehemiah 4) teaches us that the battle is not ours. It belongs to the Lord. Nehemiah and the people of Jerusalem show us that while opposition is inevitable, God is faithful to fight for us. Our role is to trust Him, pray, and act in faith.

When we do God's work,
we must expect to meet with trouble,
but it is a comfort to us that all the world's frowns
cannot destroy us if God's favor smiles upon us.

– adapted from Matthew Henry

The enemies of God's people will go to any lengths
to oppose the work of God;
but when the Lord strengthens His people,
neither ridicule nor violence
can keep them from success.

– adapted from John Gill

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God,
Whose blessed Son made Himself known
to His disciples in the breaking of bread,
open our spiritual eyes that we may behold Him
in all His redeeming work
through the faithful proclamation of His Word
and the joyful celebration at His table.
We pray for the One Who lives and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Finale" from "Sonata in d minor, op. 65, no. 6" by Felix Mendelssohn

Patrick Rice, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHORAL INTROIT

*“Immortal, Invisible” arr. Joan Pinkston
Please sing as directed.*

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 18:1-3,46 ESV

Pastor: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in Whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

People: I call upon the LORD,

Who is worthy to be praised,

and I am saved from my enemies.

**The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation!**

† PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† HYMN OF PRAISE

“Psalm 46: God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength” Bulletin

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe?

People: 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.

**living **universal*

† HYMN OF PRAISE

“Be Still, My Soul”

No. 689 (vv. 1-4)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

“Depth of Mercy” by David Rasbach (text by Charles Wesley)

GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Please take your PreK-1st grade children to the check-in station
at the 1st – 3rd grade Children's Wing on the first floor behind the Sanctuary.*

† GLORIA PATRI

THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

“The Battle Belongs to the Lord”

Nehemiah 4:1-23 (p. 400-401)

A City That Lasts: Seeing Christ in the Book of Nehemiah

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Angry Enemies (vv. 1-6)

2. Anxious Builders (vv. 7-14)

3. Armed and Ready (vv. 15-23)

THE TABLE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

CONFESSION OF SIN

Heavenly Father,

too often, we allow fear, doubt,

and the taunts of the enemy

to hinder us in Your work.

Forgive us for allowing the voices of opposition

to grow louder than Your promises.

We confess our struggle to trust You fully

in the face of challenges.

In our self-reliance, we have become discouraged.

Forgive us for forgetting

that You are our shield and defender

and that no one can stand against Your purposes.

We ask that You would strengthen our hands

and renew our spirits to continue the work

You have set before us.

We pray in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 41:9,10,14 ESV

You are my servant,

I have chosen you and not cast you off.

Fear not, for I am with you;

be not dismayed, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you,

I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. . . .

I am the One Who helps you, declares the Lord;

your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

COMMUNION

• Communion, also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians when we recall Jesus's cross, relive His anguish, and renew our vows to live as His followers.

• We invite all to participate in this meal:
who profess faith in Jesus Christ,
who are members of a gospel-proclaiming church,
who are endeavoring to live at peace with God and others,
and who seek strengthening grace to live more faithfully for Jesus.

• If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, we encourage you to spend this time considering Jesus's broken body and shed blood. Pray and ask Him to forgive your sins and to give you eternal life.

† HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” No. 500 (vv. 1,3,4)

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† BENEDICTION

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 ESV

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself,

and God our Father,

Who loved us and gave us eternal comfort

and good hope through grace,

comfort your hearts and establish them

in every good work and word. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Psalm 19” by Benedetto Marcello

String Quartet

Worship Leader

Darrin Hassevoort, *Director of Music & Worship*

Presiding Liturgist

Gunther Griffin, *Director of College Ministry*

Minister of the Word

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*

Giving Update as of 10/13 – fiscal year April 1 - March 31

	<u>Deacons (General Fund)</u>	<u>World Missions</u>
<i>Annual Budget</i>	\$3,460,000	\$900,000
<i>Budgeted Giving</i>	\$1,863,077	\$484,615
<i>Raised</i>	\$1,628,255	\$345,623

Donations to First Presbyterian Church are tax-deductible. In accordance with IRS regulations, donors agree that ultimate control over donated funds lies with the church.

*The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory
of John and Mary Gaither by their daughters.*

*The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers
to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, October 21.*

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