



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of*
CHATTANOOGA

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

9:00 AM

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 GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTION

We will never worship God with a sincere heart,
or be roused to fear and obey Him with sufficient zeal,
until we properly understand
how much we are indebted to His mercy. . . .

The faithful, in the darkest moments of their lives,
ought to cheer themselves with this one consolation—
that God does not cease to care for us,
even when He seems to have forgotten us.

— *John Calvin*

Every morning renews the instance of His mercy.
We are under fresh obligations to Him daily,
and therefore ought to offer Him fresh praise.
Herein we are taught to exercise daily dependence
upon Him and expectation from Him.

— *Matthew Henry*

Hope is not found in the absence of trouble
but in the character of God.
The steadfast love and new mercies of God
create hope where despair once ruled.

— *Philip Ryken*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God,
You have poured upon us
the new light of your incarnate Word.
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts,
may shine forth in our lives.
We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† GATHERING SONG

“All Glory Be to Christ”

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn, all glory be to Christ!

Chorus: All glory be to Christ our king, all glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ!

His will be done, His kingdom come on earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread, praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, all glory be to Christ! *Chorus*

When on the day the great I Am, the Faithful and the True
The Lamb who was for sinners slain is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light
And we shall e'er His people be, all glory be to Christ! *Chorus*

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;

People: They are new every morning;
great is Your faithfulness.
“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in Him.”

Lamentations 3:21-24 ESV

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

† SONG OF PRAISE

“His Glory and My Good”

I have seen my Father's glory, revealed in Jesus Christ
And the more that I behold Him, the more He satisfies
When I gaze upon His beauty, when I see Him as I should
Then my eyes are lifted upward for His glory and my good

There is hope in ev'ry trial, for I can trust the Lord
He will turn my heart towards Him, and help me bear the thorn
So in faith I follow Jesus, on the road not understood
For I know that He is working, for His glory and my good

Chorus: To our God be the glory, to our God be praise
He alone, the name above all names
I will boast ever only, in the Lord my God
For I know His glory is my good

See the open arms of Jesus, upon the cross that day
What they understood as weakness, deserves my ev'ry praise
For the charge that was against me, it was nailed into the wood
Yes I know that He has saved me, for His glory and my good *Chorus*

Would I gladly be made nothing that Christ would be made more
Would I seek the only kingdom that far outweighs them all
I will stand before my Father where the faithful saints have stood
And with joy my heart shall praise Him, for His glory and my good
And with joy my heart shall praise Him, for His glory and my good

Chorus (x2)
Yes I know His glory is my good

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Chorus: 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

Great is Thy faithfulness O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be *Chorus*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love *Chorus*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside *Chorus*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe concerning
the faithfulness of our God?

People: We believe and declare

that the Lord is faithful to all His promises
and loving toward all He has made (*Psalm 145:13*).

We affirm that His steadfast love never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning; great is His faithfulness (*Lamentations 3:22-23*).

We trust in the One who has promised,
for He who promised is faithful (*Hebrews 10:23*).

We rejoice that even when we are faithless,
He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself (*2 Timothy 2:13*).

Our hope rests in this truth: The Lord is faithful,
and He will strengthen and protect us from the evil one (*2 Thessalonians 3:3*).

We proclaim the faithfulness of our God,
Who keeps His covenant of love
to a thousand generations of those who love Him
and keep His commandments (*Deuteronomy 7:9*).

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Father,

You are a faithful God Who keeps Your promises.

**Yet we are those who tend to go astray in our hearts
and who do not guard our spirits.**

**We ask Your forgiveness for not keeping our promises
and following too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.**

**Dissolve our hard hearts and make us repentant and contrite
by assuring us of Your unfailing love and Your great compassion
so that we might cultivate faithfulness**

and live for Your praise during this upcoming year.

**We make our prayer in the name of the One
Who is the fulfillment of all of Your promises,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 1:9, 2:1 ESV

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. . . .

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.

But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

“O Sin-Sick Soul”

**O sin-sick soul, return to Christ -
Torn for you, the worst of sinners
How far you’ve run from Love’s embrace
But you will not outrun His grace
You cannot outrun His grace**

**O sin-sick soul, return to Christ
Here He stands, the Friend of Sinners
Though dimly now, soon face to face,
For you will not outrun His grace
You cannot outrun His grace**

***Chorus:* There is joy deeper than our sorrows
There is love strong enough to save
There is strength to suffer with the Savior
Sing the glory of His grace (cont. on next page)**

**He does not accuse, He will not condemn!
On the cross He died for sinners
You are not defined by your mistakes
You are now defined by grace
Come and be defined by grace *Chorus***

**Lay aside that sin, fight the fight of faith
Soon you'll stand before the Savior
Hear Him say Well done! You've run your race!
But you have not outrun my grace
No you cannot outrun my grace *Chorus***

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

More news and other resources are located on pages 9-11.

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.*

†DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen! Amen! Amen!
God we praise You
God we praise You**

THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

“Renewal in Daily Life”
Nehemiah 10:1-39 (p. 406)
A City that Lasts; Seeing Christ in the Book of Nehemiah
Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

1. God's Covenant Is the Basis for Renewal (vv. 1-29)

2. Living by God's Covenant Renews All of Life (vv. 30-39)

†SONG OF RESPONSE

“Be Thou My Vision”

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

As you go, may the Word of the Lord
be your firm foundation and unshakable anchor.
And may the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him,
so that by the power of His Word and Spirit,
you may abound in hope. Amen.

Worship Leader

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

Presiding Minister

Joshua Adair, *Pastor of Discipleship*

Minister of the Word

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*

RESOURCES

Connect with Us

New to 1st Pres? Scan the QR code with your phone camera to fill out a connect card, and one of our pastors will get in touch with you.



Sunday School

Scan the QR code, or go to 1stPresbyterian.com/SundaySchool to view a list of Sunday School offerings for adults, youth, and children. Flyers with adult classes are also available in the Connector and posted around the building.



Stay Up-to-Date

Sign up for our newsletter to receive a comprehensive email each Friday on all things First Pres and the occasional letter from our pastors with important updates. Scan the QR code, or go to 1stPresbyterian.com under the “Resources” tab.



Giving Update

as of 12/22

Fiscal year runs April 1 - March 1

	<u>Deacons (General Fund)</u>	<u>World Missions</u>
Annual Budget	\$3,460,000	\$900,000
Budgeted Giving	\$2,528,462	\$657,692
Raised	\$2,425,499	\$660,002



To make a secure contribution to 1st Pres, scan the QR code or go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Give.

NOTE: 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.

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES

Fellowship Opportunity – Today!

Today, youth and adult Sunday School is canceled (except for the Bible 101 class), and instead, you are invited to a time of fellowship at 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Children's Sunday School will still take place.

Today's Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God: "To Him Who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious Presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore. Amen." *Jude 24-25*

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our home-bound and hospitalized on Monday, December 30.

First Cup – January 7

Please join us for our First Cup Men's Breakfast on the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00am - 8:00am in the Nell Davis room. We'll continue our study "The Marks of an Emotionally Healthy Disciple of Jesus," and enjoy delicious egg & cheese biscuits from Bluegrass Grill (\$5) and lots of coffee.

It's a Wonderful Life! Senior Fellowship & Program – January 9

This month, Todd Morgan of Preserve Chattanooga will speak on "The Power of Preservation." He'll give us an overview of local preservation efforts, explain why historic preservation is important to our lives and communities, and touch on some recent initiatives. Fellowship begins at 10:30am, followed by the program at 11:00am and lunch (\$8) at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations are required; please email Janette.Barnes@Gmail.com or Rwrenn@Epbfi.com.

Women's Winter/Spring Bible Studies – Starting January 10 & 14

Women's Bible Studies start January 10th & 14th and we'd love you to join us! Our women's studies offer a place to grow spiritually and connect with friends. There are 7 options to choose from in a variety of formats and meeting days/times and frequencies. For details on times and study topics and to register, go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Women. If you registered for a study in the fall, you do NOT need to re-register unless you are joining a different study. **Childcare** is available upon registration for the morning studies only.

High School Winter Retreat – January 17-20

Our High School students will be going to Pigeon Mountain Crossing in Lafayette, Georgia, for a weekend away. Gunther Griffin, 1st Pres College Ministry Director, will be our speaker! We will have times of fellowship, worship, games, hiking, teaching, prayer, and frisbee golf all on the beautiful 80-acre retreat center! Sign up today at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES, CONTINUED

Inquirer's Class – February 22

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, February 22, in the Nell Davis Room from 8:30am - 12:00pm! A light breakfast will be provided. Register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events by Friday, February 14.

Capital Campaign Update

A major update was released from the Capital Campaign recently via email to those subscribe to our announcements. If you didn't receive this letter, or you do not use email, there are hard copies available in the Connector at the literature table (just through the double-doors to the Connector on the right.)

Nursery Coordinator

Our Interim Nursery Coordinator Mary Campbell Harris will be stepping away at the end of this month. We are so thankful for the time and love she has poured into our Children's Ministry during her time with us. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in this part-time position, please email Pastor of Discipleship Joshua Adair at Josh@1stPresbyterian.com.

Hospitality Coordinator Hire

We are excited to announce the hiring of a new staff member, Hospitality Coordinator Nicky Lewin! Nicky grew up in Tacoma, Washington, and inherited a passion for cooking, particularly baking, from her parents; her dad was a restaurant manager and her mom a pastry chef and wedding cake maker. Nicky is also a musician, having graduated with a degree in vocal performance from Covenant College, and has participated in several music events at First Pres. She and her husband, whom she met while studying abroad in France, have been happily married for 23 years here in Chattanooga and have five children—four sons and a daughter. As Hospitality Coordinator, Nicky will manage our kitchen, oversee midweek meals, organize hospitality supplies, and assist ministry teams with hospitality needs. She will begin full-time with us in January!

First Pres Sermons Podcast

Our sermons are available to listen to on your favorite podcast platform! Just search "First Presbyterian Church Chattanooga."

Church Office Holiday Closure

Our offices will be closed December 31 - January 1 in observation of the New Year.

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www.1stPresbyterian.com