



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH *of*  
CHATTANOOGA

# The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

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

Nehemiah 11, our sermon text this morning, teaches us that “to live in Jerusalem required a willingness to give up the familiar and embrace a mission that was ultimately for God’s glory, not personal gain.”

– *Philip Graham Ryken*

The willingness of some to uproot their lives for Jerusalem’s sake is a reflection of God’s call to us: to give up comfort for the sake of His kingdom.

– *F.B. Meyer*

Nehemiah’s record of those who served in the city reminds us that no work is too small or too great when it is done for the glory of God.

– *Herman Bavinck*

Blessed are they who willingly offer themselves to the Lord’s work, for their sacrifices will be remembered in eternity.

– *Charles Spurgeon*

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Remember, O Lord,  
what You have worked in us and not what we deserve;  
and, as You have called us to Your service,  
make us worthy of our calling.  
We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

## THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† GATHERING SONG

*“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”*

*Chorus:*

We will feast in the house of Zion, we will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things we will say together, we will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord our God  
We are not consumed by the flood; upheld protected gathered up *Chorus*

In the dark of night before the dawn my soul be not afraid  
For the promised morning oh how long; oh God of Jacob be my strength *Chorus*

Every vow we've broken and betrayed You are the faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave bind us together bring shalom *Chorus*

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 100* ESV

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
Serve the LORD with gladness!  
Come into His presence with singing!  
Know that the LORD, He is God!  
It is He who made us, and we are His;  
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

**People: Enter His gates with thanksgiving,  
and His courts with praise!  
Give thanks to Him; bless His name!  
For the LORD is good;  
His steadfast love endures forever,  
and His faithfulness to all generations.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

†SONG OF PRAISE

*“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation  
O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation  
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near  
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord Who over all things so wondrously reigneth  
Shelters thee under His wings Yea so gently sustaineth  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth

*Chorus:*

Praise the Lord! (Let the earth hear His voice!)  
Praise the Lord! (Let the people rejoice!)  
Come to Him (Come to Him through His Son)  
And give Him the praise for the things He has done

Praise to the Lord Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with His love He befriend thee *Chorus*

Praise to the Lord O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before Him  
Let the “Amen!” sound from His people again  
Gladly fore’er we adore Him *Chorus*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 55*

Pastor: What do you understand by “the communion of saints”?

People: **First, that believers one and all,  
as members of this community,  
share in Christ and in all His treasures and gifts.  
Second, that each member should consider it  
a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully  
for the service and enrichment of the other members.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious Father,

You asked for my hands,  
that You might use them for Your purpose;  
I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them,  
for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice;  
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of others;  
I closed them, for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life, that You might work through me;  
I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve You—  
only when it is convenient for me to do so,  
only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Father, forgive me, renew me, and send me out  
as a usable instrument fit for Your use. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Isaiah 53:5-6* ESV

But He was pierced for our transgressions;  
He was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with His wounds we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

## SONG OF HEALING

*“Just As I Am (I Am Broken)”*

Just as I am without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come

*Chorus:* I come broken to be mended; I come wounded to be healed  
I come desperate to be rescued; I come empty to be filled  
I come guilty to be pardoned by the blood of Christ the Lamb  
And I'm welcomed with open arms, praise God  
Just as I am

Just as I am I would be lost, but mercy and grace my freedom bought  
And now to glory in Your cross, O Lamb of God, I come, I come *Chorus*

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING

## OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*More news and other resources are located on pages 8-10.*

## GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Please take your PreK-1st grade children to the check-in station  
at the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

***“Meeting God Where You Least Expect Him”***  
**Nehemiah 11:1-32 (p. 406 - 07)**  
Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

## SERMON OUTLINE

*More room for notes on p. 7.*

1. Going Where God Is

2. Following Where God Leads

† SONG OF RESPONSE

*“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”*

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus  
I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back

The cross before me, the world behind me; the cross before me, the world behind me  
The cross before me, the world behind me; no turning back, no turning back

Though none go with me, still I will follow; though none go with me, still I will follow  
Though none go with me, still I will follow; no turning back, no turning back

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

† BENEDICTION

*adapted from Hebrews 13:21*

Go now with hearts open to the leading of the Lord,  
trusting in His wisdom, His timing, and His ways.  
May you have the courage to step out in faith,  
the perseverance to follow when the path is uncertain,  
and the joy of knowing that He walks with you every step of the way.  
Now, may the God Who calls you  
equip you with everything good to do His will,  
working in you what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ.  
To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Worship Leader**

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

**Presiding Minister**

Joshua Adair, *Pastor of Discipleship*

**Minister of the Word**

Gabriel N.E. Fluhner, *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](http://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](http://1stPresbyterian.com) under the “Resources” tab.



### ***Giving Update***

as of 1/5

Fiscal year runs April 1 - March 31

	<u>Deacons (General Fund)</u>	<u>World Missions</u>
Annual Budget	\$3,460,000	\$900,000
Budgeted Giving	\$2,661,538	\$692,308
Raised	\$2,753,114	\$728,617



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

### *Midweek – continues this Wednesday*

Please join us each Wednesday at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for food and fellowship, followed by a variety of electives for all ages starting at 6:15pm! Our adult electives this semester are “Navigating Relationship Conflict,” taught by Pastor Josh Adair in the Fellowship Hall, and “Praying the Psalms,” taught by Pastor Dick Cain in the Chapel. If you miss a class, you can listen back on your favorite podcast platform! Just search for “First Presbyterian Church Chattanooga Electives.” We are also asking families to pre-register your children for nursery and the children’s electives (K - 5th grade Kids Quest) for the semester. You can view our updated dinner prices and upcoming menus, and find the children’s registration and more information on our electives at [1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek).

### *Women’s Winter/Spring Bible Studies – starting January 10 & 14*

Women’s Bible Studies start January 10<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> and we’d love for 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](http://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.

### *The Foundations Class – New Study starting January 12*

Ron Brown is kicking off the new year with a study of Genesis during the Foundations Class in the Fellowship Hall! If you are not currently connected to a Sunday Class, we invite you to join this study!

### *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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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! **Registration closes tomorrow.** Sign up at [1stPresbyterian.com/Events](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Events).

### *Prison Mentor Orientation – January 25*

First Pres launched mentoring male prisoners at Walker State 13 years ago. It is now a ministry of the PCA under Metanoia Prison Ministries in which dozens of our men have participated over the years. We invite you Saturday, January 25, to our new mentor orientation & training from 8:30am - 11:30am at North Shore Fellowship church. There are 57 men at Walker, many of whom have been waiting for over a year for a Christian mentor. For more information, please contact Barry Smith at [BSmith@PcaNet.org](mailto:BSmith@PcaNet.org) or Alan Bonderud at [ArBonderud@Gmail.com](mailto:ArBonderud@Gmail.com).

### *Gospel Fest – February 2*

Celebrate Black history month with First Pres, Thorns2Cowns Ministry, New City Fellowship, and New City East Lake on February 2 at **4:00pm** in the Sanctuary as we worship the Lord together through songs and spirituals!

## NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES, CONTINUED

### ***Inquirer's Class – February 22***

Are you interested in learning more about 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Events) by Friday, February 14.

### ***Missionary Closet – no longer accepting donations***

Due to the impending construction, the Missionary Closet will no longer be accepting donations. Stay tuned for more updates!

### ***Nursery Coordinator Position***

Our Interim Nursery Coordinator Mary Campbell Harris stepped away at the end of December. 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, would be interested in this part-time position, a job description and more information are available at [1stPresbyterian.com/Jobs](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Jobs).

### ***World Missions Internships***

Applications are now open for our summer World Missions internships! This is a paid internship that supports the World Missions department by providing assistance with event planning and spreading the gospel through various outreach opportunities. Learn more and submit your application online at [1stPresbyterian.com/Jobs](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Jobs).

### ***World Relief & Development Fund Report***

We are excited to release the year-end report from World Mission's Relief & Development Fund, which aids immediate crises in areas served by our supported missionaries. Over \$57,000 has benefited God's kingdom, from floods in Brazil to food distribution in the Congo. To view the report, check out one of the posters hung around the building or go to [1stPresbyterianWorldMissions.com](http://1stPresbyterianWorldMissions.com).

### ***First Takes, Podcast from First Pres***

Make sure you're caught up on the *First Takes* podcast before new episodes air this year! Available anywhere you get your podcasts!

### ***New Additions***

Rejoice and be in prayer for the new parents and additions to families within our congregation: Alice Sinclair McLaurine, born January 8 to First Pres members Billy and Mary McLaurine.

### ***Recently Bereaved***

Please be in prayer for those in our congregation who have recently lost a loved one: the Coddington family in the passing of former First Pres member Nan Coddington on January 3; Keith Stinnett and family in the passing of his mother, long-time First Pres attendee Martha Stinnett, on January 5.

**554 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402**

(423)-267-1206

Office@1stPresbyterian.com

[www.1stPresbyterian.com](http://www.1stPresbyterian.com)