



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH *of*  
CHATTANOOGA

# The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 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

Our sermon text highlights how appropriate it is to reflect on what God has done both personally and corporately, and then to celebrate His goodness.

A public service of dedication and praise signals to everyone involved that what has been accomplished is the work of God, and that He deserves all the glory for it.

May it always be so with us as well.

– *adapted from Gary Smith*

The purification spoken of in this same Scripture highlights God's demand for holiness and the need for mediation, foreshadowing Christ's work.

“True worship begins with the recognition of our unworthiness and the cleansing that comes only through the righteousness imputed by Christ.”

– *Matthew Henry*

## 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; O 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***

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Nehemiah 9:6* ESV

Pastor: You are the LORD, You alone.  
You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens,  
with all their host, the earth and all that is on it,

**People: The seas and all that is in them;  
and You preserve all of them;  
and the host of heaven worships You.**

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 e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth**

*Chorus:*

*Men: Praise the Lord! Women: (Let the earth hear His voice!)*

*Men: Praise the Lord! Women: (Let the people rejoice!)*

*Men: Come to Him Women: (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***

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

### OFFERTORY

#### *“Speak, O Lord”*

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes for Your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow’r that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises, and by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your Church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.**

### 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.*

### †GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father,  
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end.  
Amen, amen.**

### THE WORD FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

### SERMON

*“Purified to Praise”*  
**Nehemiah 12:1-47 (pp. 407 - 08)**  
Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

## SERMON OUTLINE

1. A People Purified by the Covenant Priesthood (vv.1-30)

2. Respond in Joyful Praise to the Covenant God (vv.31-47)

## THE TABLE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

### COMMUNION

*A Communion Reflection is available on page 7.*

- 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.

### † SONG OF RESPONSE

*“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***

### † SONG OF RESPONSE

*“King of Kings”*

**In the darkness we were waiting without hope without light  
Till from heaven You came running; there was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfill the Law and Prophets; to a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory, to a cradle in the dirt**

*Chorus:* **Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, Three in One  
God of glory, Majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings (cont. on next page)**

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died *Chorus*

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint  
By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ Who has resurrected me *Chorus*

### THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

#### † BENEDICTION

*2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV*

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all. Amen.

#### **Worship Leader**

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

#### **Presiding Minister**

Randy Nabors, *Pastor of Missions*

#### **Minister of the Word**

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*

#### ***Today's Flowers***

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Dave and Bashie Evans.

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our home-bound and hospitalized on Monday, January 20.

## COMMUNION REFLECTION

The Apostle Paul urges all believers who come to the Lord's table to examine themselves before taking communion: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (*1 Corinthians 11:28*)

The below is a guide for confession of sin called "The Traits of the Self-Life." Please use it to prepare your hearts to participate in the Lord's Supper.

As you read, examine yourself in the presence of God and ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify, confess, and hate pride, selfishness, and rebellion in your life.

Are you ever conscious of . . .

- A secret spirit of pride? An exalted feeling in view of your success or position; because of your good training, appearance, or success; because of your natural gifts and abilities?
- An important, independent spirit? Love of human praise; a secret fondness to be noticed; love of supremacy, drawing attention to self in conversation?
- The stirrings of anger or impatience, which, worst of all, you call nervousness or holy indignation; a touchy, sensitive spirit; a disposition to resent or retaliate when disapproved of or contradicted; a desire to throw sharp, heated flings at another?
- An argumentative, talkative spirit; harsh, sarcastic expressions; a headstrong disposition?
- A commanding spirit; a disposition to criticize and pick flaws when set aside and unnoticed?
- Carnal fear; a man-fearing spirit; a shrinking from reproach and duty?
- A jealous disposition, a secret spirit of envy shut up in your heart; a disposition to speak of the faults and failings of others, rather than affirming their gifts and virtues?
- Unbelief; a spirit of discouragement in times of pressure and opposition?

By prayer, hold your heart open to the searchlight of our gracious Father until you see His Spirit softening your heart and resolve to confess these traits and ask the Spirit to replace them with His fruit. (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

Rejoice knowing that Jesus Himself bore *all* of your sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness. (*1 Peter 2:24*)

Call upon the Holy Spirit to empower you to put your "self-life" to death; beseech the Lord, like David did: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (*Psalms 51:10*)

Oh, to be saved from myself, dear Lord; oh, to be lost in Thee;  
oh, that it might be no more I, but Christ who lives in me. Amen.



## RESOURCES

### ***Connect with Us***

New to 1st Pres? Scan the QR code 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 1/12

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	\$2,728,077	\$709,615
Raised	\$2,781,750	\$736,297



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

### ***The Icebreakers Class – New Study***

All are invited to the Icebreakers Sunday School Class each week at 10:15am! Each class begins with an icebreaker question for the group, then transitions to a short lesson led by Josh Adair; our current study is the Sermon on the Mount. Learn more about our adult Sunday School opportunities at [1st-Presbyterian.com/SundaySchool](http://1st-Presbyterian.com/SundaySchool).

### ***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 waiting for a Christian mentor, many of whom have been waiting for over a year. 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).

### ***Four Bridges String Quartet Concert – January 31***

You're invited to an evening with the Four Bridges String Quartet Friday, January 31, at 6:30pm on the 10th floor of the tower! Tickets are free and may be reserved at [1stPresbyterian.com/Events](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Events).

### ***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!

### ***Woman at the Well – February 6***

Women are invited Thursday, February 6, from 6:30pm - 8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall to a fun evening of fellowship, connection, delicious cookies and hot drinks, and a testimony from Sam Griffin!

### ***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.

### ***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).

### ***2024 Giving Statements***

2024 Giving Statements are now available in your ShelbyNext membership account, and will be sent electronically to the email address on record in ShelbyNext by January 31. If you would like a mailed statement, please email [Becky@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:Becky@1stPresbyterian.com) or call the church office at 423-267-1206.

### ***Golf Cart Ministry – Drivers Needed!***

We're looking for volunteers for 2025 to provide golf cart transportation for people parking in the Douglas Street parking lot. Each volunteer commits to driving 2-3 Sunday mornings between March and November from 9:45am - 11:05am. Our drivers are often the first person members and visitors meet; a great opportunity to express Christian hospitality and greet those wanting any level of assistance! To volunteer, or for more information, contact Rick Collins at [ReCollins@Epbfi.com](mailto:ReCollins@Epbfi.com).

### ***Kids Hope USA – Be a Blessing to an Elementary School Child!***

Mentoring a child at Orchard Knob Elementary School is a beautiful way to demonstrate Christ's love for our inner city neighbors. The goal of a Kids Hope mentor is to augment the social and emotional development of a child by building a supportive and encouraging friendship. We are not tutors, but do consider reading ability key to educational success, and might help with a classroom assignment now and then. Our focus is on friendship as we walk into the school with the love Jesus has for children. We need more mentors to meet this need! To volunteer, you must be a member of First Pres and willing to commit 1 hour each week during the school day to reading and doing fun activities with a child. (Many employers will allow time off for community service!) Training is provided. If you're interested, contact our Kids Hope USA Program Director Cheri Partain at [KidsHope@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:KidsHope@1stPresbyterian.com).

### ***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're excited to release the year-end report from World Mission's Relief & Development Fund, which contributed over \$57,000 to aid crises in areas served by our supported missionaries. To view the report, check out one of the posters around the building or go to [1stPresbyterianWorldMissions.com](http://1stPresbyterianWorldMissions.com).

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

(423)-267-1206

Office@1stPresbyterian.com

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