



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH *of*  
CHATTANOOGA

# The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

9:00 AM & 11:00 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 REFLECTIONS

Today we will reflect together on the final chapter of Nehemiah, chapter 13, which highlights Nehemiah's passionate commitment to God's holiness and his tireless efforts to restore covenant faithfulness among God's people.

Nehemiah's decisive leadership reminds us of the need for vigilance in holiness, as compromise in God's house leads to compromise in our hearts. His reforms highlight the importance of supporting God's servants, honoring the Sabbath, and maintaining covenant fidelity. His prayer, "Remember me, O my God, for good," reflects a life devoted not to human recognition, but to God's glory. May it be so for us as well!

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Gracious and holy Father,  
You have called us to reflect Your holiness in every part of our lives.  
Grant us vigilant hearts, steadfast in honoring You,  
and guard us against the temptations of compromise.  
Purify us, O Lord, from anything that defiles our worship.  
Strengthen our resolve to uphold the sacredness of Your house,  
and guide us to cherish the Sabbath rest You have given for our renewal.  
Renew our covenant faithfulness in all we do,  
that we may be a people set apart for Your glory.  
Through Jesus Christ, our perfect Mediator and Lord,  
we humbly pray. Amen.

### PRELUDE

*Orchestra*

*"It Is Well" arr. Matt Riley*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† GATHERING SONG

*“Only a Holy God”*

**Who else commands all the hosts of heaven? Who else could make every king bow down?  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles? Only a Holy God.**

**What other beauty demands such praises? What other splendor outshines the sun?  
What other majesty rules with justice? Only a Holy God.**

*Chorus: Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.  
Come and worship the Holy God.*

**What other glory consumes like fire? What other power can raise the dead?  
What other name remains undefeated? Only a Holy God. *Chorus***

**Who else could rescue me from my failure? Who else would offer His only Son?  
Who else invites me to call Him Father? Only a Holy God. *Chorus***

† CALL TO WORSHIP

*Ephesians 2:4-7 ESV*

**Pastor: But God, being rich in mercy,  
because of the great love with which He loved us,  
even when we were dead in our trespasses,  
made us alive together with Christ—  
by grace you have been saved—**

**People: And raised us up with Him and seated us  
with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
so that in the coming ages He might show  
the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness  
toward us in Christ Jesus.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*“And Can It Be”*

And can it be that I should gain an int’rest in the Savior’s blood?  
Died He for me who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

*Chorus:* Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father’s throne above (so free, so infinite His grace!),  
Humbled Himself (so great His love!), and bled for all His chosen race.  
’Tis mercy all, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me. *Chorus*

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th’eternal throne and claim the crown through Christ my own. *Chorus*

*“His Mercy Is More”*

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,  
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.

*Chorus:* Praise the Lord! His mercy is more,  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,  
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.  
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more. *Chorus*

What riches of kindness He lavished on us!  
His blood was the payment; His life was the cost.  
We stood ’neath a debt we could never afford.  
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more. *Chorus*

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe?

**People: We believe in the one, true, and holy God,  
 Who calls His people to live in covenant faithfulness,  
 to worship Him in spirit and truth,  
 and to honor His name in all that we do.  
 We affirm that God is zealous for His holiness  
 and desires His people to be set apart,  
 by guarding the purity of worship,  
 by cherishing the sacred rest He has ordained,  
 and by living according to His Word.  
 We proclaim that God is faithful,  
 for He remembers His servants who labor for His name.  
 Therefore, we commit ourselves to worship Him joyfully,  
 love Him supremely, and trust Him wholeheartedly  
 as the Holy Spirit empowers us to live fully devoted  
 to our Lord Jesus Christ!**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

We come before You acknowledging  
 that we have often strayed from Your ways.  
 We have made compromises resulting in our spiritual peril.  
 Too often we have failed to live for Your honor.  
 Instead we live for our comfort, control, and pleasure.  
 Please pardon us for allowing distractions, idols, and selfish desires  
 to supplant You on the throne of our hearts.  
 Grant us grace to uphold the care of Your house.  
 Help us to choose trusting You and letting You be God in our lives  
 rather than choosing busyness and striving.  
 Cleanse us from these sins that defile our hearts,  
 and restore within us a passion for faithfulness.  
 We pray through Jesus Christ, our perfect Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*1 John 3:1a,16 NIV*

See what great love the Father has lavished on us,  
 that we should be called children of God!  
 And that is what we are. . . .  
 This is how we know what love is:  
 Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.  
 And we ought to lay down our lives  
 for our brothers and sisters.

## HYMN OF ASSURANCE

### *“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”*

How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross, my sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gift, no pow’r, no wisdom,  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer,  
But this I know with all my heart His wounds have paid my ransom.

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

## OFFERTORY

*“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” arr. Molly Ijames*

*Sanctuary Choir*

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe, that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O light that foll’west all my way, I yield my flick’ring torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine’s blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall ever tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to hide from Thee;  
I lay in dust life’s glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be.

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee.

## 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 heav'nly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen! Amen! Amen!  
God we praise You! God we praise You!

THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

*"Corruption and Cleansing"*  
Nehemiah 13:1-31 (pp. 408 - 09)  
*A City That Lasts: Seeing Christ in the Book of Nehemiah*  
Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Corruption and Confrontation

2. Cleansing and Consecration

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

*No. 252 (vv. 1,3,4)*

*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!

## THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### † BENEDICTION

*2 Thessalonians 3:5 NASB*

May the Lord direct your hearts  
to the love of God  
and to the perseverance of Christ.  
Amen.

### POSTLUDE

*Ann Shaw, organ*

*"If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" by J.S. Bach*

### **Worship Leaders**

Darrin Hassevoort, *Director of Music & Worship*  
West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

### **Presiding Liturgists**

9:00am: Richard G. Cain, *Senior Assistant Pastor*  
11:00am: Joshua Adair, *Pastor of Discipleship*

### **Minister of the Word**

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*

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

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Barbara Mullinax by her family.

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, January 27.



## 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 1/19

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	\$2,794,615	\$726,923
Raised	\$2,819,226	\$742,742



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.

***A Midwinter Benefit Concert from the Four Bridges String Quartet – January 31***

You are invited to experience the warmth and joy that chamber music and a gathering of friends can provide in these months of winter light! We are bringing you new music composed by The Danish String Quartet, performed by The Four Bridges String Quartet, which is composed of First Pres musicians. Join us on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the Tower at 6:30pm on Friday, January 31. Tickets are free and may be reserved at [1stPresbyterian.com/Events](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Events), with an optional donation available to benefit MNA's Disaster Relief Fund.

***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!

***First Cup Monthly Men's Breakfast – February 4***

Please join us for our Men's Breakfast in the Nell Davis on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00am as we continue our study "The Marks of an Emotionally Healthy Disciple of Jesus." Come enjoy delicious egg & cheese biscuits from Bluegrass Grill (\$5), good fellowship, and lots of coffee!

***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! Childcare is available upon request; please email [KidsMinistry@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:KidsMinistry@1stPresbyterian.com) by February 2.

***It's a Wonderful Life! Senior Fellowship & Program – February 13***

Join us this month for a redux of "The Not So Newlywed Game"! Three IAWL couples will engage in a friendly competition to determine whether they know each other as well as they think they do. Find out whether senior married couples can still surprise each other! 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](mailto:Janette.Barnes@Gmail.com) or [Rwrenn@Epbfi.com](mailto:Rwrenn@Epbfi.com).

***Middle School Night of Epicness – February 21***

What starts on a trampoline and ends with dinner and a movie? Our annual Night of Epicness! Middle Schoolers are invited for an evening of fun beginning at 6:00pm at Urban Air Adventure Park and ending at 10:00pm with dinner, a movie, and games in the Student Center. Register now at [1stPresbyterian.com/Events](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Events).

***Celebrate Recovery at First Pres!***

First Pres is launching a chapter of Celebrate Recovery and we need volunteers to get it off the ground! Celebrate Recovery is a biblically-based approach to help us achieve long-lasting recovery by healing our hurts, habits, and hangups, guiding us toward new healthy truths, and developing life-giving habits. If you're interested in volunteering, we'll have an information table available in the Connector between worship services today and February 2, or you can contact our Director of Community Outreach Shad Guinn at [Shad@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:Shad@1stPresbyterian.com).

***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! Learn more about dinner prices, the menu each week, and elective options 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. 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).

***Nursery Coordinator Position***

We're looking for a part-time Nursery Administration Coordinator, who will recruit, schedule, and train nursery staff, among other things. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this 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).

***Recently Bereaved***

Please be in prayer for those in our congregation who have recently lost a loved one: the Fleming family in the passing of long-time First Pres member Roberta "Babe" Fleming on January 16; First Pres member Agnes Kamau & family in the passing of her nephew; First Pres member Dee Grier & family in the passing of her mother Elizabeth (Betty) Lindauere on January 18.

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

(423)-267-1206

Office@1stPresbyterian.com

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