



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH *of*  
CHATTANOOGA

# The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 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

As we begin our study in the Gospel of Mark,  
“let us mark the great name that stands at the head of this book:  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Here is a name which is  
the joy of believers, the terror of devils, and the glory of the redeemed.  
Let us see in these words the foundation of our hope and  
the rock upon which our faith is built.”

– *J.C. Ryle*

“Mark wastes no time. He makes plain from the start  
that his account is not just about Jesus of Nazareth.  
It is the gospel—the good news—about the Messiah, the Son of God,  
Who brings the fulfillment of all God's promises.”

– *Sinclair Ferguson*

“Mark announces that the gospel finds its source and origin  
in the person of Jesus, Whose life, death, and resurrection  
fulfill God's promises of salvation. The phrase ‘beginning of the gospel’  
suggests the unfolding of a story that transforms history.”

– *William Lane*

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Eternal Father,  
You gave to Your incarnate Son  
the holy name of Jesus  
to be the sign of our salvation.  
Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him  
Who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ;  
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† GATHERING SONG

### *“Good, Good Father”*

I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like,  
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night.  
And You tell me that You're pleased, and that I'm never alone.

*Chorus:* You're a good, good Father;  
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are.  
And I'm loved by You;  
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am.

Oh, and I've seen many searching for answers far and wide,  
But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide.  
Because You know just what we need before we say a word. *Chorus*

Because You are perfect in all of Your ways.  
You are perfect in all of Your ways.  
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us.

Oh, this Love so undeniable, I, I can hardly speak.  
Peace so unexplainable, I, I can hardly think  
As You call me, deeper still, as You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still into love, love, love. *Chorus*

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalms 103:1-4* ESV

Pastor: Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless His holy name!  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all His benefits,

People: Who forgives all your iniquity,  
Who heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from the pit,  
Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*“Holy, Holy, Holy (Agnus Dei)”*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty  
Early in the morning, our song shall rise to Thee  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty; God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hides Thee  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see  
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee; perfect in power, in love and purity

*Chorus:* Holy, holy are You Lord God Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb, You are holy  
Holy are You Lord God Almighty;  
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen

Alleluia, alleluia for the Lord God Almighty reigns  
Alleluia, alleluia for the Lord God Almighty reigns; alleluia *Chorus*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 29*

Pastor: Why is the Son of God called “Jesus,” meaning “Savior”?

**People:** Because He saves us from our sins,  
and because salvation should not be sought  
and cannot be found in anyone else.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God,  
You made us in Your image,  
with a mind to know You,  
a heart to love You,  
and a will to serve You.  
But our knowledge is imperfect,  
our love inconstant,  
our obedience incomplete.  
Forgive our slowness in growing into Your likeness.  
Lavish upon us Your tender mercies  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 8:33-34 NIV

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

It is God Who justifies.

Who then is the one who condemns?

No one.

Christ Jesus Who died—more than that, Who was raised to life—  
is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

*“Goodness of God”*

**I love You, Lord. Oh, Your mercy never fails me.**

**All my days I’ve been held in Your hands.**

**From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head**

**Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

*Chorus: And all my life You have been faithful.*

*And all my life You have been so, so good.*

*With ev’ry breath that I am able*

*Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

**I love Your voice. You have led me through the fire.**

**And in darkest nights You are close like no other.**

**I’ve known You as a father. I’ve known You as a friend.**

**And I have lived in the goodness of God. *Chorus***

**‘Cause Your goodness is runnin’ after, it’s runnin’ after me.**

**Your goodness is runnin’ after, it’s runnin’ after me.**

**With my life laid down, I’m surrendered now. I give You ev’rything.**

**‘Cause Your goodness is runnin’ after, it’s runnin’ after me. *Repeat***

**And all my life You have been faithful.**

**And all my life You have been so, so good.**

**With ev’ry breath that I am able**

**Oh, I’m gonna sing of the goodness of God.**

**‘Cause all my life You have been faithful.**

**And all my life You have been so, so good.**

**With ev’ry breath that I am able**

**Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**Oh, I’m gonna sing of the goodness of God.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Scottie Charlotte Young & Ella James Young  
twin daughters of Carter & Campbell Young*

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

## OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*More news & resources located on pp. 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, you 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

***“Mark: Man, Myth, or Legend?”***

**Mark 1:1 (p. 836)**

*“Walking with the Master: Studies in the Gospel of Mark”*

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

## SERMON OUTLINE

*Additional room for notes available on p. 7*

1. The Man Behind the Gospel

2. The Gospel Behind the Man

*“Solid Rock”*

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.**

*Chorus: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.*

**His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.** *Chorus*

**When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev’ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.** *Chorus*

**When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found;  
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.** *Chorus*

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
you may abound in hope. Amen.

**Worship Leader**

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

**Presiding Liturgist**

Gunther Griffin, *Director of College Ministry*

**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 Scotty Probasco by his loving wife and children.

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, February 3.





## 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 1/26

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	\$2,861,154	\$744,231
Raised	\$2,908,002	\$746,905



To make a secure contribution, 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 Members***

Please welcome the newest members of our church family, as of last Sunday, January 26: Jan Blazejewski and Russ & Rachel Harwood! If you're interested in joining, our next Inquirer's Class is on February 22, from 8:30am - 12:00pm; register at [1stPresbyterian.com/Events](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Events).

***Gospel Fest – Today***

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

***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 and after worship services today, or you can contact our Director of Community Outreach Shad Guinn at [Shad@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:Shad@1stPresbyterian.com).

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

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), 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 for an evening of 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 the end of the day today**.

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

Join us this month for a redux of "The Not So Newlywed Game"! Three 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@Epbf.com](mailto:Rwrenn@Epbf.com).

***Kids Playgroup – February 14***

Families are invited every second Friday of the month from 9:00am - 11:00am to the Student Center for fellowship and connection with other parents while your kids (ages 0-5) play in a safe and fun environment!

***Hearts & Hammers – February 15***

Spread the love of Christ to our community and church family by participating in our monthly service project, Hearts & Hammers! If you're interested in joining this month, please contact our Director of Community Outreach Shad Guinn at [Shad@1stPresbyterian.com](http://1stPresbyterian.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).

***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, menus, and elective options at [1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek).

***Children’s Ministry – Worship Bag Packing***

If you’re looking for a way to help out in Children’s Ministry, but can’t volunteer on Sundays, we could use your help during the week putting worship bags together! Kids use these during the worship services, and it’s a quick and easy way to help out; you could do it on your way to or from a Bible study or small group meeting at the church! If you’re interested, please email the Children’s Ministry Team at [KidsMinistry@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:KidsMinistry@1stPresbyterian.com).

***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; it’s 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).

***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, clerical work, and spreading the gospel through various outreach opportunities. Learn more and submit your application online at [1stPresbyterian.com/Jobs](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Jobs).

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