



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of*
CHATTANOOGA

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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 reminds us of three aspects of worship:

1. **Worship begins with preparation.**
John the Baptist's ministry was one of preparation—calling people to repentance and readiness for the arrival of Jesus. In the same way, worship is not something into which we stumble, but it is a sacred privilege for which we prepare our hearts.
2. **Worship calls us to repentance.**
John's message centered on repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4)
Worship is not just about praise;
it is about turning back to God.
3. **Worship is about seeing God's glory.**
John's mission was to prepare the way for the Lord so that people could recognize the glory of Christ.
True worship lifts our eyes beyond ourselves
to behold the majesty of Jesus.

Welcome!

Please take a moment to reflect before the service begins. At First Presbyterian, our worship seeks to be God-centered, dialogical, and covenantal. This simply means you will notice a pattern of God speaking to us in His grace and our response to Him in adoration, praise, listening, and praying.*

During the service

we invite you to participate by reading and singing the words printed in bold!

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord, as we come before You,
help us to prepare our hearts,
turn from sin, and behold Your glory.
May our worship be pleasing to You,
and may we leave transformed
and spiritually strengthened
by beholding Your beauty, experiencing Your nearness,
and tasting Your goodness.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

*Parts of these explanations are derived from Covenant PCA, Nashville, TN and Covenant PCA, Chattanooga, TN

† Please stand
as you are able.

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† GATHERING SONG

“Come Ye Sinners”

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy
Weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you
Full of pity, love, and pow'r**

**Come, ye thirsty; come and welcome
God's free bounty, glorify
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh**

Chorus: **I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in His arms
In the arms of my dear Savior
Oh, there are ten thousand charms**

**Let not conscience make you linger
Nor of fitness fondly dream
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him *Chorus***

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden
Lost and ruined by the fall
If you tarry till you're better
You will never come at all *Chorus***

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Hebrews 1:1-3a ESV

Pastor: Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son,
Whom He appointed the heir of all things,
through Whom also He created the world.

People: He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of His nature,
and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.

Call to Worship

Only God Him-
self can call us
into worship. He
sets the terms for
worship because,
through His Son,
He makes worship
possible.

Invocation

This prayer addresses God in three persons, asking Him to be present with us in worship to help us worship Him according to His will.

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

“Let Us Adore”

**The heavens declare the glory of God
And all of the world will join the praise His wonders proclaim**

**The oceans and skies lift up their voice
And all He has made will rise to bless the King of all kings**

Chorus: **Let us adore Him, let us adore Him
Jesus Christ is the Lord!**

**Eternity's King is coming again
Though all of the earth will fade away His truth will remain**

Chorus 2: **Let us adore Him, let us adore Him
Jesus Christ is the Lord!
Come and behold Him, bow down before Him
Jesus Christ is the Lord!**

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! You are worthy of all praise *Chorus 2*

Affirmation of Faith

Since the time of ancient Israel, believers have confessed their faith publicly (Deut 6:4). Following this practice, we confess our faith each week, using the historic creeds and symbols of the church for the past two thousand years.

Confession of Sin

Within the context of our relationship with God, we are invited in safety, not in shame, to confess our sins. We rehearse this truth each week by confessing our sins corporately, then silently. As we do, we learn that God is always ready to forgive us.

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture assures us, sinners saved by grace, that we are united to Jesus in His death and Resurrection.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from The Westminster Confession of Faith, Ch. 15

Repentance unto life is a saving grace, produced in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, whereby we so grieve for and hate our sins and turn from them all to God, purposing and endeavoring to walk with Him in all the ways of new obedience. We ought not to content ourselves with a general repentance, but it is each person's duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins. Every man is bound to make private confession of his sins to God, praying for pardon.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Father, thank you for awakening our hearts to answer the cry in our own personal wilderness to "prepare the way of the Lord." In us, the rough places are to be made smooth, the crooked straight, the mountains of pride brought low, and the valleys of despondency lifted up. Level all obstructions in our hearts so that Your King might receive a glad welcome and reign there without rival. Lift us up out of our discouragements and despondencies, for they are valleys that You must exalt. Banish from our hearts all manner of proud conceit for it is a mountain that You must make low. Prepare the way in us now, and may we welcome anew King Jesus. Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hebrews 1:3b ESV

After making purification for sins,
He sat down at the right hand
of the Majesty on high. . .

SONG OF HEALING

“Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me”

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus for my life is wholly bound to His
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: “All is mine!”
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need His power is displayed

To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

Prayers for Healing

On the second Sunday of each month, we invite those in need of any kind of healing—emotional, physical, or spiritual—down to the front to be anointed with oil and prayed over by our elders, as the Bible teaches in James 5:13-14.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave!

To this I hold: my sin has been defeated; Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: “I am free!”
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus; all the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat:
“Yet not I, but through Christ in me” *Repeat*

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

The Bible tells us to set aside a portion of our income and additional offerings of our resources for the work of God, for His glory. These acts of giving display of our joyful dependence upon God rather than ourselves.

Doxology

A doxology is a hymn or word of praise to God for His goodness and glory.

Sermon

The Bible teaches that faith comes through hearing God's word (Romans 10:17). The sermon is an exposition and application of the Biblical text which aims to present Christ, in all His glory, as the all-sufficient Savior.

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

More news & resources on pp. 9 - 13

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, 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

"God Is Here"

Mark 1:1-3 (p. 836)

"Walking with the Master: Studies in the Gospel of Mark"

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

More space for notes on p. 8

1. The Person Who Is Coming (v. 1)

2. The Preparation for His Coming (vv. 2-3)

†SONG OF RESPONSE

“There Is a Redeemer”

**There is a Redeemer: Jesus, God’s own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One**

*Chorus: Thank You, O my Father for giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done*

**Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain *Chorus***

**When I stand in glory I will see His face
There I’ll serve my King forever in that holy place *Chorus***

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

based on Isaiah 40:3-5

Go forth in the grace and strength of the LORD,
preparing the way for His kingdom
in your hearts and in the world.
May every valley of doubt and despair be lifted,
every mountain of fear and pride be made low,
and may His glory be revealed in your life,
so that others may see and experience
the salvation of our God. Amen.

Benediction

The Bible tells us that God gets the first word and the last word in worship. A benediction is from the Latin terms for “good word.” At the end of each service, God sends us into the world with His blessing as we seek to love our community in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Worship Leader

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

Presiding Minister

Ron Brown, *Pastor of Congregational Care*

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 honor of our parents by DeWayne & Marilyn McCamish and family.

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, February 10.

We encourage you to take this bulletin home and use it for personal worship and devotions this week.

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.



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 2/2

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 YTD	\$2,927,692	\$761,538
Raised	\$2,907,022	\$747,885



To make a secure contribution, scan the QR code or go to [1st Presbyterian.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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult

Bible 101:

SS 212, Martha Meeks

Chapter by Chapter:

SS 208, George Clark, Brad Gruner

College Class:

SS 203, Gunther Griffin

Fellowship Class:

SS 210, Donnie Bostick

Foundations Class:

Fellowship Hall, Ron Brown

Icebreakers Class:

SS 211, Joshua Adair

The Joy of Learning:

Tower 258, Steve & Sue Sawrie

Link Class:

SS 209, Bruce & Leslie Cory

McCallie/Anderson Class:

Chapel, Sam Clyatt

Reformed by the Word:

Tower 156 (Session Room), Jerry Stauffer

Rocking Chair Class:

Tower 302, Frank Eldridge

International & Adult Bible Discussion:

SS 200-F, Andy & Lisa Fischer

Young Professionals:

Tower 304, Dick Cain

Youth & Kids

Youth Large Group:

6th – 12th grade, Student Center
(across McCallie Ave.)

Kid's Sunday School:

Pre K – 5th grade,
ground & 1st level Children's Wing

Nursery:

Infant – 4-years-old, ground level

Scan the QR code, or go to
1stPresbyterian.com/SundaySchool
to learn more!



SS = Sanctuary Side

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES

New Members

Please welcome the newest members of our church family, as of last Sunday, February 2: Ben & Charis Taylor! If you're interested in joining, our next Inquirer's Class is on Saturday, February 22, from 8:30am - 12:00pm in the Nell Davis room; register by this Friday at 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're hosting an information session today during the Sunday School hour (10:15am) in room 404, or you can contact our Director of Community Outreach Shad Guinn at Shad@1stPresbyterian.com.

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 or Rwrenn@Epbfi.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.

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.

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.

Giving Statements

2024 Giving Statements have been sent out electronically to the email address on record. If you have questions, or you didn't receive yours, please contact our Director of Finance Becky Pearce at Becky@1stPresbyterian.com or call 423-267-1206 EXT 105.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Nursery Administration Coordinator

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.

Recently Bereaved

Please pray for the Venable family in the loss of long-time First Pres member Mary Ruth Venable. A visitation will be held in the Connector this Wednesday at 11:00am, followed by a memorial service in the Sanctuary at 12:00pm and a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Bulletins

We encourage you to take this bulletin home and use it for your personal worship and devotions this week. The next Sunday's bulletin is available on our website on Friday mornings and at the top of the Friday weekly email newsletter (subscribe to via our website or the QR code on page 10).

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