



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH *of*  
CHATTANOOGA

# The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

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 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.

### PRELUDE

*Mickey Hansen, oboe & Sigrid Luther, piano*  
*“Adagio from Concerto in D Minor” by Tomaso Albinoni*

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

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*More news & resources on pp. 10 - 13*

### THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

#### CHORAL INTROIT

*Sanctuary Choir*

*“Fairest Lord Jesus” & “Our Great Savior”  
Please sing as directed.*

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,  
O Thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish; Thee will I honor,  
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Jesus! What a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul,  
Friends may fail me, foes assail me;  
He, my Savior, makes me whole.**

**Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah! What a friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.**

He is with me to the end. **Amen.**

† Please stand  
as you are able.

#### **Call to Worship**

Only God Himself 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.

#### † 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.**

#### 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.

## †HYMN OF PRAISE

*No. 181 (vv. 1-3,5)*

### *“We Come, O Christ, to You”*

We come, O Christ, to You, true Son of God and man,  
By Whom all things consist, in Whom all life began.  
In You alone we live and move and have our being in Your love.

You are the Way to God; Your blood our ransom paid.  
In You we face our Judge and Maker unafraid.  
Before the throne absolved we stand; Your love has met Your law's demand.

You are the living Truth! All wisdom dwells in You,  
The Source of every skill, the one eternal TRUE!  
O great I AM! In You we rest, sure answer to our every quest.

We worship You, Lord Christ, our Savior and our King;  
To You our youth and strength adoringly we bring.  
So fill our hearts, that all may view Your life in us, and turn to You.

*“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”*

**Ye servants of God, Your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad His wonderful name.  
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;  
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.**

**God ruleth on high, almighty to save,  
and still He is nigh; His presence we have.  
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.**

**Salvation to God, Who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore and give Him His right,  
all glory and pow’r and wisdom and might.  
All honor and blessing with angels above,  
And thanks never ceasing for infinite love. Amen.**

**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.

## 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**

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.

## 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. . .

## HYMN OF HEALING

*“I Surrender All”*

**All to Jesus I surrender; all to Him I freely give.  
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.**

*Chorus:* **I surrender all, I surrender all.  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.**

**All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly Thine.  
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me; may I know Thy pow’r divine.**

*Chorus*

**All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to Thee.  
Fill me with Thy love and power; let Thy blessing fall on me.**

*Chorus*

## 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.

## 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.

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING

### OFFERTORY

*Sanctuary Choir*

*“Follow Jesus (Three Spirituals)” by John Purifoy*

Talk about a child who follows Jesus, here’s one, here’s one.

Ever since I heard the gospel story, I’ve been walking up the path to glory.  
Talk about a child who follows Jesus, here’s one.

Talk about a child who’s been converted, here’s one, here’s one.

Ever since I heard the gospel story, I’ve been walking up the path to glory.  
Talk about a child who’s been converted, here’s one.

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me.  
All along my pilgrim journey, O Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.  
You can have all the world; give me Jesus.

### 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 host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## 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**

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.

**SERMON OUTLINE****1. The Person Who Is Coming (v. 1)****2. The Preparation for His Coming (vv. 2-3)**



**“I Will Sing of My Redeemer”**

**I will sing of my Redeemer and His wondrous love to me.  
On the cruel cross He suffered, from the curse to set me free.**

*Chorus: Sing, O sing of my Redeemer!*  
**With His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt, and made me free.**

**I will praise my dear Redeemer; His triumphant pow’r I’ll tell,  
How the victory He giveth over sin and death and hell.** *Chorus*

**I will sing of my Redeemer and His heav’nly love for me;  
He from death to life hath brought me,  
Son of God, with Him to be!** *Chorus*

**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!

**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.

## POSTLUDE

*Josh Park, organ*  
*“Fugue in D major” by Vincent Lübeck*

**Worship Leader**Darrin Hassevoort, *Director of Music & Worship***Presiding Liturgist**Gunther Griffin, *Director of College Ministry***Minister of the Word**Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*

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

# I Will Sing of My Redeemer

*For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. Colossians 1:19-20*

1. I will sing of my Re - deem - er and His won - drous  
2. I will tell the won - drous sto - ry how, my lost es -  
3. I will praise my dear Re - deem - er; His tri - um - phant  
4. I will sing of my Re - deem - er and His heav'n - ly

love to me. On the cru - el cross He suf - fered,  
tate to save, in His bound - less love and mer - cy  
pow'r I'll tell, how the vic - to - ry He giv - eth  
love for me; He from death to life hath brought me,

from the curse to set me free.  
He the ran - som free - ly gave. Sing, O sing of my Re -  
o - ver sin and death and hell.  
Son of God, with Him to be!

deem - er, with His blood He pur - chased me. On the cross He

sealed my par - don, paid the debt and made me free.

## 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 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 [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

### ***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.

### ***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](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'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](mailto: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](mailto:Janette.Barnes@Gmail.com) or [Rwrenn@Epbfi.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](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).

***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](mailto: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](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).

***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](http://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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