



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of*
CHATTANOOGA

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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

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!

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

Confession of sin is a key expression of repentance. The people responded to John the Baptizer's call by openly confessing their sins, symbolizing a break from their old ways and a readiness for the Messiah.

To confess our sins is to humbly agree with God about our sin, to turn from it in repentance, and to trust His promise of forgiveness through Christ.

Why do we regularly confess our sins?

The discipline of confession helps us grasp the wonder of grace and our need for God's mercy.

Christopher Ash reminds us:

"We confess to encourage self-examination that leads to daily repentance,

not morbid introspection that leads to despair."

Do not let confession lead you to despair.

God promises: "I have swept away your offenses like a cloud. . .

Return to me, for I have redeemed you" (*Isaiah 44:22*).

Corporate confession prompts personal reflection and honest repentance.

One of the most encouraging moments in worship is the assurance of pardon:

". . .if your faith is in Jesus Christ, then God assures you by His Word that your sins are forgiven."

Prepare your heart for worship by remembering how deeply forgiven and loved you are by our Lord.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God,
Who sent Your servant John the Baptist
to prepare the way of the Lord
by proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins,
grant us grace to confess our sins with sincere hearts,
to turn from all that spoils an intimate friendship with You,
and to walk in newness of life through Your Spirit.
Prepare our hearts to enthrone Christ anew,
that we may bear fruit in keeping with repentance.
We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† GATHERING SONG

† Please stand
as you are able

“Come As You Are”

**Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come, brokenhearted, let rescue begin
Come find your mercy, O sinner, come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal**

Chorus: Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame
All who are broken, lift up your face
O wanderer, come home, you're not too far
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart
Come as you are

**There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure** *Chorus*

**Come as you are, come as you are
Fall in His arms, come as you are**

**There's joy for the morning; O sinner, be still
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal** *Chorus*

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught His disciples this prayer as a model (Matt. 6:6-13, Luke 11:2-4), so Christians have recited it through the ages in worship, both as pattern for prayer and as a common prayer for God's people.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Revelation 5:13-14 ESV

Pastor: And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

People: **“To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”**
And the four living creatures said, “Amen!”
and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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.**

“How Firm a Foundation”

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not! I am with you; O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid.
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters, I call you to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.

When through fiery trials, your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

**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 *Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 85*

Pastor: What does God require of us,
that we may escape His wrath and curse due to us for sin?

People: To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin,
God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ,
repentance unto life,
with the diligent use of all the outward means
whereby Christ communicates to us
the benefits of redemption.

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

**Gracious Heavenly Father,
We come before You, confessing our sins,
for we have wandered from Your ways,
clinging to pride, selfishness, and indifference.
We have failed to love You with all of our hearts,
and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Forgive us, Lord. We repent and turn to You,
trusting in Your tender mercy and saving grace.
Wash us and make us clean by Jesus's precious blood.
Prepare our hearts to demonstrate Your sacrificial love,
and to walk in the newness of life You freely give.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Zechariah 13:1,7 ESV

On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.
“Awake, O sword, against my Shepherd, against the Man who stands next to me,” declares the LORD of hosts.
“Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. . .”

†SONG OF ASSURANCE

“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

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”

Intercession

This prayer addresses God on behalf of others; our church family, our local community, and beyond.

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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

More news & resources on pp. 11 - 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.

O praise Him! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

"The Coming of the Kingdom"

Mark 1:4-8 (p. 836)

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

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

More space for notes on p. 10

1. John Appears and His Appearance (vv. 4-6)

2. John Announces and Anticipates (vv. 7-8)

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!

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

† SONG OF RESPONSE

“Behold Our God”

**Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.**

Chorus: **Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King; nothing can compare.
Come, let us adore Him!**

**Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One Who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?** *Chorus*

**Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus Savior, risen now to reign!** *Chorus*

**Men: You will reign forever!
Women: Let Your glory fill the earth!** *Repeat*

Chorus

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

† BENEDECTION

based on Mark 1:4-8

Go now in the grace of Christ
Who calls you to repentance and offers you forgiveness.
May your heart be cleansed, your spirit renewed,
and your life bear fruit in keeping with His gospel.
Walk in joy knowing you are loved, forgiven, and made new.
In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SERMON NOTES

Worship Leader

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

Presiding Minister

Randy Nabors, *Pastor of Missions*

Minister of the Word

Gabriel N.E. Fluhner, *Senior Pastor*

Today's Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Virginia & Bill Gault by sons Jim & Robert and their families.

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our home-bound and hospitalized on Monday, February 24.

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 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 under the “Resources” tab.



Giving Update

as of 2/16

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	\$3,060,769	\$796,154
Raised	\$2,951,373	\$755,750



To make a secure contribution, scan the QR code or go to 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

Prayer Gathering – Starting today

We are offering a prayer gathering during the Sunday School hour each week starting this Sunday in Room 153 (the Diaconate Office). Each week, an elder or deacon will lead us in a short devotional followed by prayer requests and a season of prayer. Feel free to come and go when you can!

First Cup Men's Monthly Breakfast – March 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!

Town Hall Meeting – March 12

We will be hosting a Town Hall meeting directly following the Midweek meal in the Fellowship Hall. There will be NO adult electives or officer training that evening. Representatives from the Capital Campaign Committee and the Building Committee will be there to answer questions about the Master Plan, the Capital Campaign, and the upcoming renovation.

World Missions Retreat – March 29

"As You (the Father) sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." *John 17:18*. Get inspired by missions! Join us for a fun day at Camp Vesper Point to learn more about our World Missions ministry and how you can get involved. Children are welcome, but will require supervision at all times. Register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events by March 20.

Inquirer's Class – May 10

Interested in learning more about 1st Pres and how to become a member? Come hear about our church's vision for the city, what we believe, and our discipleship and ministry opportunities at our next Inquirer's Class on Saturday, May 10, in the Nell Davis Room from 8:30am - 12:00pm! A light breakfast will be provided. Register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events by Friday, May 2.

Vacation Bible School – June 9 - 13

Save the dates for VBS this summer! More details and registration coming soon!

The Edge Conference – June 16 - 20

Middle School students are invited to spend a week at Covenant College at The Edge Conference! This is a great opportunity to learn more about who Jesus is and to enjoy fellowship and fun with friends. The trip is open to rising 6th graders through rising 9th graders, and the cost is \$330 per student with an \$80 deposit required at registration (partial scholarships available upon request). Space is limited! Register online at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events and learn more about the conference at EdgeConference.org.

RYM Conference – June 30 - July 4

High School students are invited to the Reformed Youth Ministries Summer Conference at Laguna Beach Christian Resort in Panama City to explore this year's theme, "God with Us." The trip is open to rising 9th graders through graduated 12th graders and the cost is \$500 per student with a \$150 non-refundable deposit required at registration (partial scholarships available upon request). Space is limited so register online 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.

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.

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.

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 via our website or the QR code on page 11).

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