



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of*
CHATTANOOGA

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, MARCH 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

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

In our sermon text today, Jesus, despite being sinless, fully identifies with our need for forgiveness when asking to be baptized by John.

“Here, the entire Godhead is revealed.
The Son is baptized,
the Spirit descends upon Him like a dove,
and the Father’s voice proclaims His pleasure in the Son.
The whole Trinity is involved in the work of redemption.”
– *John Calvin*

“In the voice of the Father from heaven,
we hear God’s affirmation of Jesus’ identity
and the start of His public ministry.
This is the moment where Jesus’ identity
as the Son of God is publicly confirmed.”
– *Herman Ridderbos*

“Jesus’ baptism is a symbol of the new covenant
He will establish, one that provides cleansing and forgiveness
through His sacrifice.
This act serves as a foreshadowing of the true baptism,
which is found in His death and resurrection.”
– *J.C. Ryle*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Father in heaven,
at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan
You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son
and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit.
Grant that all who are baptized into His Name
may keep the covenant they have made,
and boldly confess Him as Lord and Savior,
Who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† Please stand
as you are able

† GATHERING SONG

“How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Chorus: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze *Chorus*

And when I think of God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin *Chorus*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim “My God, how great Thou art!” *Chorus*

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.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 96:1-4 ESV

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
tell of His salvation from day to day.

People: Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
He is to be feared above all gods.

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.

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

"O God Beyond All Praising"

**O God beyond all praising, we worship You today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at ev'ry gift You send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before You and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore You, our great and mighty Lord.**

**Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know Your favor may serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still:
To marvel at Your beauty and glory in Your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.**

†SONG OF PRAISE

“All I Have Is Christ”

I once was lost in darkest night, yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own a rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross
And I beheld God’s love displayed, You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me, now all I know is grace

Chorus: Hallelujah! All I have is Christ!
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!

Now Lord I would be Yours alone and live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands could never come from me
O Father, use my ransomed life in any way You choose
And let my song forever be, “my only boast is You” *Chorus*

**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

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe concerning the name of Jesus?

People: There is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven
given among men by which we must be saved (*Acts 4:12*).
Therefore, God has highly exalted Him
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father (*Philippians 2:9-11*)
Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask
of the Father in my name, He will give it to you.
Until now you have asked nothing in my name.
Ask, and you will receive,
that your joy may be full (*John 16:24*).

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

**Almighty and gracious Father,
You call us to magnify the name of Jesus,
yet we are frequently preoccupied with our own names.
We chase selfish desires over Your will,
speak words that lack grace,
and live in ways that fail to reflect Your holiness.
Forgive us, Lord.
We lament that our faith is weak,
our obedience incomplete, and our love imperfect.
For pride, selfishness, and complacency
dim the light of Christ in us.
By Your Holy Spirit, cleanse us, empower us,
and lead us to shine the beauty of Christ in a lost world.
We pray in the matchless name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Matthew 1:21 ESV

She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins.

†SONG OF ASSURANCE

“Cling to Christ”

**Father, I can come to You and boast of deeds I’ve done
In my pride I strive to earn the favor Christ has won
He alone pleads my acceptance, all my works aside
So I come with empty hands and I cling to Christ**

**Father, I can go astray and battle needless fears
Voices tell me I’m condemned and that I can’t draw near
But Your Spirit calls me homeward with Your words of life
Jesus bore my ev’ry sin, so I cling to Christ**

Bridge: **It’s more than I can do to keep my hold on You
But all my hope and peace is that You cling to me**

**Father, all my earthly aims in time will turn to dust
Let me learn that loss is gain for those who know Your love
All the treasures of this world will never satisfy
You alone are endless joy, so I cling to Christ**

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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

More news & resources on pp. 10 - 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 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

"He Gets Us"

Mark 1:9-11 (p. 836)

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

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

Space for notes on p. 9

1. Jesus Identifies with His People (v. 9)
2. Jesus Inaugurates New Creation (v. 10)
3. Jesus Is the Beloved Son (v. 11)

†SONG OF RESPONSE

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

**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**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight
And all the twinkling starry host
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast**

Chorus: **You're my soul's glory,
Oh, my soul's glory,
You're my soul's glory, joy, and crown**

**Beautiful Saviour, Lord of all the nations
Son of God and Son of Man
Glory and honor, praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine**

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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.

†BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. Amen.

Worship Leader

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

Presiding Liturgist

Gunther Griffin, *Director of College Ministry*

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 honor of the life of Priscilla George by her friends and family.

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

SERMON NOTES

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

Prayer Gathering

SS 114, Patrick Frees

Reformed by the Word:

Tower 156 (Session Room), Jerry Stauffer

Rocking Chair Class:

Tower 302, Frank Eldridge

International & Adult Bible Discussion:

Tower 405, 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 & 2nd level Children's Wing

Nursery:

Infant – 4-years-old, ground level

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



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 2/16

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 [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.

“First Takes” – a podcast from First Pres

New episodes of First Takes have already begun airing! Check out the latest every Thursday afternoon on Apple, Spotify, and anywhere you get your podcasts!

Prayer Gathering – Every Sunday

We are offering a prayer gathering during the Sunday School hour in Room 114 (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!

Celebrate Recovery Volunteer Training Kick-Off – March 5

Volunteer training begins this Wednesday at First Centenary United Methodist (419 McCallie Ave.) in Room 101. Anyone interested is welcome to join! For more information or directions, please contact Sarah Lipp at SjLipp1268@Gmail.com.

Town Hall Meeting – March 12

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

It’s a Wonderful Life! Senior Fellowship & Program – March 13

IAWL’s favorite history teacher, Linda Moss Mines, will be holding class in the Fellowship Hall on “The Medal of Honor and More.” Our homework assignment is to come with an appetite for history, for hero stories, and for whatever our IAWL chefs, the Butter Cups, have prepared for us! Fellowship begins at 10:30am, followed by the program at 11:00am and lunch (\$8) at 12:00pm. Reservations are required; please contact Janette Barnes at Janette.Barnes@Gmail.com or Rosa Wrenn at RWrenn@Epbfi.com.

Hearts & Hammers – March 22

We have the privilege of sending teams of volunteers out every third Saturday of the month (except July and December) to show the love of Christ to our church family and community. If you’re interested in joining us this month, or anytime in the future, please email Director of Community Outreach Shad Guinn at Shad@1stPresbyterian.com.

Senior Adult Luncheon – March 23

Adults 65+ are invited to our annual Senior Adult Luncheon on Sunday, March 23, immediately following the 11:00am worship service in the Fellowship Hall! Please call the church office at 423-267-1206 ext 101 by March 19 to register.

World Missions Retreat – March 29

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 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 explore God as Emmanuel, "God with us," at the Reformed Youth Ministries Summer Conference at Laguna Beach Christian Resort. 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! Learn more about dinner prices, menus, and elective options at 1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek.

Nursery Administration Coordinator

We're looking for a part-time Nursery Administration Coordinator who will recruit, schedule, and train nursery staff. 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. Sunday bulletins are available on our website on Friday mornings and in the weekly newsletter (subscribe via our website or the QR code on page 11).

554 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402

(423)-267-1206

Office@1stPresbyterian.com

www.1stPresbyterian.com