



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of*
CHATTANOOGA

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 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**.

Today, we have the immense privilege of celebrating the Lord's Supper. In this meal, Jesus gives Himself to us and would have us yield ourselves fully to Him. The lessons of the Supper are multiple. It is a feast of remembrance, covenant, and love.

During communion, we participate in an activity that commemorates a past event and looks forward to a future consummation. It is a memorial of faith and a declaration of hope that Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again. It calls us to meditate on a crucified Savior's love, a living Savior's intercession, and a coming Savior's glory.

We come to the Lord's Table not because we are strong, but because we are weak.

We come because we need God's mercy and help.

We come because we love the Lord and want to experience more of His love.

Therefore, we lift up our hearts and minds above our cares and fears,

and let this bread and wine be to us

the token and pledge of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, all meant for us if we will receive them in humble faith.

— *Adapted from a communion worship service
from the Iona Community, Church of Scotland*

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Heavenly Father,
We come before You in humility,
knowing that our sufficiency comes from You alone.
Prepare our hearts to receive Your truth.
Open our eyes to see Your beauty,
soften our hearts to embrace Your will,
and quicken our souls by the power of the Holy Spirit.
May Your life-giving Spirit shape our thoughts,
purify our desires, and direct our steps.
Fill us afresh with Your Spirit,
so that we might walk in the newness of life
that Christ has secured for us.
May He guide, strengthen, and encourage us,
so that we bear witness to Your goodness, truth and love.
For we pray in Jesus's name, Amen.

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† *Please stand as you are able*

† GATHERING SONG

“Thank You, Lord”

**I come before You today and there's just one thing that I want to say
Thank You, Lord, thank You, Lord
For all You've given to me, for all the blessings that I cannot see
Thank You, Lord, thank You, Lord
With a grateful heart with a song of praise,
With an outstretched arm I will bless Your name**

Chorus: **Thank You, Lord; I just want to thank You, Lord
Thank You, Lord; I just want to thank You, Lord**

**For all You've done in my life: You took my darkness and gave me Your light
Thank You, Lord, thank You, Lord
You took my sin and my shame, You took my sickness and healed all my pain
Thank You, Lord, thank You, Lord *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.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95:1-3 ESV

Pastor: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;

People: Let us make a joyful noise to Him
with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

† SONG OF PRAISE

“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”

Chorus: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes *Chorus*

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find *Chorus*

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore *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.

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 *Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A 1*

Pastor: What is the chief end of man?

People: **Man's chief end is to glorify God,
and to enjoy Him forever.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Our merciful Father,
we thank You that You never allow us comfort
when we are not walking with You.
When we refuse to confess our sins
You give us an inward ache,
as though our bones were wasting away,
and we groan with an inaudible roar of guilt.
You keep Your hand heavy upon us.
We thank You for that You will hear and answer
when we ask for forgiveness.
When we confess our sins to You,
we receive real forgiveness for real guilt,
and the ache and the heaviness disappear.
Loving Father, thank You for the blessed discomfort
that You bring to us when we are away from You.
Hear us as we now confess our sins
in these moments of silence.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 5:1 ESV

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

Gloria Patri

The Gloria Patri is a doxology, which 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. 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.

†GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end,
Amen, amen.**

THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

"The Spirit Gives Life"
2 Corinthians 3:5-6 (p. 965)
Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III

SERMON NOTES

More space for notes on p. 8

THE TABLE OF THE LORD

COMMUNION

Reflection available on p. 9

- **Communion, also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians when we recall Jesus's cross, relive His anguish, and renew our vows to live as His followers.**
- **We invite all to participate in this meal: who profess faith in Jesus Christ, who are members of a gospel-proclaiming church, who are endeavoring to live at peace with God and others, and who seek strengthening grace to live more faithfully for Jesus.**
- **If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, we encourage you to spend this time considering Jesus's broken body and shed blood. Pray and ask Him to forgive your sins and to give you eternal life.**

†COMMUNION SONG

“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 & Chorus*

†SONG OF RESPONSE

“Who You Say I Am”

**Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh, His love for me, oh, His love for me**

*Chorus 1: Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed
I’m a child of God, yes, I am*

**Free at last, He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep while I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me, yes, He died for me** *Chorus 1 & 2*

*Chorus 2: In my Father’s house, there’s a place for me
I’m a child of God, yes, I am*

*Bridge: I am chosen not forsaken, I am who You say I am
You are for me, not against me
I am who You say I am* *Chorus 1 & 2*

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.

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

adapted from Numbers 6:24-26 ESV

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace
both now and in the life everlasting. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“There Is a Fountain”

SERMON NOTES

Worship Leader

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

Presiding Minister

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*

Minister of the Word

Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III, *Chancellor & CEO, Reformed Theological Seminary*

Today's Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Karen Fisher and her godly legacy to her family: husband, Dick Fisher, daughters Dorothy George and Jessica (Andy) Hansen, and the Hansen grandchildren. “. . .Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Revelation 5:12.

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our home-bound and hospitalized on Monday, March 17.

COMMUNION REFLECTION

The Apostle Paul urges all believers who come to the Lord's table to examine themselves before taking communion: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (*1 Corinthians 11:28*)

The below is a guide for confession of sin called "The Traits of the Self-Life." Please use it to prepare your hearts to participate in the Lord's Supper. As you read, examine yourself in the presence of God and ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify, confess, and hate pride, selfishness, and rebellion in your life. Are you ever conscious of . . .

- A secret spirit of pride? An exalted feeling in view of your success or position; because of your good training, appearance, or success; because of your natural gifts and abilities?
- An important, independent spirit? Love of human praise; a secret fondness to be noticed; love of supremacy, drawing attention to self in conversation?
- The stirrings of anger or impatience, which, worst of all, you call nervousness or holy indignation; a touchy, sensitive spirit; a disposition to resent or retaliate when disapproved of or contradicted; a desire to throw sharp, heated flings at another?
- An argumentative, talkative spirit; harsh, sarcastic expressions; a headstrong disposition?
- A commanding spirit; a disposition to criticize and pick flaws when set aside and unnoticed?
- Carnal fear; a man-fearing spirit; a shrinking from reproach and duty?
- A jealous disposition, a secret spirit of envy shut up in your heart; a disposition to speak of the faults and failings of others, rather than affirming their gifts and virtues?
- Unbelief; a spirit of discouragement in times of pressure and opposition?

By prayer, hold your heart open to the searchlight of our gracious Father until you see His Spirit softening your heart and resolve to confess these traits and ask the Spirit to replace them with His fruit. (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

Rejoice knowing that Jesus Himself bore all of your sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness. (*1 Peter 2:24*)

Call upon the Holy Spirit to empower you to put your "self-life" to death; beseech the Lord, like David did: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (*Psalms 51:10*)

Oh, to be saved from myself, dear Lord; oh, to be lost in Thee; oh, that it might be no more I, but Christ Who lives in me. Amen.

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 03/09

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	\$3,260,385	\$848,077
Raised	\$3,229,693	\$818,960



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

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 & Children

Youth Large Group:

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

Children'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!



Today's Guest Preacher

We welcome Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III for both services this morning. Since 2013, Dr. Duncan has served as the Chancellor and CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary and John E. Richards Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology. Prior to this, he was the senior minister at the historic First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi, for 17 years. He is also the co-founder of Together for the Gospel and former moderator of the Presbyterian Church in America. He and his wife Anne live in Jackson and have two adult children.

NO High School Small Group – Today

There is NO High School Small Group this evening, as many schools are on spring break.

NO Middle School Small Group – March 19

There will be NO Middle School Small Group this Wednesday, March 19, as many schools are on spring break this week.

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 this Wednesday**, 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 this Thursday**, March 20.

First Pres Women's Party – April 4

Women 18+, grab a friend and join us for a party, just for fun! Let's spend an evening building relationships over food, games and crafts on Friday, April 4 at 5:30pm in the Student Center. Feel free to bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Vacation Bible School – June 9 - 13

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

"First Takes" – a podcast from First Pres

What evidence is there to prove that we have the right books of the Bible and that they were authored by God? Pastor Gabe Fluhrer has the answer on the latest episode of *First Takes*, available every Thursday afternoon on Apple, Spotify, and anywhere you get your podcasts. Got a question? Submit it to Dylan@1stPresbyterian.com to have it featured on the podcast!

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 by **Thursday, May 1**, 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 by **Tuesday, April 1**.

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! Note that there is NO Middle School small group this Wednesday. Learn more about dinner prices, menus, and elective options at 1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek.

New Medical Missions Subcommittee

World Missions’s new subcommittee is working to facilitate global medical assistance to ministries and churches involved in using medicine to reach communities for the gospel. Committee members are working to increase the capacity of First Pres to send short-term teams in response to requests for medical assistance at home and abroad. If you’re interested in learning more about this ministry, pick up one of our brochures in the Connector!

Congregational Care Reminder

If you know of anyone in the church who’s grieving, has been hospitalized, or is suffering any kind of sickness, please reach out to the Congregational Care Ministry and let us know so we may provide flowers, a meal, a visit, and/or prayer. Our team of volunteers is one of the many vital parts of 1st Pres, and we need your help to make sure we reach everyone within our church family! You can contact the church office at 423-267-1206 or Office@1stPresbyterian.com.

New Addition

Rejoice and be in prayer for the additions to families within our congregation: William Augustine Taylor, born March 4 to First Pres members Charis & Ben Taylor and big brother James.

Recently Bereaved

Please be in prayer for those in our congregation who have recently lost a loved one: the family of First Pres member Annette Craig, in her passing on March 10. A celebration of life visitation will be held March 23 at Ryan Funeral Home on S. Main St. from 1:00pm - 5:00pm.

554 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402

(423)-267-1206

Office@1stPresbyterian.com

www.1stPresbyterian.com