



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 2023
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

We pay more attention to dying than to death. We're more concerned to get over the act of dying than to overcome death. Socrates mastered the art of dying; Christ overcame death as the last enemy. There is a real difference between the two things; the one is within the scope of human possibilities, the other means resurrection.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ORDER OF WORSHIP

†VOLUNTARY

Rhosymedre from Three Preludes Founded on Welsh Tunes
Ralph Vaughan Williams

WELCOME

†INTROIT

O Lord, Open Thou Our Lips
Richard Webster

O Lord, open thou our lips and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. John Musgrave

Pastor: The day of the Lord is coming! The day of the Lord is near!

All: The time is fulfilled! The reign of God is at hand!

Pastor: O people, repent! Believe the gospel!

All: Come, let us turn and follow the Lord!

*†OPENING HYMN 826

Lift High the Cross
CRUCIFER

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Gage Arnold

FIRST LESSON | Romans 8:6–11 (page 944)

⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Stuart Gordon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we are your covenant people—one church, drawn from all nations. Our citizenship is in heaven. Yet we confess, O Lord, that we sometimes lose sight of your kingdom and its ways. We confess that we sometimes live more as citizens of our own land than as citizens of your kingdom. By your truth call all peoples to account. Forgive us for losing our distinctiveness. Focus us on the cross and on the salvation you give through him who is the Lord and King and Judge of us all, Jesus, Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

The Power of the Cross
GETTY | TOWNEND



Oh to see the dawn of the dark - est day. Christ on the road to
Oh to see my name writ - ten in the wounds, for through Your suf - f'ring

4
Cal - va - ry. Tried by sin - ful men, torn and beat - en then
7 I am free. Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live

10 nailed to a cross of wood. This the pow'r of the
won through Your self - less love! This the pow'r of the

13 cross. Christ be - came sin for us. Took the
cross Son of God slain for us. What a

blame, bore the wrath. We stand for - giv - en at the cross.
love, what a cost. We stand for - giv - en at the cross.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Whether you are a longtime member or a guest, please mark your presence by signing the friendship pad and greet those seated near you as you pass it along.

‡BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

‡During the 8:30 and 11:00 services, PreK and Kindergarten children (ages 4–6) are invited to join Young Children & Worship.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

(8:30) Lauren and Andrew Colton are presenting their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Colton, for baptism.
Assisting Elder: Overton Colton

(11:00) Katie and Matt Wild are presenting their son, Stephen Fredericks Wild, for baptism.
Assisting Elder: Ron Pasquale

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord
DAVID EVANS



1. Be still, for the pre-sence of the Lord, the Ho - ly One is here.
2. Be still, for the glo - ry of the Lord is shin - ing all a - round.
3. Be still, for the pow - er of the Lord is mov - ing in this place.



Come, bow be - fore Him now, with rev - er - ence and fear.
He burns with ho - ly fire, with splen - dor He is crowned.
He comes to cleanse and heal, to min - is - ter His grace.



In Him no sin is found, we stand on ho - ly ground.
How awe - some is the sight, our rad - iant King of light!
No work too hard for Him, in faith re - ceive from Him.



Be still, for the pre-sence of the Lord, the Ho - ly One is here.
Be still, for the glo - ry of the Lord is shin - ing all a - round.
Be still, for the pow - er of the Lord is mov - ing in this place.

SCRIPTURE READING | Acts 17:16–34 (page 926)

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. ²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’” ²⁹ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” ³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

The Gospel Goes to Athens

Dr. Ryan Moore

“... and he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” —Acts 17:31

OFFERTORY | PSALM 23

Brother James Air
arr. Mack Wilberg

The LORD’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want, he makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by. My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make within the paths of blessedness, e’en for his own name’s sake, within the paths of blessedness, e’en for his own name’s sake. Yea, though I pass thro’ shadowed vale, yet will I fear no ill; for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me; and in my Father’s heart always my dwelling place shall be. And in my heart for evermore thy dwelling place shall be.

As you reflect on the Lord’s goodness, you can make an offering by dropping your gift in the offering plate, texting “GIVE” to 707-475-3005, or donating online at fpcnashville.org.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Sandra Randleman

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.

*CLOSING HYMN 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!
ASSURANCE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen
Peter Lutkin

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Postlude II from Six Short Preludes and Postludes
Charles Villiers Stanford

** Those who are able, please stand.*

† Latecomers may be seated.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Stuart Gordon, DMin – *Senior Associate Pastor for Christian Formation & Witness*
John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*
Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Peter Rogahn, DMA – *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Fritz Berger, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Wild, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tate Pierce, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lee by the Wild Family.

The wreaths on the sanctuary doors are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of our grandbaby, Sarah Elizabeth 'Liza' Colton, by Amy and Overton Colton.

MUSIC NOTES

O Great God by Bob Kauflin CCLI Song - #4804015 © 2006 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin by Capitol CMG Publishing Integrity Music David C. Cook For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456

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Be Still by David J. Evans CCLI Song # 120824 © 1986 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456

COVER IMAGE

Charles Mellin, *St. Paul Preaching upon the Areopagus in Athens*, c. 1550–1600, pen, brown ink, and brown wash, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York, New York.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Easter Floral Dedications Due March 31—A Flower Fund has been established for the floral arrangements that beautify our sanctuary. During the Lenten season, those who make a contribution to the Flower Fund may do so in memory or in honor of loved ones. The names of those being memorialized or honored will be printed in the Easter morning bulletin. To make a dedication and contribution pick up a form from the narthex or Hospitality Center, or submit your information on the church “Sanctuary Flowers” webpage.

History, Politics, and Religion: Was America Founded as a Christian Nation? | Tuesday, April 11 | 6:00–7:00 p.m. | Gathering Place—You’re invited to a conversation about the faith of the nation’s founders and the question of faith’s influences on the nation’s founding documents and institutions. Our guest, Dr. James Calvin Davis, will join us virtually from Vermont for the evening. Dr. Davis is the George Adams Ellis Professor of Liberal Arts at Middlebury College and author of *Forbearance: A Theological Ethic for a Disagreeable Church* and other volumes on faith and public life. Snacks and childcare are provided. Contact Mallory Hammond (mhammond@fpcnashville.org) for childcare. If you would like to receive communications about upcoming monthly meetings for *History, Politics, and Religion*, contact Stuart Gordon (sgordon@fpcnashville.org).

Finding Jesus in Health Care | Tuesday, April 11 7:00–9:00 p.m. | St. George’s Episcopal Church—Join us for dessert and a discussion on the challenges that Christian healthcare practitioners face. FPC has partnered with St. George’s Episcopal Church and Duke Divinity School’s Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative to offer this free event. Register online.

Leaving Your Legacy Dinner | Monday, April 17 6:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall—The Endowment Committee invites all members to a special evening, *Leaving Your Legacy: Celebrating Our Church’s Future*. The evening will begin with dinner, followed by our guest speaker, Karl Mattison, Vice President of the Presbyterian Foundation. The evening will also be an opportunity to recognize the James I. Vance Society—our members who have made an endowment gift to the church. Please RSVP to Mary Russ (mruss@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9537).

A Conversation with Andy Crouch | Wednesday, April 26 | 6:00 p.m. | Enrichment Center—You’re invited to hear Andy Crouch speak on creating meaningful connections in a way that engages our full humanity at Oak Hill School’s parent education series. He is the partner for theology and culture at Praxis. His writing explores faith, culture, and the image of God in technology, power, leadership, and the arts and is the author of five books. His most recent release is *The Life We’re Looking For: Reclaiming Relationship in a Technological World*.

ADULT EDUCATION

Who is Jesus? | Thursdays, March 30–June 15 | 6:00 p.m. Zoom and in Vance Hall—Join Stuart Gordon for a book discussion based on *Who is Jesus? Disputed Questions and Answers* by Carl Braaten. Contact Stuart Gordon (sgordon@fpcnashville.org).

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SAVE THE DATE: VBS 2023 | July 25–27 | Evenings FPC Campus—Vacation Bible School is back and the entire church family is invited! Volunteers of all ages and life stages can support VBS. To volunteer or become a VBS prayer partner, contact Mallory Hammond (mhammond@fpcnashville.org). We look forward to sharing more about this exciting event!

MISSIONS

Funds for Earthquake Relief—FPC is providing funds to support earthquake relief in Syria. These funds will be routed through The Outreach Foundation. The congregation is invited to join in this earthquake relief support via personal contributions to FPC, and earmarked for Syria Earthquake relief. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Instruments of Joy | Collecting Donations through March 31—Share the joy of music by donating new or gently-used instruments to benefit Instruments of Joy. Donations are delivered by mission teams to music programs around the world. Handheld instruments like horns, winds, strings, tambourines, harmonicas, guitars and small electronic keyboards are accepted. Contact missions@fpcnashville.org.

STEWARDSHIP

Finishing Strong in 2023!—The stewardship campaign has received 522 pledges for a total of \$3.92 million. As a reminder, Ryan is asking all members to prayerfully consider two things: 1. Make your pledge if you have not done so. 2. If you have already made your pledge, please consider a one-time gift or pledge increase to your current giving total. Special pledge cards are in the pews and Narthex. You can also email Mary Russ (mruss@fpcnashville.org) or go online to make your pledge at fpcnashville.org/2023-generosity. Thank you for prayerfully committing to helping us finish strong!

Welcome, Gage Arnold!
Director of Youth Programming

FPC youth in grades 7 through 12 and their parents are invited to meet Gage Arnold, our new Director of Youth Programming, during the Education Hour (9:40–10:40) in the Gathering Place today. We look forward to seeing you there!

Easter Festival

SUNDAY, 4/2

3:30 P.M.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF NASHVILLE
—BY THE BARN—

Egg Hunt · Bounce House
Cakewalk · Easter Games
Food · Petting Zoo



Easter *and Holy Week*

WORSHIP WITH US AT FPC

fpcnashville.org

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 2 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER & SERVICE

Thursday, April 6

Supper | 5:30 p.m. | Courtenay Hall

Cost: \$10 (Individual), \$20 (Family)

Service | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Childcare provided

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 7 | 12:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

EASTER DAY

Sunday, April 9

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service | Columbarium

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Services | Sanctuary

*Join us for Easter breakfast following the
services in Courtenay Hall until 11:00 a.m.*