

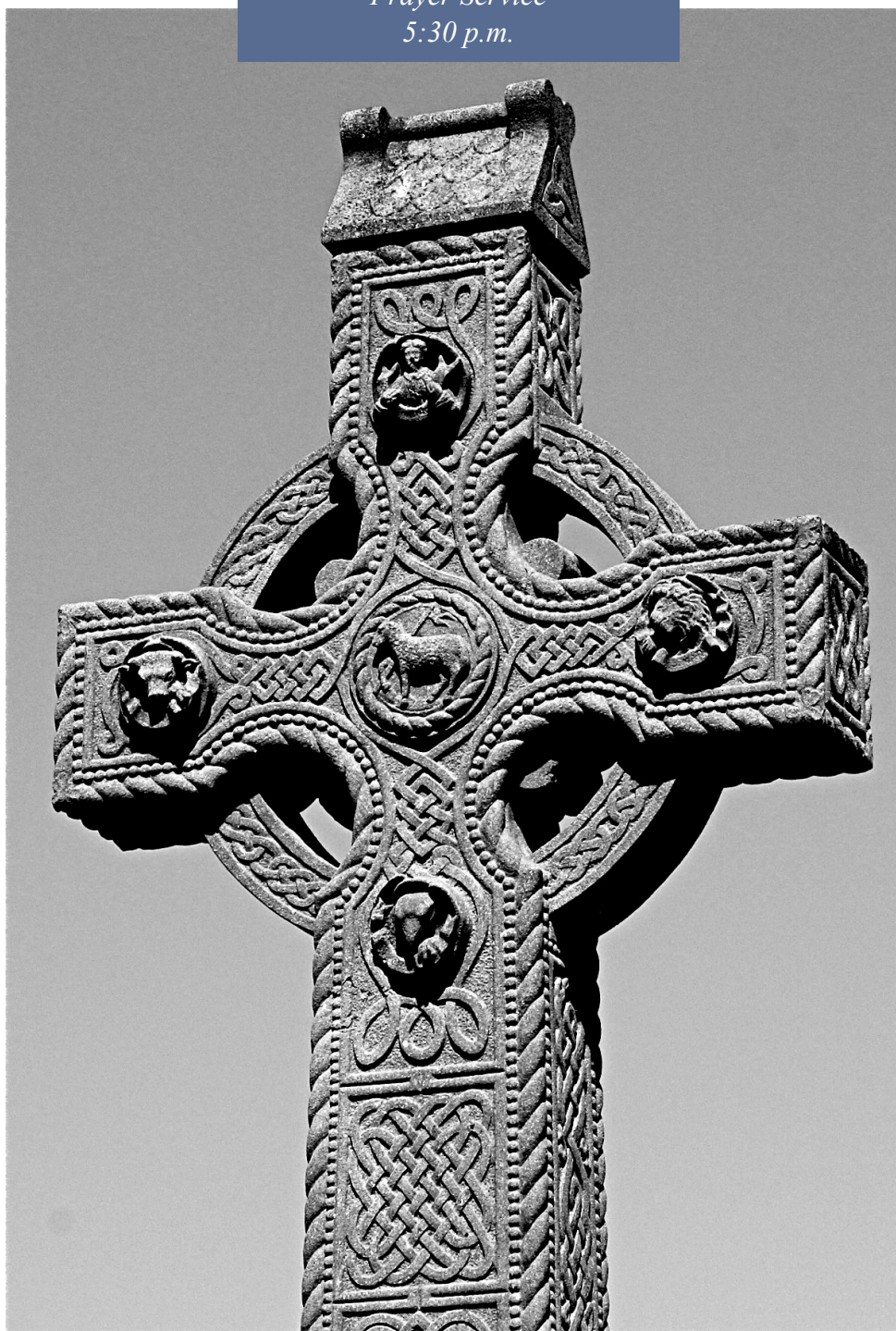


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

MARCH 28, 2023

Prayer Service

5:30 p.m.



For Christ, for His kingdom, and for the common good. Since 1814.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

INTROIT

Come, Ye Disconsolate
arr. Alice Parker

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er you languish; come, at the mercy seat, fervently kneel. Here bring your wounded hearts; here tell your anguish. Earth hath no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal. Joy to the desolate, Light of the straying, Hope when all others die, fadeless and pure! Here speaks the Comforter, in mercy saying: "Earth hath no sorrow that heav'n cannot cure." Here see the Bread of Life, see waters flowing forth from the throne of God, pure from above; come to the feast prepared, come, ever knowing: Earth hath no sorrow but heav'n can remove.

WELCOME AND OPENING SENTENCES

Dr. Ryan Moore

based on Psalm 46:1–2; Romans 14:8; Mark 10:14

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

All: Therefore we will not fear.

Pastor: If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.

All: So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Pastor: Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,

All: For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Moment of silence.

O Lord, you who abhor those who murder the innocent, be not deaf to our bitter cries, we pray, and do not abandon us to our pain this day. Hear our raging words of protest, O God of Jacob, heed our groans for justice and meet us in this lowly and desperate place. Awake, Lord! Rouse yourself! Deliver us from evil, for your name's sake! We pray this so that we might witness your might to save and your power to heal. We believe, though the devil's craft and power are great, his doom is sure, for, one little WORD shall fell him. We pray this in the name of our Fortress and Refuge. Amen.

*HYMN 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
EIN' FESTE BURG

‡BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

‡Children ages 5+ are invited to join our Children's Ministry for the duration of the service.
Please pick up your children in Grundy Hall by 6:45 p.m.

LITANY

Dr. Sandra Randleman

Pastor: God the Father,

All: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: God the Son,

All: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: God the Holy Spirit,

All: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: Holy Trinity, One God,

All: Have mercy on us.

Pastor: We pray to you, Lord Christ.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: For all victims of violence, and particularly for those affected by the school shooting at Covenant Presbyterian, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: For those who have been injured, that they might know your healing power, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: For those who are afraid, that they may know your perfect love which casts out fear, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: For those who mourn, that they may be comforted in their distress, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: For all who have died, that they may be received into the arms of your mercy, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: For the first responders, care-givers, and all who work to protect, heal, and restore, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: For those in authority, both in the Church and in government, that they might lead us in the way of Justice and peace, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: That the world may be free of violence, racism, poverty, and oppression, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: That we may not repay evil for evil, but find grace to forgive, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: That all people might be united in the work of your Kingdom, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: We ask your forgiveness for the ways in which we have contributed to the violence in the world.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: We ask your forgiveness for any harm we have done to one another.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: We ask your forgiveness for any prejudice, bitterness, or hate we harbor in our hearts.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: We ask your forgiveness for any ill we have wished upon one another.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: We ask your forgiveness for the times when we have been slow to forgive.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: We ask your forgiveness for all we do, think, and say which falls short of your command to us to love one another.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.
 Pastor: For ourselves, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord:

All: Lord, hear our Prayer.
 Pastor: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All: Have mercy upon us.
 Pastor: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All: Have mercy upon us.
 Pastor: O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All: Grant us your peace.
 Pastor: Lord have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.
 Pastor: Lord have mercy.

Moment of silence.

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast. I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path; For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, for my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast; Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be lost; His Promises shall last; Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

Refrain

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last! *Refrain*

FIRST READING | Isaiah 40:28–31

Hibbs Traylor

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Moment of silence.

SECOND READING | Romans 8:31–39

Brooks Riley

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Moment of silence.

ANTHEM | PSALM 23

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
ST. COLUMBA

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever. Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me. In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me; thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me. Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth; and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth! And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

THIRD READING | Psalm 23

Jonah Moore

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Moment of silence.

³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

Moment of silence.

PRAYER OF LAMENT

Dr. Stuart Gordon

Pastor: How long O Lord, how long?
How long will our news be filled with reports of violence?
How long will neighbor turn against neighbor with words, and fists, and guns?
Why are people filled with such fear and anger that they desire to kill?
Sovereign God we cry,

All: Lord have mercy!

Pastor: Sovereign God, we pray for comfort and healing.
Comfort for those who mourn the senseless killing of your people.
Surround the families and community of Covenant Presbyterian Church and School,
surround them with people who can meet their physical needs,
people who can listen to their pain,
people who are willing to sit in silence, to hold them up.

Surround those who grieve with people who will hold the faith for them,
who will pray, and sing, and worship on their behalf when they can't.
Help each person in this community to turn to you and not the world for answers
for you are the source of healing and comfort.
Sovereign God we cry,

All: Lord have mercy!

Pastor: Sovereign God, we turn to you because you are Lord.
We declare that you are over all even when we wonder why such tragedy happens.
We declare that you are victorious even when we feel defeated.
We look forward with hope to the day when there will be no more pain even when we are in the
midst of grief.

Come, Lord Jesus Come.

Moment of silence.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

SOLO

The Lord's Prayer
arr. Albert Malotte

Our Father, which 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 PRAYER | A Prayer of St. Augustine

Pastor: Now, dear Lord, be with those who wake or watch or weep tonight; and give your angels charge over those who sleep.

All: **Tend your wounded ones, O Christ; rest your weary ones, bless your dying ones, soothe your suffering ones, shield your joyous ones, and all for your love's sake. Amen.**

*HYMN 836

Abide with Me
EVENTIDE

*BENEDICTION

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*

Stuart Gordon, DMin – *Senior Associate Pastor for Christian Formation & Witness*

Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*

Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*

Peter Rogahn, DMA – *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*

FPC Sanctuary Choir

MUSIC NOTES

He Will Hold Me Fast - CCLI Song # 7016161 Ada Ruth Habershon | Matthew Merker © 2013 Getty Music Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Matthew Merker Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456

COVER IMAGE

Celtic Cross in St Nicholas's Churchyard, 2009, photograph, Northern Ireland

Parents with children in the Children's Ministry, please pick them up in Grundy Hall by 6:45 p.m.

A NOTE FROM YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The senseless violence against children has hit too close to home. This breaks our hearts, as I know it does yours. We know it is never easy to be the translator of tragedy for your child. Here are a few quick ideas for talking to your kids about what happened in our city and how you can pray together:

- **We believe that God is sovereign**, but sometimes bad and scary things happen because the world is broken. We can trust him to always be good, always be faithful, and always love us.
- **It is ok to be scared.** Review your own family emergency plan. Make sure your kids learn your full name and phone number in case of an emergency. Let your kids know that you desire to keep them safe.
- **Thank God** for the emergency responders and medical professionals who have served the victims of this tragedy.
- **Pray** for The Covenant School community and for the loved ones of those who were lost. Pray for our churches throughout the city as we find ways to respond and care for people who are hurting.
- **Read** Isaiah 43:1–2 together. Listen to Ellie Holcomb's song "Fear Not."
- **Use these resources** from the American School Counseling Association as a means of equipping you as the primary nurturers of your children during this heartbreaking and frightening time.
 - Helping Students After a School Shooting, American School Counseling Association (ASCA), 2022: <https://childmind.org/guide/helping-children-cope-after-a-traumatic-event/>
 - Helping Children Cope After a Traumatic Event Parenting a Child who has Experienced Trauma: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/child-trauma.pdf>

We are praying for you as you navigate this with your family. We are here for you, your children, and youth. Please reach out.

Gage Arnold, Director of Youth Programming
Mallory Hammond, Director of Ministry with Children & Their Families
Shelley Eberle, Assistant Director of Faith Formation to Children

PASTORAL STAFF & MINISTRY LEADERS



Dr. Ryan Moore
Pastor & Head of Staff



Dr. Stuart Gordon
*Senior Associate Pastor for
Christian Formation & Witness*



Dr. John Musgrave
Parish Associate



Dr. Sandra Randleman
*Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care &
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Dr. Raphael Bundage
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Children & Their Families*



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Erika Shapiro
*Director of Recreation and
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CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT

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Music & Children's Choir
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Recreation & Congregational Life
Erika Shapiro at eshapiro@fpcnashville.org



TALK TO A PASTOR

Call 615-383-1815

The pastoral staff is here for you. Contact us if you would appreciate a pastoral visit/call, have pastoral care needs, would like to be on a prayer list, or if you are in the hospital. Prayer requests can be confidential and limited to the pastors.



STAY CONNECTED

*News, events, and church information
is sent weekly through the Parish News
email. To subscribe, email
communications@fpcnashville.org*