



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 5, 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

"There it is, stated plainly and simply: The most precious gift of all, the gift of life in God's presence, is free. All that can exclude you is your insisting that there are places you would rather be. Why would anyone ever decide thus? Because you want to determine the menu. You want to be in control of the company you keep."

~ Paul D. Hanson, *Interpretation* commentary on Isaiah

ORDER OF WORSHIP

†VOLUNTARY

Choral Dorien
Jehan Alain

WELCOME AND MINUTE FOR MISSION

(8:30) Scott Dalton
(11:00) Harold Harr

INTROIT

Tell Out, My Soul
WOODLANDS

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord: unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

*CALL TO WORSHIP | Psalm 121

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where will my help come?
 All: **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**
 Pastor: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
 All: **The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.**

*†OPENING HYMN 327

From All That Dwell Below the Skies (Psalm 117)
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Allen Kennedy (8:30)
Kathy Gaston (11:00)

FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 55:1-5 (page 615)

¹ "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. John Musgrave

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE 581

*Glory Be to the Father
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.

*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.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

(8:30) Caroline and Hayes McWilliams are presenting their daughter, Sally Louise McWilliams, for baptism. Assisting Elder, Scott McWilliams.

(11:00) Alene and Matt McNeese are presenting their daughter, MaryAnn Cates McNeese, for baptism. Assisting Elder, Bryant Tirrill.

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION 479
(Congregation sings the refrain; choir sings the verses)

Ho, All Who Thirst
JACOB'S WELL

SCRIPTURE READING | Acts 15:1-11 (page 923)

¹ But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.⁵ But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”⁶ The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.⁷ And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.⁸ And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us,⁹ and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.¹⁰ Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON **Unexpected Guests** Dr. Stuart Gordon

OFFERTORY *O For a Closer Walk*
Charles V. Stanford

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav’ly frame; a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb! Return, O holy Dove, return! Sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast. So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

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 321

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

May the Mind of Christ

ST. LEONARDS

May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day, by his love and pow'r controlling all I do and say. May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may see I triumph only thro' his pow'r. May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything, that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing. May his beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win; and may they forget the channel, seeing only him.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Passacaglia in D minor

Dietrich Buxtehude

* *Those who are able, please stand.*

† *Latecomers may be seated.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Stuart Gordon, DMin – *Sr. 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 Dr. and Mrs. William Oliver, Dr. Douglass Oliver, Hunt Oliver, Kathy Oliver Jones, and Helen Thornburg by Gray, Charley, Anne Gray Thornburg and Debbye Oliver.

MUSIC NOTES

Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord CCLI Song # 2402653 Timothy Dudley-Smith © 1962. Renewal 1990 Hope Publishing Company For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456.
O For a Closer Walk from Four Short Anthems #242328 ©1976 Royal School of Church Music Charles Villiers Stanford International Copyright Secured All Rights Reserved OneLicense.net License #A-714895.

COVER IMAGE

The Synaxis (Meeting) of the Holy Apostles Orthodox Icon

NEWS & EVENTS

History, Politics and Religion | Tuesday, March 7 | 6:00 p.m. | Gathering Place

You're invited to a conversation with our ancestors in the faith: those who wrote the Heidelberg Catechism (Germany) and the Westminster Catechism (England). Stuart Gordon will moderate a group discussion about the convictions expressed in those documents, chiefly the conviction that Christian citizens have a duty to act for the well-being of their fellow citizens. In our generation, we are not accustomed to hearing claims upon our duties. This is the second monthly installment of History, Politics and Religion, a year-long effort to improve our ability to engage differences and enhance our witness as Christian citizens. If you would like to take part and have not previously done so, contact Stuart at sgordon@fpcnashville.org. Snacks and childcare are provided. Contact Mallory (mhammond@fpcnashville.org) for childcare.

Red Cross Blood Drive | Wednesday, March 8 | 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall

Did you know someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds due to an accident, disaster or illness? Help save lives in your community by giving the gift of life by donating blood on March 8. Sign up on our website, at the table in the narthex this morning, or contact missions@fpcnashville.org.

First Friends Luncheon | Thursday, March 16 | 12:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall | Cost: \$8

The Changing Church – State of Health of PCUSA and FPC Nashville. Elder Kevin Garvey and Dr. Stuart Gordon will conduct this exciting program. Have you wondered about the state of affairs with mainstream churches? Are you concerned about the obvious decline in churches and church attendance? Have you been curious about membership trends here at FPC Nashville and in the larger PCUSA? What about financial trends in our church and others? Have you wondered about the prospects of hiring new pastors to fill current vacancies? If any of the above piques your curiosity, don't miss our March event. Please register on the church website or email Sabina (svlahos@fpcnashville.org).

The Broadway Dinner Show is Back! | Friday, March 24 | 6:30 p.m. | Courtenay Hall | Cost \$35

Alex Apple and George Armistead will emcee the show on Friday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. The Sanctuary Choir, directed by Raphael Bundage and accompanied by Peter Rogahn, will treat the audience to "A Little Night Music featuring Classic Broadway Songs and Choruses." Tickets are \$35. For more information, contact Daphne (615-298-9517 or dgarey@fpcnashville.org).

Easter Floral Dedications

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. Dedications for the Easter Sunday bulletin must be submitted by March 31.

ADULT EDUCATION

Lent Communities of Belonging (C.O.B.) Series

And they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). Small groups of members are gathering throughout the week for Communities of Belonging. Each week we follow the sermon texts in the book of Acts and enjoy fellowship, prayer and meals together. To join a group or learn more, contact Stuart Gordon (sgordon@fpcnashville.org | 615-298-9554).

The Bethel Bible Series Has Begun!

We have started our Bethel journey and would love to have you join us! The Bethel Bible Series takes us through the Bible as one fully-connected love story by God. We are discussing the majestic verses of Genesis 1 – "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." – and their application to us today. Come share this Bethel journey with us! We meet in Classroom L-203 during the Sunday Education Hour.

MISSIONS

Funds for Earthquake Relief

FPC is beginning to provide funds for support of 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. FPC and our members responded similarly in 2022 to the Ukrainian war crisis by donating a total of \$72,500 in relief funds. Approximately 85 percent went through The Outreach Foundation, and 15 percent through the Ukrainian Relief Fund. Of this, \$34,500 came from the FPC budget, and \$38,000 came from member donations designated for Ukrainian relief. Thank you very much for your amazing generosity.

Missions Focus: Instruments of Joy | Collecting Donations through March 31

Share the joy of music by donating new or gently-used instruments to benefit local mission organization, 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 for more information.

RECREATION MINISTRY

Registration for FPC Soccer Closes March 9

Soccer registration is currently happening at FPC! From March 25 through May 13 over 1,400 kids from around the Nashville area will play soccer at FPC each Saturday. Teams are available for boys and girls, ages 3 years through rising 4th graders. We hope your family will join us this spring! You can register online or contact the recreation department at recreation@fpcnashville.org.

Volunteer | Welcome Visitors as a Soccer Saint

We want to welcome and love the soccer families as they play, cheer and coach on the FPC campus. Would you help us create a warm and welcoming atmosphere by volunteering as a Soccer Saint at one of our welcome tents on Saturday mornings during soccer season? Whether you are young, old or in between, it's a great way to serve God's people and spread joy. Your ministry of presence will be a blessing to our community. Please email Erika (eshapiro@fpcnashville.org) to learn more.

WELCOME

First Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. Since 1814 First Presbyterian has sought to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good. We are rooted in the Reformed, orthodox, and evangelical traditions of the larger church. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you!

HEARING ASSISTANCE

App Directions: Join WiFi network. You must be connected to this network for the app to work.
Network Name: FPC Guest. Password: GreenRock-81. Download the WaveCAST app. Open the app and select "First Pres Sanctuary." Plug in your headphones and adjust the volume to your preference.

CONNECT CARD

If you are new to our community, we would love to get to know you and welcome you personally into the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a guest or a longtime member, fill out a Connect Card to get more involved, update your contact information, or sign up for church communications. Drop your completed Connect Card in the offering plate so we can follow up!

PASTORAL STAFF & MINISTRY LEADERS



Dr. Ryan Moore
Pastor & Head of Staff



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



Dr. Sandra Randleman
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions



Dr. Raphael Bundage
Director of Music



Mallory Hammond
Director of Ministry with Children & Their Families



Dr. Bill Mott
Director of Resource Development



Erika Shapiro
Director of Recreation and Church Fellowship



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



STEWARDSHIP 2023 *Finishing Strong*

You have already been generous. And if you have made a pledge for 2023, my sincerest thanks for your commitment. If you have not, now is the time. We have reached 94% of our goal. We need about \$250,000 to get all the way there. This will allow us to fully fund our missions and staff needs. I am asking you to help us finish strong! Specifically, please prayerfully consider two things:

- 1. Make your pledge today, if you have not done so; and 2. If you have already made a pledge, please consider increasing your pledge if at all possible. We ask that you let us know just as soon as you can. We will finalize the budget based on your response.*

DR. RYAN MOORE, PASTOR



Watch a special message from Ryan on finishing strong!

LET'S FINISH STRONG SUPPORT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IN 2023

We encourage you to watch Ryan's special video message about Finishing Strong—completing Stewardship 2023. Scan the QR code below or go online to hear him talk about the importance of finishing strong and fully funding such vital ministries as our missions initiatives and our amazing staff. Please prayerfully consider how you can help us finish strong.



*Make your special commitment
Place a completed card in the offering plate or mail it to the church. You may also complete the electronic pledge form at fpcnashville.org/2023-generosity*