



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

TENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

August 6, 2023  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



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

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## WORDS OF PREPARATION

*Community was once built into many people's lives through organized religion. Adults would go to church, synagogue, or mosque every week, and see the same people over and over again. They would contribute in a way that made them feel good, too ... But over the last few decades organized religion has been in decline, and nothing has replaced it. That's not a theological concern as much as it's a socio-emotional one ... When you aren't missed, you become lonely ... The answer isn't necessarily to find God, but to find ways to be in obligation with others.*

—Brad Stullberg in *The New York Times*, May 20

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

†VOLUNTARY

*Meditation*  
Maurice Duruflé

WELCOME

†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 | based on Psalm 145

Dr. Sandra Randleman

Pastor: I will extol you, my God and King,

**All: and bless your name forever and ever.**

Pastor: Every day I will bless you,

**All: and praise your name forever and ever.**

Pastor: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,

**All: his greatness is unsearchable.**

\*†OPENING HYMN 327

*From All that Dwell Below the Skies*  
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Sam Miley (8:30)  
Marbut Gaston (11:00)

FIRST LESSON | Psalm 111 (page 509)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. <sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. <sup>3</sup> Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. <sup>4</sup> He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. <sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. <sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. <sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; <sup>8</sup> they are

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established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. <sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! <sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
help us amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.**

*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.*

## ‡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.*

When in the night I meditate on mercies multiplied, my  
For - ev - er in my thought, the Lord be - fore my face shall stand; se -  
My in - most be - ing thrills with joy and glad - ness fills my breast; be -  
I know that I shall not be left for - got - ten in the grave, and  
5 The path of life you show to me; of joy a bound - less store is

grate - ful heart in - spires my tongue to bless the Lord, my guide. \_\_\_\_  
cure, un - moved I shall re - main, with God at my right hand. \_\_\_\_  
cause on God my trust is stayed, my flesh in hope shall rest. \_\_\_\_  
from cor - rup - tion, you, O Lord, your ho - ly one will save. \_\_\_\_  
ev - er found at your right hand, and plea - sures ev - er - more. \_\_\_\_

## SCRIPTURE READING | Romans 9:1–16 (page 945)

<sup>1</sup> I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—  
<sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were  
accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> They  
are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship,  
and the promises. <sup>5</sup> To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the  
Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. <sup>6</sup> But it is not as though the word of God has failed.  
For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, <sup>7</sup> and not all are children of Abraham because  
they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” <sup>8</sup> This means that it is not the  
children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.  
<sup>9</sup> For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.”  
<sup>10</sup> And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac,  
<sup>11</sup> though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of  
election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— <sup>12</sup> she was told, “The older  
will serve the younger.” <sup>13</sup> As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” <sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? Is  
there injustice on God’s part? By no means! <sup>15</sup> For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have  
mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” <sup>16</sup> So then it depends not on human will  
or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SERMON

## Nation-Building

Dr. Stuart Gordon

## OFFERTORY

*Kyrie Eleison*  
Maurice Duruflé

*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*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](http://fpcnashville.org).*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness  
There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than  
4 But we make God's love too nar-row by false li-mits  
of the sea; There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,  
up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail-ings  
7 of our own, and we mag-ni-fy its strict-ness  
which is more than Li-ber-ty. There is wel-come  
have such kind-ly judg-ment given. There is plent-ti-  
10 with a zeal God will not own. For the love of  
for the sin-ner, and more gra-cies for the good;  
ful re-demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;  
13 God is broad-er than the mea-sures of the mind,  
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior;  
there is joy for all the mem-bers  
15 and the heart of the E-ter-nal  
there is heal-ing in His blood.  
in the sor-rows of the Head.  
is most won-der-ful-ly kind.



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\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*  
Peter Lutkin

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Toccata on "How Firm a Foundation"*  
Craig Phillips

\* *Those who are able, please stand.*  
† *Latecomers may be seated.*

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PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

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*

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Charles E. McKay III, by his wife and family.

SUPPORTING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

You can make a gift or fulfill a pledge payment by placing your gift in the offering plate, texting "GIVE" to 707-475-3005, donating online at [fpcnashville.org](http://fpcnashville.org), or scan the QR code.



MUSIC NOTES: *Meditation* by Maurice Duruflé © 2011 (ASCAP) Durand Editions c/o Universal Music – MGB Songs. All rights reserved. *Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord* (words by Timothy Dudley-Smith © 1962 renewal © 1990 Hope Publishing Co.) All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. *Kyrie* from Requiem by Maurice Duruflé © 1948 (ASCAP) Durand Editions c/o Universal Music – MGB Songs. All rights reserved. *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by Peter Lutkin © 1959, Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License A-#714895. *Toccata on How Firm a Foundation* Music – by Craig Phillips © 2011 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895.  
COVER IMAGE: *Abraham, Sarah, and the Angel*, Jan Provoost, 1520s, oil on panel, Louvre, Paris, France.

FPC STAFF NEWS



**Alex Poladian Joins FPC Staff as Director of Finance**

After an extensive search, we are pleased to announce Alexander ("Alex") Poladian as our new Director of Finance. Alex has over 20 years of experience formulating and executing financial and accounting strategies. During his career, he served as Director of Finance for Northview Church in Carmel, Indiana, and as an Accounting Manager at Simon Property Group. Most recently, Alex has served as Vice President of Property Accounting for GBT Realty in Nashville. Alex has a BSM in Accounting from Purdue University and an MBA in Finance from Butler University. Alex and his wife, Emily, have a daughter, Elizabeth (19), and a son, Jack (16). Reporting to the Church Executive, Alex will oversee the church's financial systems, accounting, and reporting, including management of revenue, accounts payable, payroll, treasury management, organizational

budgeting, and expense management. This hiring decision has been made with the unanimous approval of FPC's Chair of Finance Committee, Senior Pastor, Church Executive, and other members of our Session and staff. Please join us in welcoming Alex to our administrative staff.



## NEWS AND EVENTS

**Inquirers Class | Saturday, August 12 | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Jones Session Room**—If you are interested in membership or gaining a deeper understanding of First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, we invite you to attend our Inquirers Class. It's also a good opportunity to meet other newcomers to the church, as well as pastors and staff. Attending the class does not obligate you to join the church. No matter where you are in your journey of faith—whether you are new to the Christian faith, seeking, questioning, or desire to become a member—you are invited to participate in our Inquirers Class. Lunch and childcare are provided. Please register on the church website or contact Julia Wilk ([jwilk@fpcnashville.org](mailto:jwilk@fpcnashville.org)) if you plan to attend.

**Means of Grace Study | Thursday Evenings Starting September 7 | 6:00–7:00 p.m.**—Join Dr. Stuart Gordon in studying weekly devotions following the liturgical calendar from *Means of Grace: A Year of Weekly Devotions* by Fleming Rutledge. Rutledge is a retired Episcopal priest and gifted preacher. Her profound insights will help you gain a clearer view of the living God present and acting in the story of redemption. You can purchase a copy at our church bookstore, BookMarks. Contact Stuart Gordon for details ([sgordon@fpcnashville.org](mailto:sgordon@fpcnashville.org)).

**Presbyterian Women: Fall Bible Study | Begins Tuesday, September 12**—This fall, we will read *Words of Life* by Adam Hamilton which examines how Jesus interpreted the Ten Commandments and gives us a thought-provoking read for anyone seeking to live a meaningful and joyful life. All FPC women are invited to join a Presbyterian Women's Fall Circle. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Night Circles are also available. Copies are available at our church bookstore, BookMarks, for approximately \$22.00. Contact [presbyterianwomen@fpcnashville.org](mailto:presbyterianwomen@fpcnashville.org) for more information.

## MUSIC

**Registration for FPC Music Academy Ends August 14**—FPC has launched a Music Academy! This program of vocal and instrumental lessons allows our younger disciples and adults to explore their God-given artistic gifts. Our qualified team of instructors offers lessons for voice, violin, harp, piano, and organ. The fall semester runs from August–November. Visit our Linktree page to sign up.

## FIRST FRIENDS

**FPC Book Club on August 15 | 2:30 p.m. | FPC Library** | *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

## UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS

FPC is committed to serving Christ around the world, and we are planning several mission trips in the coming months, including two trips to Jamaica in 2024. Registration is open for an adult dental and construction team (February 3–10, 2024), and a multi-generational family trip for adults and children 12 and above is in the works. Visit our Linktree page or contact Missions ([missions@fpcnashville.org](mailto:missions@fpcnashville.org)) for more information.

## FPC CAREER OPPORTUNITY

**You Could Be Our New Congregational Care Assistant!**—Are you someone who loves to host and care for others with grace? Join us part-time as the Ministry Assistant for Congregational Care. In this dynamic position, you'll provide essential administrative support to our Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and various caregiving ministries. From coordinating support group meetings to helping with weddings, funerals, and other care initiatives, your compassionate heart will shine through as you offer encouragement and assistance to our church family. Join us in spreading compassion and joy within our church community! Visit [www.fpcnashville.org/work-us](http://www.fpcnashville.org/work-us) to learn more about this role and other open positions!

## NEW DIRECTORY IN PROGRESS

*Please update your contact information by August 14.*

Our staff is preparing for a printed directory and laying the foundation for an online directory. Updated contact information allows us to love our church family well and quickly connect during times of joy and sorrow. If you have moved, had a baby, or changed contact information, please update it in our system. You will receive an email with instructions on how to do this in the coming days. We look forward to sharing the new printed directory with you soon!

## LOOKING AHEAD

September 10 | Kickoff Sunday

## 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 &  
Missions*



**Dr. Raphael Bundage**  
*Director of Music*



**Mallory Hammond**  
*Director of Ministry with  
Children & Their Families*



**Gage Arnold**  
*Director of Youth Programming*



**Julia Wilk**  
*Connections and Engagement  
Coordinator*



**Dr. Bill Mott**  
*Director of Resource  
Development*

## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT

Stewardship & Endowment  
*Dr. Bill Mott at [wmott@fpcnashville.org](mailto:wmott@fpcnashville.org)*

Children & Families  
*Mallory Hammond at [mhammond@fpcnashville.org](mailto:mhammond@fpcnashville.org)*

Youth Ministry  
*Gage Arnold at [garnold@fpcnashville.org](mailto:garnold@fpcnashville.org)*

Congregational Care  
*Rev. Sandra Randleman at [srandleman@fpcnashville.org](mailto:srandleman@fpcnashville.org)*

Missions  
*Annette Crout at [missions@fpcnashville.org](mailto:missions@fpcnashville.org)*

Music & Children's Choir  
*Daphne Garey at [dgarey@fpcnashville.org](mailto:dgarey@fpcnashville.org)*

Membership and Engagment  
*Julia Wilk at [jwilk@fpcnashville.org](mailto:jwilk@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](mailto:communications@fpcnashville.org)*