



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

NINETEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

Oak Hill School Sunday
October 8, 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

I am a child of this age, a child of unfaith and doubt, up to this day and even...to the coffin lid...and yet God gives me sometimes moments of perfect peace; at such moments I feel that I love and believe, that I am loved by others; and during such moments I formulated a creed of my own wherein all is clear and holy to me. This creed is as simple as this: I believe that there is nothing and no one more beautiful, deeper, more sympathetic and more reasonable, courageous and more perfect than Christ.

—Fyodor Dostoevsky

ORDER OF WORSHIP

†VOLUNTARY

“The peace may be exchanged” from Rubrics
Dan Locklair

WELCOME AND MINUTE FOR MISSION

Oak Hill School
Hart Roper, *Head of School*

†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

Dr. Sandra Randleman

Pastor: Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed are those against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

All: You are a hiding place for us; you preserve us from trouble; you surround us with shouts of deliverance.

Pastor: Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

All: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

*†OPENING HYMN 366

Love Divine All Love's Excelling
HYFRYDOL

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Charlie Welch (8:30)
Julianna Mapangala (11:00)

FIRST LESSON | Luke 4:1–13 (page 859)

Charlie Cox (8:30)
Andrew Gardner (11:00)

¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.”

⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’” ⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’” ¹¹ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” ¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Stuart Gordon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that we have longed too much for the comforts of this world. We have loved the gifts more than the giver. In your mercy, help us to see that all the things we pine for are shadows, but you are substance; that they are quicksands, but you are mountain; that they are shifting, but you are anchor. We plead your forgiveness on the merits of Jesus Christ. Accept his worthiness for our unworthiness, his sinlessness for our transgressions, his fullness for our emptiness, his glory for our shame, his righteousness for our dead works, his death for our life. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

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.*

ANTHEM (11:00)

Oceans
arr. Heather Sorensen

‡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.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Before the Throne of God Above
Charitie Less Bancroft and Vikki Cook

**Before the throne of God above; I have a strong and perfect plea.
A great High Priest whose name is Love; who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands; my name is written on his heart.
I know that while in heav'n he stands; no tongue can bid me thence depart.
No tongue can bid me thence depart.**

Chorus

**Hallelujah; my life is found in Jesus Christ.
Hallelujah; for I am his and he is mine.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair; and tells me of the guilt within.
Upward I look and see him there; who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died; my sinful soul is counted free.
For God the Just is satisfied; to look on him and pardon me.
To look on him and pardon me. *Chorus***

**Behold him there the risen Lamb; my perfect spotless righteousness.
The great unchangeable I Am; the King of glory and of grace.
One with himself I cannot die; my soul is purchased with his blood.
My life is hid with Christ on high; with Christ my Saviour and my God.
With Christ my Saviour and my God. *Chorus***

**I bow before the cross of Christ; and marvel at this love divine.
God's perfect Son was sacrificed; to make me righteous in God's eyes.
This river's depths I cannot know; but I can glory in its flood.
The Lord Most High has bowed down low; and poured on me his glorious love.
And poured on me his glorious love. *Chorus***

SCRIPTURE READING | Hebrews 4:14–5:10 (page 1002)

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ¹ For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. ³ Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. ⁴ And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶ as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” ⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

A Throne of Grace

Gage Arnold

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace... —Hebrews 4:16

OFFERTORY

Rejoice, O Judah!; Hallelujah, Amen
(from Judas Macabbeus)
G.F. Handel

Rejoice, O Judah, and in songs divine, with cherubim and seraphim, harmonious join. Hallelujah, Amen.

*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

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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
HYMN TO JOY

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!**

**All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen
Peter Lutkin

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

"The people respond—Amen!" from Rubrics
Dan Locklair

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

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

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

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

Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*

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

Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*

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

Ryan Bede – *Baritone*

Oak Hill School Choir – *Jerry Monds, Director*

Acolytes – *Kate Andrews, Brock Clark, Elizabeth Exnicious, Caroline Fuller, Ella Hancock, Mattie Grace Pearson, Marion Stewart*

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in honor of Oak Hill School students and staff.

SYMPATHIES

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Richard Quinn 'Rich' Ford.

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.

Join us downstairs in Courtenay Hall between services for coffee and doughnuts.

To **livestream** worship and special events or view past services, visit [youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville](https://www.youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville).

Children of all ages are invited to worship alongside their families and worship activity bags are provided at each entrance to the Sanctuary. **Young Children & Worship** meets in Grundy Hall in the Children's Ministry Wing for ages 4–6. Parents pick up at the door of Grundy Hall. After 8:30 a.m. worship, children can stay for the Education Hour. **Nursery care** for children ages 0–3 is available from 8:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Check-in and pickup for nursery care are both located at the nursery entrance near Courtenay Lounge. The **Mother and Infant Quiet Room** is located in the Nursery Wing.

INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE CONNECTED?

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 the 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!

*Stay informed about news and upcoming events by reading FPC's weekly Parish News email.
To subscribe, email communications@fpcnashville.org.*



What Do We Really Need? Lecture with Warren Kinghorn | Tuesday, October 17 | 7:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall—Rates of depression and anxiety are rising, especially among young people. Sometimes the reasons are clear and close to home, sometimes not. But do diagnostic labels help or harm? And how can churches and Christian communities contribute to healing? Join psychiatrist and theologian Warren Kinghorn for a conversation about the roots of anxiety and depression, what our hearts long for, and who God is calling us to be together. This event is held in partnership with St. George's Episcopal and Duke Divinity. Visit linktr.ee/fpcnashville to register.

Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat | Sunday, October 22 | 4:00 p.m. | By the Horse Barn—Join us for trunk or treating and more fun and fellowship on Sunday afternoon, October 22, at the fourth annual Fall Festival. This year, we will gather by the FPC Horse Barn on the northwest side of the FPC campus. Activities begin at 4:00 p.m., and festivities will culminate with a costume contest and dinner at 5:00 p.m. There will be live music, horse rides, and more!

Recruiting Trunks for Trunk or Treat!—Please help us provide a fun and safe space for families and the community at Fall Festival's Trunk or Treat. We are seeking volunteers to decorate the trunks of their cars with family-friendly themes and pass out candy to Trick or Treaters. This is a great way to bless our church family and the greater community. Sign up at linktr.ee/fpcnashville.

Pastor Appreciation Prayer Vigil | Wednesday, October 25 | Come and go between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m., 12:00 and 1:00 p.m., or 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary—October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and we have many reasons to be thankful for our pastoral team. On Wednesday, October 25, we will honor and uplift our pastors during a Pastor Appreciation Prayer Vigil. Offer prayers for our pastoral staff between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m., 12:00 and 1:00 p.m., or 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come and go as you are able. In addition, there will be a basket to drop off a note of appreciation for the pastors.

Stephen Ministry Training February 2024—A training class for serving as a Stephen Minister will begin in February 2024. Stephen Ministers offer confidential support to individuals going through challenging times. The most important resources are a compassionate heart, a listening ear, and a willingness to pray with and for the person receiving care. If you are interested in serving as a Stephen Minister, please contact Sandra Randleman (srandleman@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9502). Applications are due at the end of November.

STEWARDSHIP

Watch a Special Message from Mary and Brock Baker

The generosity of this congregation is evident during this stewardship season. We are one month into the campaign and have passed the halfway mark of our goal of \$4.1 million.

But there is so much more to do to reach our goal. Please take a few minutes to watch a wonderful, encouraging video message from long-time members Mary and Brock Baker. Their story of how this church has impacted their family and how they have been blessed to give back is a reminder to us all that we should indeed *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*. Visit linktr.ee/fpcnashville to watch.

FIRST FRIENDS

FPC Book Club | Tuesday, October 17 | 2:30 p.m. Church Library—Discussing *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah.

First Friends Luncheon | Thursday, October 19 | 12:00 p.m. | Courtney Hall—Update on New Creation Presbyterian Church. Make your reservations by November 13 on the church website.

City Cemetery Tour—Wednesday, October 25 | 10:00 a.m. | Nashville City Cemetery.

MISSIONS

Upcoming Service Opportunity—UKirk Nashville | November 30 | 6:00 p.m.—Bring a dish to join a group from FPC that will provide a meal for 10–12 college students, then join them for worship if you can.

Upcoming Mission Trips—FPC is committed to serving Christ around the world. Check the website for more details about these trips or email missions@fpcnashville.org for more information.

Jamaica Mission Trip | February 3–10, 2024—This mission trip is looking for dentists and construction help to build much-needed homes in the community. The deadline for registration and deposit is due by October 31.

Multi-Generational Jamaica Mission Trip | March 9–15, 2024—Join this amazing multi-generational mission trip to Jamaica. This will be a trip for building relationships with projects for ages 12 and up. We encourage families and individuals to participate. Registration and deposit are due by December 31.

OAK HILL SCHOOL SUNDAY

Today we will celebrate our long-standing partnership with the Oak Hill School, welcoming current students to participate in worship, recognizing students and alumni, and singing together the school's official hymn, *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*. Oak Hill School was founded in 1961 as an outreach of First Presbyterian Church, sharing both its campus and its commitment to Christian formation, learning, and service.

STEWARDSHIP FAQs

Stewardship season at FPC is underway Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions about this time of giving.

*Questions? Contact Dr. Bill Mott,
Director of Resource Development, at wmott@fpcnashville.org*



Make Your Pledge Here
fpcnashville.org/2024-generosity/

What is stewardship?

Generosity and giving is a commitment to be good stewards of our God-given resources. Intentional giving to First Presbyterian places our lives and resources before God as an offering and a shared sacrifice. Gratitude is a natural response to grace, and it is not only a responsibility but a privilege for every member of this church to give back.

Why does the church need to have a stewardship campaign?

Each fall, the stewardship campaign asks members of FPC to commit resources for the coming year to support the church's programs, ministries, outreach, and operations. The stewardship campaign raises awareness among our members of the significance of their ongoing support and encourages a yearly commitment to this particular outpost of God's kingdom.

The stewardship campaign's primary focus is inviting our members to submit a pledge. Pledge commitments provide vital information for the Finance Committee to create a budget for the following year.

Isn't it true that a few members give very generously, and my gift is unnecessary?

No. We need everyone in the congregation to give at whatever level they can. Every pledge and every gift counts. The average gift of slightly over \$7,500 reflects that many contributions are necessary to meet all the needs and serve all those who have needs.

Why are you asking for a pledge?

Pledging is a mechanism for planning. We are a church that works best in a climate of information. The more information we have, the better we can plan for the year ahead. Your pledge allows that to happen. We recognize that there are those in our congregation who come from different faith traditions, and some of those traditions don't include a habit of pledging. Think of your pledge as an estimate of what you can commit under your current circumstances.

Can I give without making a pledge?

Of course. There are those in our congregation who give regularly but who do not make a pledge. We are enormously grateful for their generosity! However, as stated previously, the more information we have to work with when creating the budget, the more accurate the budget will be by anticipating what resources will come in during the year. Pledging enables us to plan our budget more accurately.

What if my circumstances change during the year?

That is absolutely fine! A pledge estimates what you hope you can give in the coming year. It is an estimate and not a legal document. We recognize that circumstances change and that you may need to amend your original estimate. Let us know the change you anticipate, and we will gladly amend your pledge.

How is the church's budget determined?

The church's budget consists of several components. These include pledged giving, non-pledged giving, income from the endowment, tuition from early preschool, recreation income, and other income. The Finance Committee, with input from pastoral and staff leadership, has the primary responsibility, with the approval of the Session, for determining the budget each year.

What size gift is expected?

The average pledged contribution in 2023 was about \$7,500. The 2024 stewardship brochure provides a guide to consider what amount works best for you. Your participation, regardless of the amount, will make a difference and is an expression of your gratitude for blessings from God.

How is my gift used?

All gifts are a recognition and a reflection of our gratitude and God's boundless grace. Your contribution to First Presbyterian supports all areas of church life: Education and Discipleship, Mission and Service, Worship and Music, Buildings and Security, and Administration and Operations. Each contribution helps ensure the vitality and sustainability of these areas, which are vital to living out our mission.