



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

PRAYERS FOR JUST PEACE

*October 25, 2023*

*6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary*



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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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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

## INTROIT

*God So Loved the World*  
John Stainer

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

## WELCOME AND OPENING SENTENCES

Dr. Ryan Moore

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, Jesus, of our Fortress and Refuge. Amen.**

## \*HYMN 275

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*  
EIN' FESTE BURG

## EVIL EXISTS BUT IT WILL NOT WIN | 1 Peter 5:8; John 1:5; Psalm 21:11–13

Ashley Higgins

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. —1 Peter 5:8

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. —John 1:5

<sup>11</sup> Though they plan evil against you, though they devise mischief, they will not succeed. <sup>12</sup> For you will put them to flight; you will aim at their faces with your bows. <sup>13</sup> Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength! We will sing and praise your power. —Psalm 21:11–13

*Moment of silence.*

## ANTHEM

*Do Not Be Afraid*  
Philip Stopford

Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine. When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you; you will never sink beneath the waves. When the fire is burning all around you, you will never be consumed by the flames. Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine. When the fear of loneliness is looming, then remember I am at your side. When you dwell in the exile of a stranger, remember you are precious in my eyes. Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine. O my child, I am your Father, and I love you with a perfect love. Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine.

<sup>7</sup> I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things. <sup>8</sup> “Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout; I the Lord have created it. <sup>9</sup> “Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’ or ‘Your work has no handles’”? —Isaiah 45:7–9

<sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. —Colossians 1:16–17

<sup>23</sup> When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, <sup>25</sup> who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’”—<sup>27</sup> for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

<sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. —Acts 4:23–31

*Moment of silence.*

## ANTHEM

*Brother James's Air*  
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. 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 over flows. Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me; and in my Father's heart alway my dwelling place shall be. And in my heart for evermore thy dwelling place shall be.

<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. —Isaiah 53:2–6

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. —Hebrews 4:14–16

*Moment of silence.*



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## ANTHEM

*O For a Closer Walk*  
Charles Stanford

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav'nly 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.

## WE CAN TAKE HEART | John 16:25–33; Revelation 21:1–4

Dr. Sandra Randleman

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup> In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup> for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” <sup>29</sup> His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup> Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” —John 16:25–33

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” —Revelation 21:1–4

*Moment of silence.*

## LITANY

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.**

*Moment of silence.*

Pastor: For a ceasefire in Israel and Palestine, we pray to you, O Lord:  
**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**  
Pastor: For the leaders of Hamas to cease any further terrorist attacks on Israel, we pray to you, O Lord:  
**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**  
Pastor: For the Palestinians who have died in Gaza, and for those without water, electricity, or medical supplies, we pray to you, O Lord.

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**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**  
Pastor: For the protection and safe return of all who are being held hostage, we pray to you, O Lord:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**  
Pastor: For the healing and restoration of all, Jewish, Christian and Muslim, who have been injured and traumatized by the violence, we pray to you, O Lord:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**  
Pastor: For comfort for all who have lost loved ones, we pray to you, O Lord:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**  
Pastor: For those who feel that violence is their only option and for those who feel powerless and vulnerable, we pray to you, O Lord:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**  
Pastor: That bombs and bullets would not take innocent lives, we pray to you, O Lord:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**  
Pastor: For all victims of violence, Jews and Palestinians, that they may 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, caregivers, 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, 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: 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.**

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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.*

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 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.  
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.  
**All: Come, Lord Jesus Come.**

*Moment of silence.*

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

\*CHORALE BENEDICTION

*Stay with Us Lord Jesus*  
Egil Hovland

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us. It soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening, and  
night is falling. Jesus Christ, the world's true light! Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it! Stay with  
us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling. Let your light pierce the  
darkness and fill your church with its glory. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us, it soon is evening, and  
night is falling.

*\* Those who are able, please stand.*

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## PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*

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*

Ashley Higgins – *Pastoral Intern*

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## 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.

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

## 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](mailto:communications@fpcnashville.org).*

## 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

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**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.



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