

Morning Worship Service

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

The purpose of this sermon is to encourage the congregation to remain vigilant in their faithfulness to Christ's call to discipleship.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

RECOGNITION AND THANKS TO SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* Eric Thiman

INTROIT *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* arr. Lloyd Larson

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 107

Leader: Let all who trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior come now for worship.

People: In things large and small we trust Christ in all that we do in life.

Leader: Faithful and true are the qualities shared by those in the Kingdom of God.

People: We can believe in no other because there is only one true living God.

Leader: Let our hearts be glad, for God call us heirs in Christ our Savior.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 343 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: O God of promise, creator of the cosmos, You are the first light breaking through the void, and the final light we shall eternally enjoy. Keep our hearts ever vigilant as we wait to welcome You, that You would find us clothed in love, dressed for action, and eager to receive You. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, joining together to pray the prayer he instructed his disciples to pray...

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: If anyone sins, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf—Jesus Christ, the righteous one. And Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of the world. Let us confess our sins before God and one another. Let us pray.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of love, who sent Jesus among us, hear our confession and forgive our sin. When we invoke Christ's name for selfish reasons, have mercy upon us. When our faith is convenient and does not lead to commitment, surround us with grace that we may repent. We are prone to call on You to satisfy our needs; we practice obedience without cost to our comfort. Forgive our leisurely approach to Your sacrifice for us as Christ intercedes on our behalf. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. In the name of Jesus the Christ your sins have been forgiven. Amen.

*RESPONSE – No. 579

“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.

CHILDREN'S TIME – BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS (See Insert)

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO FIRST GRADERS

PRAYER FOR COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS (See Insert)

TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

ANTHEM

Lord, Here Am I

Jay Althouse

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Luke 12:33-40](#)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Are You Ready?

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

*PROFESSION OF FAITH (Unison)

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.

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 419

How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

What an honor and privilege it is to come before God and offer to Him our various gifts and offerings. As we do so, let us give with a generous and cheerful heart.

OFFERTORY

Aria

Samuel Wesley

*DOXOLOGY No. 592

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, receive our offering for the sake of Christ our Lord. Make us worthy stewards of Your gifts and generous citizens of the kingdom of Your Son, Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 434 *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Paul Manz

*Congregation standing as able.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Are you looking for a church home? If so, please speak to our minister following worship.

As a courtesy to those around you, please turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers. You may also view the bulletin by visiting our website at www.firstprestupelo.org. See the "Bulletin" link at the top of the homepage.

Nursery care is available for newborns through four-year-olds. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery if you are visiting for the first time.

After the 11:00 Children's Sermon, preschoolers and kindergarteners are invited to attend "Wee Kirk." This is a time of fun childcare with age appropriate songs and games. However, all children are welcome in worship! If you excuse yourself and your child, you can hear the service over speakers in McFadden Hall (directly behind the Sanctuary).

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bob and Denise Williford by Bonnie Williford.

The rosebud and Dutch cradle cross in the chancel this morning celebrate the birth of Olivia Suzanne Ray on July 31, to Haley and Mike Ray. She has a sister, Lilah Kate (6) and a brother, John Michael (4).

Ritual of Friendship—Members and Visitors: Please sign the black attendance register every Sunday and pass it down your pew. Please read the names, greet one another, and meet new members and visitors.

We care about you as we care about each other. If you would like to submit a prayer request, you may use the blue cards in the pews or in McFadden Hall, and our pastoral staff and prayer partners will pray for you.

Leading the worship service today: Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

Liturgist: Melissa McDuffie

Greeters: 9:00-Bess & Grayson Robbins, Lucy & Steve Nash

11:00-Anne Marie & Corey Littrell, Helen Boerner, Theresa White

The service is live streamed and available for viewing on YouTube.com by those unable to be with us this morning. Search *firstprestupelo*. We also invite you to visit our website at www.firstprestupelo.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rally Day is today! This celebration begins the new season of Christian Education at FPC. **Sunday school classes are not meeting today but will resume next week.** Join us for our complimentary brunch in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 A.M. The menu: Honey Butter Chicken Tenders, Honey Baked Ham and Rolls, Bacon Strips, Breakfast Casseroles, Fresh Fruit and Assorted Sweet Breads and Cinnamon Rolls, Southern Style Hot Fruit Compote, Milo's Tea, Orange Juice, Coffee (regular and Tupelo River Coffee), and Water.

The Mah Jongg group needs players! How would you like to have fun AND use your brain? Join us! The group resumes playing weekly at 2:30 P.M. in the library, beginning Wednesday, September 7.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatments: Sam Pace, Julie Seiler

Homebound: Annette Thornton, Bob Batte, Mike Black

College Students: Ansley Caldwell, Carson Clark, Emma Counce

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$16,837

Amount Received 7/31/22: \$22,978

YTD Budgeted Income: \$535,963

YTD Income Received: \$623,748

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 58 11:00 A.M.: 86

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Rally Day Brunch, Fellowship Hall
11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary
12:00 P.M. Property & Grounds Meeting, Session Room

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

2:30 P.M. CASA
5:00 P.M. Administrative Committee, Bolton Room
5:30 P.M. CE Committee, Session Room
Congregational Care, Guatemala Room - D106
Fellowship, Sheffield Classroom
Outreach/Missions, Jr. High Room - D109
Worship Committee, Library
7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting, Library
2:30 P.M. CASA
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

2:30 P.M. CASA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn
2:30 P.M. CASA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA

THE SESSION

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Moderator
Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

Class of 2023

Kirk Biddle
Susan Boone
Amy Fagan
Mitzi Moore
Aubrey Patterson, Jr.
Grayson Robbins
Debra Robison

Class of 2024

Kim Burleson
Cindy Faucette
Leslie Geoghegan
Michael Gratz Jr.
Chauncey Godwin
Alice Rogers
Charles Reece

Class of 2025

Richard Hastings
Trey Leeke
Lucy Nash
Chris Rogers
Mary Stubbs
Glenn Thomas
Presly Wallace

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Interim Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education
Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music
Dr. Ray Harris, Organist
Seth Shelnut, Audio/Visual Technician
Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs
Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian
Helen Curtis, Church Secretary
Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary
Debbie Merritt, Receptionist
Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent
Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Leader: Today, we have before us backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here.

These backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, tools to complete homework, notebooks, pencils, pens, protractors, compasses, crayons, rulers, scissors, glue sticks and other items used for school work will find their way in and out of these backpacks.

Some days, so much stuff will fill these backpacks that the student may find it difficult to walk. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. And, as in every aspect of our life, we bring these before God for blessing at this time.

Let us pray together:

People: Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students.

Leader: They stand here ready to receive your blessings, and they commit themselves to study and learning in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them.

Further, we ask your blessing on these backpacks. They will hold the school work of each student and will be carried from home to school and back again. As these students carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

We pray as well for all our students and for the teachers and administrators in our schools. May they be sustained by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who we seek to follow day by day. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Leader: God of Creation, you have gifted these men and women with teaching skills, creativity, and curiosity. We pray you would fill them with the power and compassion of your Holy Spirit. Fill them with energy and insight into your Word, the story of your faithful heart.

Teachers: You have not called us to be perfect, you have called us to be faithful. You have not called us to be all-knowing, you have called us to believe. We dedicate ourselves to the call and task of teaching. Grant us wisdom, patience and joy in our preparation and teaching of your Word.

Congregation: God of hope, guide each teacher as they study your Word. Strengthen the gifts you have given them, and energize their compassion, remind us to find ways to support and encourage them throughout the year. May we share in their joy and times of difficulty. We commit ourselves, each to our part, in this joyful task. May your steadfast, faithful, covenant love guide all we do. Amen.

Rally Day

2022

Sunday, August 7

LET YOUR LIGHT

Shine!
- Matthew 5:16

- **9 & 11 a.m.** worship services including:
 - Blessing of the Backpacks (bring yours for a blessing)
 - Presentation of Bibles to upcoming first graders
 - Recognition of new teachers
- **10 a.m.** Churchwide Brunch in the Fellowship Hall with Tupelo River Coffee
- **Check out** the exciting new look in the freshly renovated Preschool & Nursery areas

Make plans to join your friends & family
for this special Sunday!



YOU'RE INVITED TO A WEDDING
SHOWER HONORING

Sadie Reynolds
& Michael Hogg

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022

ONE TO TWO THIRTY PM

First Presbyterian Church
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Sadie is the daughter of Janice and Mark Reynolds, granddaughter of Jimmy Crockett, and niece of Sarah Jenkins

Registered at

REEDS, ELIZABETH CLAIR'S,
& ONLINE AT

WWW.THEKNOT.COM/US/

SADIE-REYNOLDS-AND-MICHAEL
-HOGG-AUG-2022/REGISTRY

