

Morning Worship Service

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 14, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

The purpose of this sermon will be to explore the idea of the crisis of faith as a moment of decision.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *When Morning Gilds the Skies* Dale Wood

INTROIT *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus* arr. Phillip Keveren

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God has accomplished all things through Christ

People: so that we might live as God's own children.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God

People: and live for the praise of God's glory.

All: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 482 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Faithful God, You have blessed us with the inheritance of grace that we might live as people of justice, righteousness, and peace. Stir in us Your power and fill us with the love of Christ, strong and true, that we may be always eager to serve Your promised reign of peace. This we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus of Nazareth, who taught us when our own words fail us, he will speak on our behalf as we 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: Trusting in God's hopes for us, let us come before God with contrite hearts, asking for reconciliation and seeking peace. Let us pray together our prayer of confession for today.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of hope, we confess our disregard of Your care, our doubt of Your providence, our blindness to signs of Your love. We are afraid to risk our comforts to find new life; we separate ourselves from You and from others and foster divisions between those You love. Help us to amend our lives and make us Your faithful people who bear the good fruit of Your word in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Promising forgiveness and the sustenance we need to amend our lives, God rejoices in our longing for wholeness. Give thanks that we have been known and forgiven, set free to live the resurrected life of faith.

*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 SERMON

ANTHEM

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

arr. John Ferguson

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Luke 12:49-56](#)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Crisis of Faith

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

*PROFESSION OF FAITH (Unison)

from *A Declaration of Faith*

Leader: Before Jesus left his disciples, he commanded them to proclaim to all people the good news of his victory over death and promised to be with them always.

All: We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity, and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God. We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain

that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 383

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

"Andante tranquillo" from Sonata No. 3

Felix Mendelssohn

*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

Generous, transforming God, thank You for the blessing of honest labor, through which You have provided these gifts for our hands to share with those in need. We dedicate them now as an expression of Your love for the world, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Be Still, My Soul
(See insert)

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

J. S. Bach

*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 in honor of our parents, Clarence Shepherd and Harry and Kay Collins, and in memory of Sue Shepherd, by Sally Kate and Tatum Collins.

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: 9:00- Lori Dickerson; 11:00- Afton Gable

Greeters: 9:00-Edna Sue & George White, Leslie Geoghegan, Virginia Toliver
11:00-Louise & Michael Gable, Liz & Kevin Rose

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

Mark your calendar! Wednesday night programming for all ages resumes on August 31, with FPC's Rise Against Hunger meal-packaging event. We will have a delicious meal at 5:30 P.M. and then begin the meal packing event. More details to come!

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has begun their work and would like your help as we begin the information gathering phase of our task. One of the tasks of a PNC is to select 10 competencies you would like to see in your new pastor. You have 33 to choose from. Hard copies of the survey will be available from the ushers for three consecutive Sunday mornings, and an electronic form will be included each week in the church newsletter. The survey will end on Sunday, August 28, 2022. We very much appreciate your feedback. It is part of our discernment process as a committee. We will be soliciting your opinions throughout this search process as well as providing you with updates. Thank you for your prayers. If you have questions, please contact Bryan Fagan, PNC chair, or Taylor Todd.



You may scan this QR code to access the survey,
or find it in Friday's newsletter.

A new roof will be installed on the (high roof) education area and the preschool area. This project will hopefully begin on August 17 and continue for two to three weeks. Please park vehicles in the east parking lot during this roofing project. Thank you—*Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent*

Our church is providing supper on Tuesday evening, August 16th for the Salvation Army. We will be cooking the side items in the church kitchen, starting at 2:30 P.M. and serving at the SA Lodge beginning at 4:30 until 5:00 P.M. Dessert items are needed. Those items should be brought to kitchen by 3:30 P.M. on Tuesday. This a great opportunity to reach out to our brothers and sisters in our love for those less fortunate. Thank you for caring. —
Outreach/Mission Committee

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatments: Mollie Gratz, Sam Pace, Julie Seiler

Homebound: Bobbye Carsten, Carolyn Gaston, Hugh Lockett

College Students: Leland Counce, Lindley Gibens, Walker Gibens

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$16,837	Amount Received 8/7/22: \$22,462
YTD Budgeted Income: \$612,529	YTD Income Received: \$646,285

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 42 11:00 A.M.: 140

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY AUGUST 14

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday school
1:00 P.M. Bridal Shower for Sadie Reynolds & Michael Hogg
Fellowship Hall
11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary
5:30 P.M. Youth

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

11:30 A.M. Friends Lunch
2:30 P.M. CASA
5:00 P.M. Steering Committee
6:00 P.M. Session Meeting
7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting, Library
2:30 P.M. CASA
Cooking in Kitchen for Salvation Army
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn
1:30 P.M. Shepherd's Center Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

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