

# Morning Worship Service

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

*As Christians, we are gathered into community by Jesus Christ. In order for that community to bear the fruits of Christian living, we must be firmly linked to Jesus Christ, who is the source of our life, both individual and corporate. When we abide in Christ the first fruit, love, is produced and that binds us all together in the fellowship of faith, the church.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

*How Great Thou Art with Majesty*

arr. Joel Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by John 15:1-8)

Leader: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**People: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

Leader: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**People: We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

Leader: If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**People: We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

Leader: We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:  
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

**People: May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.**

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace.

Nurture us with the strength of Christ,  
the vine of everlasting life.

Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit,  
which flows through us today and all days.

Abide in us, that we may abide in you  
and live in your love. In your holy name, 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 487

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

There come those moments when we stand exposed, our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways open for all to see. But God takes these moments, and these sins, redeeming them through compassion are love, making us new people, children of the Living God. Let us come, in these moments, with our prayers to the One who waits to forgive us and make us whole. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, Compassionate Heart, when you would take them and toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts. Forgive us, Vine Grower. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of your Gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop. (Pause for reflection and self-examination) Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Leader:** God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

**People:** **As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, so that love, hope and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are 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.*

ANTHEM

*Be Still My Soul*

arr. Jane Thompson

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:1-8

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**The Source of Our Life**

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from The Confession of 1967)

**The Lord’s Supper is a celebration of the reconciliation of men with God and with one another, in which they joyfully eat and drink together at the table of their Savior. Jesus Christ gave his church this remembrance of his dying for sinful men so that by participation in it they have communion with him and with all who shall be gathered to him. Partaking in him as they eat the bread and drink the wine in accordance with Christ’s appointment, they receive from the risen and living Lord the benefits of his death and resurrection. They rejoice in the foretaste of the kingdom which he will bring to consummation at his promised coming, and go out from the Lord’s Table with courage and hope for the service to which he has called them. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

BLESSING AFTER MEAL

CLOSING HYMN NO. 121

*That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Tocatta in E Minor*

Johann Pachelbel

\*Congregation Standing as able

Before the service, speak to God. + During the service, let God speak to you. + After the service, speak to one another.

## THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

### SUNDAY, MAY 2

9:00 A.M.      Worship Service, Sanctuary  
10:00 A.M.      Sunday School  
11:00 A.M.      Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on YouTube  
1:30 P.M.      Bridal Shower for Taylor Gurley, Fellowship Hall  
5:30 P.M.      Youth

### MONDAY, MAY 3

4:30 P.M.      Mah-Jongg  
6:45 P.M.      Circle 3, Michelle McAuley's home  
7:00 P.M.      Boy Scouts

### TUESDAY, MAY 4

9:00 A.M.      T'ai Chi Chih  
10:00 A.M.      Staff Meeting  
7:00 P.M.      A.A. Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

5:30 P.M.      Youth

### FRIDAY, MAY 7

12:00 P.M.     A.A. Meeting

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Please remain seated during the service.** We will stand for the Gloria Patri but will otherwise stay seated. We strongly recommend remaining masked during worship. Please feel free to hum or sing along during this morning's hymns.

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

**Nursery care** is available for newborns through 4-year-olds. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery if you are visiting for the first time.

**After the children's sermon**, pre-kindergarteners through second graders are invited to attend "**Wee Kirk**" with Heather Crotwell. This is a time of age appropriate lessons, songs, and games intended to prepare our children to fully participate in worship. 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 memory of Hunter and Elizabeth Stokes and Audrey and Alice Fleming by John and Vivian Fleming.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Session has approved services at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.**, beginning Sunday, April 25 through Sunday, May 23. No reservations needed, but we will continue to space everyone and masks are encouraged. We have a maximum capacity of 130 for each service with overflow seating in the Fellowship Hall with a live stream. The summer worship schedule will be discussed and decided at the May session meeting. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we return to worship in our sanctuary.

**Why a 9:00 A.M. service?** We are hoping that a 9:00 A.M. service might increase our early service attendance. Average attendance at the 8:30 A.M. service has declined steadily from 53 in 2012 to 29 in 2020 (January and February of 2020). That represents a 45% decline. If this attempt to witness increased attendance is not successful, we will resume 8:30 A.M. worship in the fall.

**You are cordially invited to a bridal shower** for Taylor Gurley this afternoon from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. She is registered at Reed's, Elizabeth Clair's, and Amazon.

**St. Luke UMC Food Pantry** is a busy food bank that serves families each Thursday from 8:00 A.M. until noon, 50 weeks a year. On the first Thursday of each month, they are particularly busy, meeting the needs of 400-450 families. They have asked for volunteers on **Thursday, May 6** to assist in food distribution. There are two time slots—7:45 A.M.-10:00 A.M. and 9:45 A.M.-12:00 P.M. If you are interested or need more information about this local mission opportunity, please call or text Sally Kate Collins at (662) 871-3761.

**Circle 3 is meeting** at 6:45 P.M. on Monday, May 3, at the home of Michelle McAuley.

**We need your extra vases** for our delivery of sanctuary flowers. You can bring them to the church at any time. If you leave them by or in the church office, someone will get them to the Flower Guild room.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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

**The 11:00 A.M. service will live streamed** and available for viewing on YouTube.com by those unable to be with us this morning. Search *firstprestupelo* or click [this link](#). We also invite you to visit our website at [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org).

### PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

**Cancer Treatments:** Aimee McDonald Burrow, Julie Seiler

**Homebound:** Claudia Neelly, Sarah Parker, Joe Sheffield

**College Students:** Ivy Wells, Lucy Wells, Ansley Caldwell

*(Homebound and college students are listed each week on a rotation from our complete list.)*

Weekly Budget: \$16,960

Amount Received 4/25/21: \$7,184

YTD Budgeted Income: \$291,840

YTD Income Received: \$362,881

### The Session

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Moderator

Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

#### Class of 2021

Mark Burleson

Sally Kate Collins

Ann Godwin

Richard Hastings

Kristi Hillhouse

Glenn Thomas

Joel Zimmerman

#### Class of 2022

Steve Bryson

Anne Marie Littrell

Mary Pace

Buddy Stubbs

Virginia Toliver

David Williams

#### Class of 2023

Kirk Biddle

Susan Boone

Amy Fagan

Mitzi Moore

Aubrey Patterson, Jr.

Grayson Robbins

Debra Robison

### First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education

Heather Crotwell, Children's Church Director

Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Nannette Comer, Church Librarian

Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian

Helen Curtis, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent

Joyce Richardson, Housekeeper

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

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