

Morning Worship Service

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

At times our anxieties can paralyze us. We worry about life and about our faith relationship with God, but Jesus helps us examine our worries from a new perspective with God. When we trust our lives and our future to God, we experience the liberating power of God's grace.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by Matthew 6:25-27)

Leader: Look at the birds of the air;
they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,
and yet God provides for the basic sustenance of life.

People: May our hearts be open to trust you.

Leader: Look at the birds of the air;
they neither study nor plan nor plot their course,
and yet God writes the instinct for migration into their hearts.

People: May our eyes be open to see you.

Leader: Look at the birds of the air;
they neither talk nor vote nor debate their responsibility,
yet God weaves them into communities which nurture and defend.

People: May our hands be open to serve you.

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: When nothing is right, when we are weary and lost,
when clouds dull the sky, help us to be still.

When our cries are unheeded, when no effort bears fruit,
when the sun sets, help us to be still.

When love is over, when hope is gone,
when darkness covers the land, help us to be still.

For in being still, in refusing to panic or despair,
we shall come to know that God is there,
suffering alongside and with us,
waiting to show us stepping-stones through the swirling waters,
and to help us sing a new song.

People: 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. 482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Leader: All too often, we tell God we will do better and be better,
and then we just go on living the same way we always have.
Let this be the moment
when we tell our God of our failures and faithlessness,
so we can go forth to work in that kingdom of grace and hope.
Join me as we pray,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**We would want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory,
but people find only hardened hearts.**

**We would like to be transformed people,
but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you.**

**We long to stand with those who are in need,
but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid in judgment.**

Forgive us, God who came down to us.

**Humble us,
that we might be true servants to the broken and lost.**

**Split open our frozen hearts,
that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting.**

**Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit,
that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
into that kingdom of grace and hope. (*Pause for reflection and meditation*) Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: This is the good news:
in Christ, God's plan for salvation was accomplished.
You are forgiven, you are made new.

**People: We will complete God's joy
by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope,
with everyone we meet.
Thanks be to God. 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

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte/Griswold

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6:25-33

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A Nervous Wreck?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

The 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.

* CLOSING HYMN NO. 276

Great is Thy Faithfulness

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Voluntary on "Italian Hymn"

Don Hustad

* 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.

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, kindly turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

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.**" 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 Lindell and Ray Waters, Marian and Dan McCaskill, and Bernice and Frank Baker.

Please remember to dedicate your offering this morning. The offering plates are located in the Narthex. Contributions may also be mailed to: FPC, P.O. Box 1725, Tupelo, MS 38802.

Both the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. services are 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.

Leading the Worship Service Today: Rev. Dr. Olin McBride; Dr. Bob Taylor; Dr. Ray Harris

Liturgists: 9:00 A.M.: Lori Dickerson; 11:00 A.M.: Debra Robison

Greeters: 9:00 A.M.: Helen Boerner and Kathy & Pete McMurry

11:00 A.M.: Mitzi Moore and Bonnie & Glen Davidson

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be sure to join us for our Wednesday night programs! Please make your plans to participate with church friends and visitors on Wednesday, September 22. Cherubs (3-year-olds through Kindergarten), Faithbuilders (1st through 5th grade) and Youth all begin at 6:00 P.M. Everyone else—join us in the SANCTUARY at 6:00 P.M. as Olin presents Part Two of “Presbyterianism 101.” **Masks are encouraged for all ages.** All programs conclude at 7:00 P.M.

The Mah-Jongg group has resumed and will meet at 4:30 P.M. on Monday, September 20, in the Library.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatments: Aimee McDonald Burrow, Julie Seiler, Mike Thomas

Homebound: Hugh Lockett, Faye Moreland, Betty Nash

College Students: Ben Gibens, Walker Gibens, Andrew Goad

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on [YouTube](#)

10:00 A.M. Sunday School

11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on [YouTube](#)

5:30 P.M. Youth

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

4:30 P.M. Mah-Jongg, Library

6:00 P.M. Session Meeting

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting

7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

6:00 P.M. Faithbuilders & Youth

Adult Program, Olin McBride, “Presbyterianism 101,” Sanctuary

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

7:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Holiday Inn

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

The Session

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Moderator
Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

Class of 2022

Steve Bryson
Anne Marie Littrell
Pete McMurry
Mary Pace
Buddy Stubbs
Virginia Tolivar
David Williams

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
Mike Thomas

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
Seth Shelnut, Audio/Visual Technician
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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

SANCTUARY - 6:00 p.m.

September 1

Jimmy Hardin & Archaeology Update

September 8

The one & only Jim Curtis

September 15

The one & only Olin McBride

"Presbyterianism 101"

September 22

The one & only Olin McBride

"Presbyterianism 101"

September 29

"Rise Against Hunger" in the GYM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS

FAITHBUILDERS AT FPC

6:00 P.M.

Ages 3 through Kindergarten

Cherub Choir and Activities

Teachers for music and activities are Leslie Geoghegan, Beth Anne Ellzey, and Kathy Wallace.

Grades 1-5

Faithbuilders

Music teachers are Danielle Ratliff and Brittany Rogers. Activities teachers are Heather Crotwell and Corey Littrell.



Rise Against Hunger



Meal Packaging
Event returns to
FPC

**Wednesday,
September 29, 2021
FPC Gym**

Meal starting at 5:30 p.m.

Kyle Rogers & Team will cook their award-winning BBQ with all the fixings before our meal packing event begins.

All ages are welcome to participate. We packed more than 13,000 meals in 2019!



**Operation
Christmas
Child**

Be an early shopper! We will have Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes available in early October. The items listed are great gifts. Please consider buying extras - keep items for a Shoebox to fill at home and extras to be placed in the large box outside the Church Library. Our Youth enjoy filling boxes at Church!

Comb/Hairbrush, Rain Poncho, Socks, Small Flashlight with Batteries, Tee-shirts, Sidewalk Chalk, Small Fan with Batteries, Whistle, Yo-Yo, Ball (deflated) with Pump, Baseball Cap/Glove, Slinky, Paddle Ball, Headbands/Hair Ties, Stuffed Animals, Small Baby Doll, Necklace/Play Jewelry, Jump Rope, Scotch Tape/Colored Tape