



# First Presbyterian Church

## Tupelo, Mississippi

# Morning Worship Service

Second Sunday in Lent - February 28, 2021

*Our Lord prepared himself for life to be faced honestly and realistically. He knew that in the end a cross needed to be freely accepted and borne. Those who are not willing to follow him must acknowledge that the way is not easy, and in the end they too must be willing at the crossroads of life to accept that cross.*

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

### PRELUDE

*Beautiful Savior*

David N. Johnson

## CALL TO WORSHIP FOR LENT

Leader: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,  
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

People: Lent calls us to journey:  
to the place where God covenants with us,  
to receive the new names we are given.

Leader: Lent calls us to worship together,  
to tell future generations the good news.

People: Lent calls us to practice justice,  
to bring God's hope to all people.

Leader: Lent calls us to faithful living,  
to trust the One who gives us life.

People: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,  
to trust the One who bears it with us.

Leader: Lent calls us to journey with God.

People: Let us worship God, who walks with us,  
this and every day.

## PRAYER OF APPROACH

(Based on Mark 8:31-38, John 12:23-26, Luke 14:27)

It is too easy, God for faith to become an escape.

A way to avoid the pain of being human and alive

or a path to success.

A way to persuade the universe to give us the things we want;  
or a system of control.

A way to bend others to our will.

But the faith you offer is different, Jesus, more dangerous and compelling. It's the faith that carries the cross, that embraces death and lays itself down for the sake of others. It's the only faith that can lead us to resurrection to life renewed and overflowing. We praise you for this faith, God, and open our hearts to receive it. **Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 92

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

All too often, we tell God we will do better, and be better,  
and then 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

**Forgiving Lord, we have fallen short time and time again.**  
**You have given us your word, both in scripture and in Son;**  
**you have promised us your presence, both in Spirit and in community;**  
**and you have graced us with your kingdom, both in teaching and in service.**  
**Even so, we neglect, ignore, and reject your purposes for us.**  
**We do not love what you love. We do not embrace what you embrace.**  
**We do not defend what you have called us to defend. Have mercy on us, O God of all ages past and all hope for years to come. Forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do. And with your gifts, promises, and grace, continue working in our lives that we might receive full life in Jesus Christ, now and forevermore. (Pause for reflection and meditation).**  
**Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

For nothing is impossible with God.  
There is no place you can go,  
no end of the earth you can run,  
where God cannot find you.  
There is nothing on earth or beyond death  
that can separate you from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
You are forgiven. You are loved.  
You are reconciled to God.  
Go and live with the love of God.  
Thank be to God! Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### ANTHEM

*Thy Will Be Done*

Craig Courtney

Our cup was filled with darkness, our cup was filled with death,  
Christ took our cup and drank it and gave us life, and gave us hope, gave us Himself.  
My Father, let this cup pass from me, My Father, let this cup pass from me,  
Yet not my will, O Lord, Yet not My will, O Lord, Thy will be done.

In blackest night we hear Him in dark Gethsemane  
Pleading with the Father for one more way, for one more hope, for one more day.  
My Father, let this cup pass from me, My Father, let this cup pass from me,  
Yet not my will, O Lord, Yet not My will, O Lord, Thy will be done.  
Then they took our Savior and led him to a tree  
And there they broke his body poured out His life, put Him to death to rose again.

My Father, let this cup pass from me, My Father, let this cup pass from me,  
Yet not my will, O Lord, Yet not My will, O Lord,  
Thy will be done. Thy will be done.

## THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 17:1-10  
New Testament Reading: Mark 8:31-38

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## SERMON

## The Cross at the Crossroads of Life

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Heidelberg Catechism

Leader: What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

People: That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Postlude in D*

Healey Willan

**The Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and to the memory of Helen Robertson Aycock and Arden Ray Aycock, Sr. by Buddy, Mary, and Erin Stubbs.

**Welcome to worship!** Our service, which is streamed online, can be viewed on [YouTube](#) today at 10:00 A.M. Visit our website at [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org).

## PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

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

**Homebound:** Jerry Burkett, Bobbyle Carsten, Mary Evelyn Maxwell

**College Students:** Ansley Caldwell, Carson Clark, Drake Cobb

## STEWARSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$16,960

Amount Received 2/21/21: \$6,006

YTD Budgeted Income: \$145,920

YTD Income Received: \$246,322

**In person worship will resume in Stuart Garden at 10:00 A.M. on March 7, weather permitting.** If we are unable to meet outside, the service will be in the gym. Seating is limited to 75 people. Registration is required and will begin at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, March 1. Registration information will be emailed as before. Registration information will also be available on our website. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

**Join us on Tuesday, March 2, at 6:00 P.M. for a brief Prayer Meditation via Zoom.** *Please note the revised date and time.* Use [this link](#) to join. The link will be in this week's newsletter and will also be emailed on Tuesday. You may call the church office for information on joining a Zoom meeting.

**Vaccine Assistance**—Individuals who may be technologically-challenged need not worry about scheduling their Covid-19 vaccines. A group of faithful FPC members has graciously offered to help friends in scheduling vaccine appointments online or by phone. This dedicated group will also happily drive anyone to their Tupelo appointment or even to counties located outside of Lee County. They would love to help and look forward to hearing from you! Please call Cindy Faucette at 662-231-6827, or email her at [cfaucette@bellsouth.net](mailto:cfaucette@bellsouth.net).

## THIS WEEK AT FPC

### Sunday, February 28

10:00 A.M.

Worship Service streaming on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

### Monday, March 1

8:00 A.M.

Registration begins for March 7 worship service. Use this [link](#), which will be active on Monday morning. It will also be emailed to you on Monday.

7:00 P.M.

Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, March 2

6:00 P.M.

Meditation and Prayer via Zoom. *Please note revised date and time.* Use [this link](#) to join.

7:00 P.M.

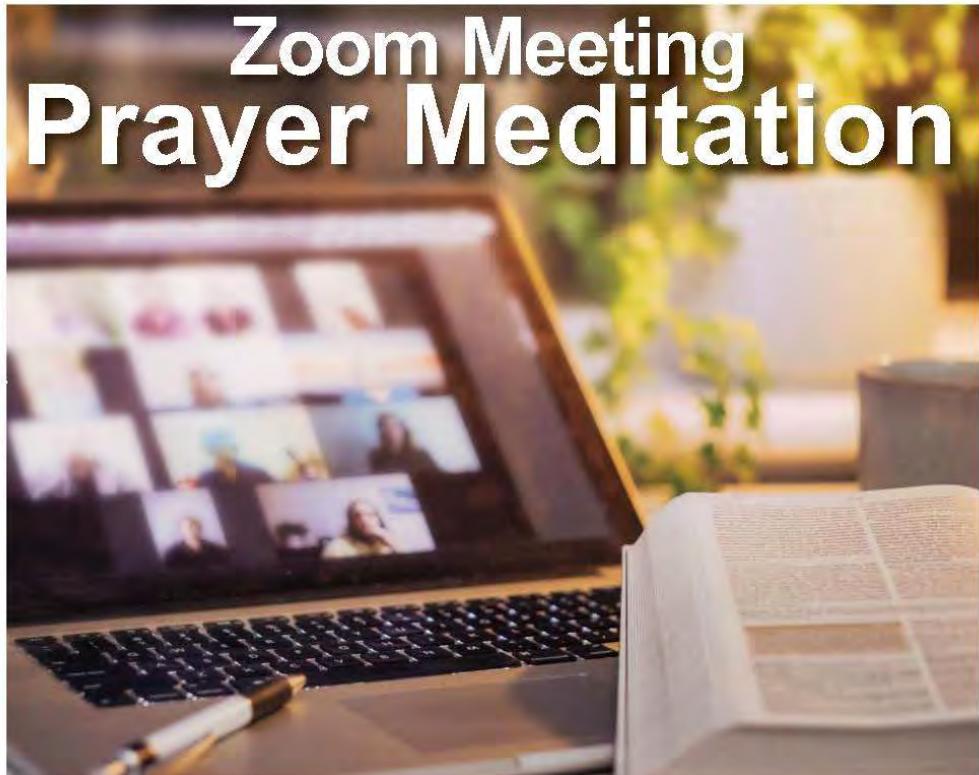
A.A. Meeting

### Friday, March 5

12:00 P.M.

A.A. Meeting

***PLEASE NOTE REVISED DATE AND TIME! TUESDAY, MARCH 2 AT 6:00 P.M.***



Tuesday, March 2  
6:00 P.M.  
with Olin McBride

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81907728654?  
pwd=ZXM4Y1IzdktRTkpSSGhVSzAvcGhWdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81907728654?pwd=ZXM4Y1IzdktRTkpSSGhVSzAvcGhWdz09)  
Meeting ID: 819 0772 8654 Passcode: 828643

Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane, 1868

Frederick Charles Maker, 1881



1. Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,  
 2. Up - on the cross of Je - sus Mine eye at times can see



The shad - ow of a might - y rock With - in a wea - ry land;  
 The ver - y dy - ing form of One Who suf - fered there for me:



A home with-in the wil - der - ness, A rest up - on the way,  
 And from my strick-en heart with tears Two won - ders I con - fess:



From the burn-ing of the noon-tide heat, And the bur - den of the day.  
 The won - ders of re - deem-ing love And my un-wor - thi - ness.

