

# *First Presbyterian Church*



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Visit us online. [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)  
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# *Morning Worship Service*

## *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

MARCH 26, 2023

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

*The purpose of this sermon is to reaffirm that Jesus is the resurrection and life, not just in a time to come, but even now.*

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE                    *“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”*                    Diane Bish

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

## Psalm 130

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

**People:** If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, so that You may be revered.

Leader: Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem.

**People:** I wait for the Lord, my souls waits; and in the word of the Lord I hope.

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 8

## *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*

## PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Almighty, Everlasting God, to Whom no sincere prayer is unanswered, no praise unheard, and no worship unnoticed, be gracious now unto all Your servants and children whose hearts are moved toward You.

Encourage us, that we may be ready both in body and soul to cheerfully accomplish those things which You command; this we pray in the name of our Lord the Savior who taught his disciples this prayer we now join as one praying...

**Unison:** 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: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. Let us pray God to forgive us as we pray together the prayer of confession printed in the bulletin.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

Leader: Hear now, O Lord, our personal prayers of confession in this time of silence.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power over us, and Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. 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 SERMON

ANTHEM

*“Ave Verum Corpus”*

W.A. Mozart

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,  
having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind,  
from whose pierced side water and blood flowed:  
Be for us a foretaste of the Heavenly banquet  
in the trial of death!

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

*John 11:1-45*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**“Christ Our Life”**

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

\*UNISON PROFESSION OF FAITH

Christ is the Foundation of the Church

**In Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Christ God reconciles all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross**

**(Col. 1:19-20). In Christ's name, therefore, the Church is sent out to bear witness to the good news of reconciliation with God, with others, and with all creation. In Christ the Church receives its truth and appeal, its holiness, and its unity. (The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity – Book of Order)**

**\*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 106**

*“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”*

**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**

*“A Road to Calvary Leadeth”*

Dale Wood

**\*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**

**O God of generosity and benevolence, as we ponder our ministry among Your people, may we be generous and grateful for all the many households of faith. May we grow in stewardship and discipleship as a response of gratitude for all that You have first given us. Give us the hearts of servants and hearts for healing in our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 495 “We Know That Christ is Raised”**

**\*\*POSTLUDE**

*“Prelude in B-flat Major”*

J. S. Bach

**BENEDICTION**

**\*Congregation standing as able.**

**\*\*Please be seated until the conclusion of the Postlude.**

**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.**

**The Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Miles and Elizabeth Garner, Leon Kenny, and Davis Temple.

**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.

**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.

**Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.** You may also view the bulletin by visiting our website at [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org). See the “Bulletin” link at the top of the homepage.

**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.

**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 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](http://www.firstprestupelo.org).

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

**Crucifer:** 9:00: Carter McDuffie

11:00: Alice Fagan

**Liturgist:** 9:00: Sam Agnew

11:00: Doyce Deas

**Greeters:** 9:00: Frieda and David Carlisle

11:00: Mitzi and Jeff Moore, Holly and Chris Rogers

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please be in prayer for our mission team** which departs for Guatemala on Tuesday, March 28. Team members are: Travis Abney, Hal Boerner, George Dent, and Blake Hobson. The team returns on Tuesday, April 4.

**Save the Date!** First Presbyterian Church’s Vacation Bible School is planned for May 31 through June 2, from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. each day. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Sally Kate Collins or Claire Leeke.

**Be sure to join church friends and our visitors for supper in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 P.M.** on Wednesday, March 29. The menu: Chicken Spaghetti, Grilled and Fried Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Tater Tots, Roasted Vegetables, Rolls, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad

Bar, Banana Pudding, Lemon Crunch, Chocolate Delight, Cookies, and Ice Cream. Sign up by Noon on Wednesday by using the link in Friday's newsletter or calling the church office at 662-842-5681. Following supper, programs for adults, youth and children begin at 6:00 P.M.

**You are invited! Come to the community Lenten Luncheons** that are held at various area churches each Thursday at Noon during Lent. This Thursday, March 30, the luncheon will be at Lawndale Presbyterian Church.

**The Enneagram study resumes** tonight at 4:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

### **PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Homebound:** Claudia Neelly, Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Jack Price

**College Students:** Ana Morgan Beckham, Carson Clark, Emma Counce

**Service Members:** Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

### **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Weekly Budget: \$17,442	Amount Received 3/19/23: \$5,324
YTD Budgeted Income: \$226,739	YTD Income Received: \$354,657

### **ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

9:00 A.M.: 47      11:00 A.M.: 85

### **THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK**

#### **SUNDAY, March 26**

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
10:00 A.M. Sunday school  
11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
4:00 P.M. Enneagram Study, Fellowship Hall

#### **MONDAY, March 27**

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

#### **TUESDAY, March 28**

*Guatemala Team Departs*  
9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih  
10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting  
11:00 A.M. Bible Study, Bolton/Sistahood Room 110, Matthew 21:1-11  
6:00 P.M. Security Committee, Fellowship Hall  
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

#### **WEDNESDAY, March 29**

3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton Classroom  
5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers  
5:30 P.M. Supper, Fellowship Hall

6:00 P.M. Faithbuilders, Youth, Adult Programs

7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

### **THURSDAY, March 30**

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn

12:00 P.M. Community Lenten Luncheon, Lawndale Presbyterian Church

### **FRIDAY, March 31**

9:00 A.M. Sewing Cherub robes, Fellowship Hall

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

3:30 P.M. Presbyterian Women birthday party for Traceway residents

### **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

Charles Reece

Alice Rogers

#### 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

### **THE MISSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO:**

Learn The Word Of God In Worship And Study.

Live The Word Of God In Our Homes And Communities.

Lead Others To The Word Of God In Love.

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE  
**HOLY WEEK**  
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY - APRIL 2

WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.  
SANCTUARY

MAUNDY THURSDAY  
COMMUNION SERVICE - APRIL 6  
6:15 P.M. - SANCTUARY

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - APRIL 7  
6:15 P.M. - SANCTUARY

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 9  
WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.  
SANCTUARY  
EASTER BRUNCH BETWEEN SERVICES  
STUART GARDEN

400 W. JEFFERSON STREET, TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

Come With Us!  
Sunday, April 2 - Depart @ 1:30 P.M.

# CAMP HOPEWELL OPEN HOUSE

- Open House for anyone interested in learning more about and seeing Camp Hopewell!
- Church Bus will leave from church on Sunday, April 2 at 1:30 p.m. Car seats and boosters CAN be installed on the bus. Parents are welcome to join their children on the bus or follow behind.
- We will leave camp no later than 4:00 p.m. and return to the church.
- Please reserve your spots on the bus by calling the church office at 662-842-5681 or contacting Melissa.



**thank you sew much!**



WE HAVE A PROBLEM...  
BUT IT'S A GOOD PROBLEM!  
CHERUB CHOIR NUMBERS ARE  
GROWING! WE NEED TO MAKE  
MORE CHOIR ROBES!

**Sewing Skills are Not Required!**  
**NEEDED:** Sewing Machines, Sharp Scissors,  
Pinking Shears, Spools of White Thread  
PEOPLE to cut, press, and sew!  
**WHEN:** 9:00 A.M. - FRIDAY, MARCH 31  
**WHERE:** FELLOWSHIP HALL



# Easter Brunch

**SUNDAY, APRIL 9**

between 9 & 11 a.m. worship services  
in the Stuart Garden  
(weather permitting)

Please bring your favorite  
brunch/breakfast foods to share  
with family, friends and guests  
at our annual Easter Celebration.

Bring baskets for an egg hunt  
for preschool-5th grade!