

6th Sunday after Epiphany
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We're delighted that you're here! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubts, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you.

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue No.5* Craig A. Penfield

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*INTROIT *Come, Let Us Worship God* (responsive) Ray Makeever

<i>Come, let us worship God.</i>	<i>Come, let us worship God.</i>
<i>Come, let us worship God.</i>	<i>Come, let us worship God.</i>
<i>Welcome everyone to the love of God.</i>	<i>Welcome everyone to the love of God.</i>
<i>Food for the hungry.</i>	<i>Food for the hungry.</i>
<i>Rest for the weary.</i>	<i>Rest for the weary.</i>
<i>Welcome everyone to the love of God.</i>	<i>Welcome everyone to the love of God.</i>

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 119:1-8

Happy the blameless, who keep God's decrees,
seeking God with all their hearts.
**They never choose evil, but follow God's way,
walking the path with careful steps.**
Steady us, O God, that we may keep your commands.
Then, without shame, we can reflect your ways.
We sing your praise when we learn your justice.
Hold us closely, and we shall keep your commands.
Let us worship God.

*HYMN 410 *God Is Calling through the Whisper* W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, creator of all, Jesus tells us to love our enemies and value all people as your children, but we are bad at that. We look with hatred on those who harm us, and sneer at those whose political views violate our sense of goodness. Forgive us, O God. Even as we fight for justice, give us compassion for those on the other side. Fragile humans that we are, may we offer the same grace that we have received, so that doors of understanding may open, and we may all find ourselves on the same side—your side, where all people are cherished and strangers become friends. In silence, we open our hearts to your transforming grace...

*KYRIE 577 *O Lord, Have Mercy* KYRIE ELEISON(Reindorf)

***Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.***

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD(Vasile)

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.***

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

(Please greet one another with: "The peace of Christ be with you."/ "And also with you.")

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SUNG INVITATION

***Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.***

FOCUS ON CHILDREN Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Grace* arr. Mark Hayes

GOSPEL READING Matthew 5:21-37

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Sacred the Body* Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 27 *Sacred the Body* TENDERNESS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Confession of 1967 (9.22-23)*

The new life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

The new life does not release us from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, or fear. We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our life with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

FOCUS ON SERVICE Spring Cleaning

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

THE 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.

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Part of your offering today is the gift of your presence. Please acknowledge your presence by signing the welcome book at the end of your row. To be directed to our online giving site, please use your smartphone to scan here:



THE OFFERTORY *My Lord! What a Morning* arr.Melva Costen

*THE DOXOLOGY 607 OLD HUNDRETH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit ever more;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 740 *Lead Me, Guide Me* LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Our Going and Coming*

***Our going and coming,
our end and beginning,
are safe in your keeping,
God, our endless blessing.***

*POSTLUDE *Celebration!* David Paxton

*Please stand as you are able.

**From *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster John Knox Press ©2018

WE WELCOME VISITORS Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at www.fpcbham.org.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, our Session meets on the *first Sunday of the month* in the Chapel following the 11:00 worship service to welcome new members. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope you will make First your home.

FOR CHILDREN: Children's bags and bulletins are available in the Narthex (ushers can locate them for you). Please empty and return the bags after worship. We love having kids in worship, but the following alternatives are also available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 go to the balcony, where they experience a little of what worship is like while doing learning activities related to the scripture with coloring, puzzles, books, children's bulletins and more. When the sacraments of the Lord's Supper or Baptism are celebrated, children return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

LET THE BELLS PLAY! Our 37-bell Rushton Memorial Carillon was the first such instrument in Birmingham and the third in the United States, when installed in 1924.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please use the Prayer Request and Information Change cards, found in the pew rack, to relay information to the church office. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office and place it in the offering plate.

SERMONS are available from our website at www.fpcbham.org.

The LITURGIST for today is Francis Rushton.

Have you remembered the church in your will?

MISSION CENTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LIGHT, INC. is a mission center of FPC, giving shelter and support services for homeless women and children. If you would like to help, speak to our pastors or call Ruth Crosby, Executive Director (323-4277). First Light's website: www.firstlightshelter.org

RUTH AND NAOMI SENIOR OUTREACH (RNSO) has as its mission to become spiritual companions to isolated older adults and to call, equip, and support others to do so as well. Contact chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org.

THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is www.eprdc.com

FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA, a faith-based community-organizing effort FPC shares with faith communities throughout the city, works to improve quality of life for all our citizens. Faith in Action is a PICO network affiliate and can be reached at daniel@faal.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION provides support to First Presbyterian Church for the maintenance and upkeep of this historic sacred space built in 1889. 10% of the Foundation's annuity payment aids mission selected by session. Contact Mark Aldridge for more information.

THE REV. TERRY HAMILTON-POORE, Pastor and Head of Staff

THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Associate Pastor

THE REV. PATRICK HARLEY, Parish Associate

MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education

DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Director of Music/Organist

JEFF HAIRRELL, Music Coordinator

MS. ROBIN VINES, Carillonist

MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director

MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Office Administrator

MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper

MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton

THE REV. DR. ROBERT S. CRUTCHFIELD, Pastor Emeritus