

**3rd Sunday after Pentecost
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

WELCOME

Whatever your religious background and however you have come to be here, we are honored that you have chosen to worship today at First Presbyterian Church. We hope you feel welcome, inspired, and strengthened by the power of God to meet the challenges of your daily life.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We begin worship with the musical prelude and lighting of the candles, reminding us of Christ's presence with us. Please use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here.

PRELUDE *Adagio (Troisieme Symphonie)* Louis Vierne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Romans 13:11-12)*

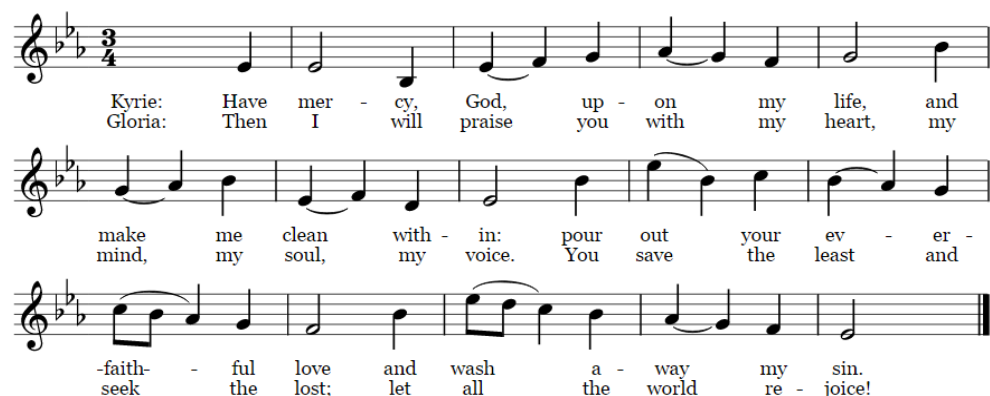
One: Do you know what time it is?
All: Now is the moment for us to wake from sleep.
 One: Open minds, open hearts, open hands - Be fully present, here and now!
All: The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.
 One: Let us put aside the works of darkness,
All: And put on the armor of light. Let us worship God!

*HYMN 62 *Love the Lord Your God (2x)* GREAT COMMANDMENT

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Liberating God, your commandment to us is clear: love one another as we have been loved by you. We confess that we have tried to limit your grace; we have left some behind, shut others out, and failed to show kindness and compassion to those closest to us – even, sometimes, to ourselves. Help us remember that we are precious and loved. Empower us to love others as lavishly and boldly as the one whom we follow, in whose name we pray. Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

*KYRIE 421 *Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life v.1* IRISH



***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*GLORIA 421 *Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life, v.5* (see above) IRISH

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FOCUS ON CHILDREN Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER READING Psalm 119:33-41

One: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *O vos omnes* T.L. da Victoria
All you who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like unto my sorrow.

EPISTLE READING Romans 13:8-12

One: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Summer of Love: Law of Love* Rev. Cat Goodrich

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* IN BABILONE

COMMISSIONING FOR PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from The Confession of 1967*

We believe that new life in Christ takes shape in community where we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of what we are.
So we accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.
Our new life does not release us from conflict with unbelief and... disheartening difficulties and problems.
Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness... 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
 One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
 One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise....

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

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.

OFFERTORY *Schoenster Herr Jesu* Hermann Schroeder

*THE DOXOLOGY 606
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God for all that love has done;
 Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 450 *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*POSTLUDE *Postlude on "Thaxted"* Holst/Thiman

*Please stand as you are able.

**If you would like to make a gift electronically, scan here to be directed to our online giving site:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

WE WELCOME GUESTS and celebrate that you are worshiping with us today. Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. If you are returning to a distant home, we wish you the Lord's grace and a safe journey. However, if you live in the area and are seeking a faith community, we hope you will return soon so that we may get to know you better. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at www.fpcbham.org. May God's peace and blessing be with you.

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. While all children are welcome in worship, the following alternatives also are available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 will 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 will return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

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 **ORGANIST** for today is James Dorroh.

The **LITURGIST** for today is Su Reid-St John.

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.eprcdc.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. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

THE REV. CATHERINE OLIVER, Interim Associate Pastor

THE REV. JIM STANFORD, Parish Associate

MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Secretary

MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper

MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education

DR. TIMOTHY THOMAS, Director of Music

DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Organist

MS. JULIE POTTS, Youth Director

MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton

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

Have you remembered the church in your will?