

**13th 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 *Toccata for the Elevation* G. Frescobaldi

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life..."

All: Those who believe in him, even though they die, will live.

One: Jesus said, "I am the living water..."

All: All who drink the cup he offers will not thirst.

One: Let us worship the One who is the way, the truth, and the life.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN 401 *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)* GATHER US IN

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, you call to us, offering the way to life abundant. And here we are, seeking to respond, but the sins we bear are too real to hide, too heavy to carry, and too deep to undo. Remind us that by your grace, you hear our prayers. Forgive us the sin which binds our hearts, that we might enter the freedom of the resurrection. We open ourselves to you in silent prayer...

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

Kyrie: Have mer - cy, God, up - on my life, and
Gloria: Then I will praise you with my heart, and my
make me clean with - in: pour out your ev - er -
mind, my soul, my voice. You save the least and
-faith- - ful love and wash a - way my sin.
seek the lost; let all the world re - joice!

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FOCUS ON CHILDREN *Blessing of the Backpacks* Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, you call to us, offering the way to life abundant. And here we are, seeking to respond, but the sins we bear are too real to hide, too heavy to carry, and too deep to undo. Remind us that by your grace, you hear our prayers. Forgive us the sin which binds our hearts, that we might enter the freedom of the resurrection. We open ourselves to you in silent prayer...

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *As Pants the Hart* arr. L. Kessler
Yvonne and Elizabeth Gauntt, duet

GOSPEL READING Luke 10:25-37

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* Rev. Catherine Oliver

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 70 *What Does The Lord Require of You?* MOON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from the Confession of Belhar*

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. Unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ.

Unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

This unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.

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.

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.*

OFFERTORY *I Need Thee Every Hour* arr. Robert Lowry

***THE DOXOLOGY**

*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 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me* KELVINGROVE

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*POSTLUDE *Festival March* H. J. Stark

*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 LITURGIST for today is Susan Davenport.

The ACOLYTE for today is Patricia Gauntt.

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?