

**14th 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 *Fantasia* J. Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 107)

One: Let the redeemed say so: those whom God has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from far and near!

Pulpit (right) side: From east and west, God brings us...

Lectern (left) side: from north and south, we come.

All: We cried out to the Lord in our distress, and God has answered us!

One: God's steadfast love endures forever.

All: Let us worship God.

*HYMN 317 *In Christ There is No East or West* MC KEE

****PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, too often we fail to honor the great commandments you have given us: to love you, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Focused only on ourselves and our own needs, we turn others away and deny your desires for us.

Forgive us for forgetting that we are created to live in community with you and our neighbors.

Forgive us for ignoring the pain of the world, and for failing to show compassion.

Restore our hearts and minds to love you and to love your people now and always. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

*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

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 2: 11-22

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Halleluia, Amen* G.F. Handel

*GOSPEL READING John 3:11-17

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Home is Where the Heart Is* Rev. Cat Goodrich

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 300 *We Are One in the Spirit* THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Declaration of the 223rd Assembly of the PCUSA

As confessing Christians, we trust God, whom we know through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray as others pray in other names...

We say Yes to God's power of love and justice for the neighbor as well as the self; and we say No to demonic power that urges hate of the other, scatters blame, and creates civic discord...

We say Yes to core human values and No to dividing our humanity by ideology and partisanship.

We say Yes to bridges and preservation of families and No to walls.

We say Yes to affirming and celebrating the full spectra of human identity and No to discrimination and bigotry.

We say: In life, and in death we belong to God.

FOCUS ON MISSION Choir

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.

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 *As Lately We Watched* Warren Allred

***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 697 *Take My Life* HENDON

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*POSTLUDE *Voluntary in D* D. Scarlatti

*Please stand as you are able.

**by Rebekah Tucker Motley, Montreat Conference Center

***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 Scott Grumley.

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?