

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
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

In Dulci Jubilo BWV 751

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

Many: From the rush and jumble of our overflowing lives; gather us in, O God.

One: At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gate she speaks.

Many: Quiet our minds and open our hearts; gather us in, O God.

One: Wisdom calls us to this place.

All: Let us worship God together.

*HYMN 389

Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord

HALLUHU

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

You know us completely.

You know the pain we hide;

the hurtful actions we'd like to forget;

the losses we grieve;

the anger within us;

the harm we have done and all we have left undone.

Forgive, and bind our brokenness with your gracious love, Holy One, that we might be made whole.

Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

*KYRIE 577

Lord, Have Mercy

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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



PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 3:1-12

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Lord God, Accept My Heart This Day

arr. David Johnson

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 1:20-23; 8:1-11; 22-24, 29-31

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Wisdom

Rev. Cat Goodrich

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 174

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

MADELEINE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The 223rd General Assembly has commended Dr. King's Letter from the Birmingham City Jail for study and possible future inclusion in the PC(USA) Book of Confessions. Aware of our history, let us confess what we believe together:

We believe that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, for we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny, and whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.

We believe we will have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of bad people, but for the appalling silence of good people.

We realize that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of people willing to be coworkers with God.

FOCUS ON MISSION

UKirk UCook

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.

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

This is my Father's World

arr. K. Jae soon

*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 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Love Has Come

A. Miller

*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.

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. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education

DR. TIMOTHY THOMAS, Director of Music

DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Organist

MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director

MR. OWEN BLOMELEY, Administrator

MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Secretary

MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper

MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton

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

Have you remembered the church in your will?