

First Presbyterian Church  
*Energized by Grace*

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022

11:00 AM

# A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Lectionary Texts:

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 109:21-31; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29;  
John 5:1-9

*This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here.  
We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide.*

*If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction,  
learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.*



## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING — *Meditation on Peace Like a River*

arr. Brenda Portman

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*Lord God the Almighty, you bless us with all that you have created: you teach us to swim in the bright crystal water of life; you cook breakfast for us in that eternal city. We worship you. Jesus Christ, Lamb of God: you stand at the door, your hand on the knob, your coat over your arm. Yet you do not leave us trouble-hearted, but fill our emptiness with your peace. We praise you. Holy Spirit, God-sent Gift: you come to our defense when we are falsely accused; you sit by our beds and comfort us when the nightmares of life keep us awake. We open our hearts to you. Amen.*

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE — *Lead, Kindly Light*

arr. Dale Wood

INTROIT — *Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

*Come, Christians, follow where our Saviour trod, the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is Risen!

**He is Risen indeed!**

God calls us to this place, a haven for healing and hope.

**We come, with the pain of our burdens, we come to hear God's Word of hope for us.**

Together, we will sing songs of joy; each of us will hear God whisper our name, Beloved of my heart;

**We join our voices in prayer and praise; we sing of our longing for new lives.**

Here, our shadowed corners are filled with Light; here we discover that God dwells in us.

**And not just us, for God would teach all to love; God's Spirit would lead all peoples in peace.**

† HYMN 401 — *Here in This Place*

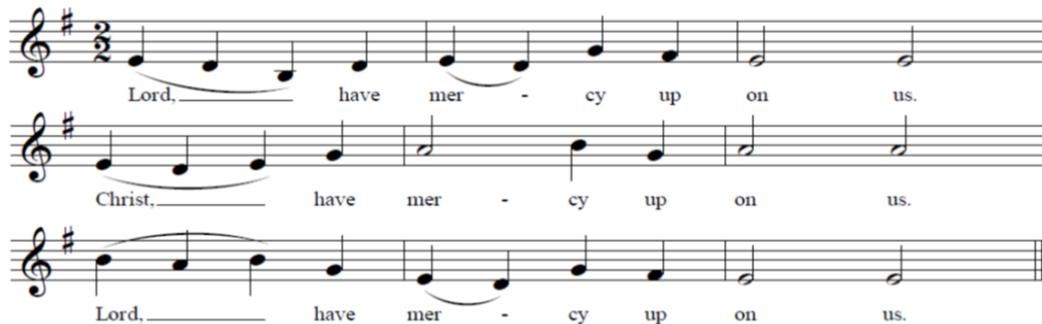
GATHER US IN

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Because you dwell in our hearts, Eternal God, you know how the anger, the pain, the bitterness of our lives tries to crowd you out. The noise of the world deafens us to that Word which can heal us. We want our children to be good, kind, and gentle to others, and then they hear us call others names, and speak of them with demeaning words. Our desire for revenge towards those who have hurt us shows that your peace, indeed, is not in us. You promise a new heaven and a new earth, so create new spirits and new lives within us, Healing God. Shattered by our sin, your heart can still heal our brokenness. Your Spirit, living deep within our souls, can teach us faithful ways. Your Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, whispers to us of your mercy, your hope, your love.

† KYRIE ELEISON



† DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news;  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

† GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal, 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

† TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

*At this time, all children (pre-K 4 through third grade) are invited to leave the service to attend "Children's Time." Children can be picked up on the second floor of the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

p. 315-316

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *Lullaby on Terra Beata*

arr. Creighton Holder

GOSPEL READING: John 5:1-9

p. 117

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON — "Do You Want to be Made Well?"

Rev. Deb de Boer

# GIVE THANKS TO GOD

## MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

### CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY — *This Is My Father's World*

arr. John Leavitt

### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### † DOXOLOGY

Hymnal, 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

### † OFFERTORY PRAYER

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

## GO AND WITNESS IN GOD'S NAME

† HYMN 796 — *We Come to You for Healing, Lord*

LAND OF REST

† BENEDICTION

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Al-le - lu-ia, al-le - lu-ia! — Give thanks to the ris-en Lord; Al-le-  
5 lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give praise to His name.

† POSTLUDE — *Hail to the Brightness of Zion's Glad Morning*

arr. Marianne Kim

# WELCOME!

**First Presbyterian Church** warmly invites visitors to become a member of our family of faith. You may do so in one of the following ways:

- By Profession of Faith - The act of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and sincerely promising to live for Him. Previous baptism is accounted as valid, or the Sacrament of Baptism may be administered at the time of profession.
- By Transfer of Membership - Request our minister to contact your former church for a letter of transfer, where applicable.
- By Reaffirmation of Faith - If you have been inactive or separated from the church for some time or wish to rededicate yourself, you may be received by reaffirmation of faith.

Please contact the church office for more information.

**Parents of nursery aged children** please note: a nursery is provided from 9:15 am-12:15 pm for the following ages: Infants (0-1 years), Babies (1-3 years), Preschool (3-5 years). The nursery and pre-school rooms are located in the Education Building, first floor.

**The FPC prayer chain** is ready if you or someone you know is in need. Please contact Carlisle Wood at [carlislewood@gmail.com](mailto:carlislewood@gmail.com) or 662-832-8606. All requests are held in strict confidence.

**The church has two portable defibrillators** on site if a cardiac event occurs. One is located in our office hallway by the east stairwell; the other is located in the library of the Education Building.

**Office Hours** are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm.

**Tithes and Offerings:** Thank you for prayerfully supporting the missions and ministries of FPC! Every gift is greatly appreciated. Here are some ways to give:

- Mailing gifts directly to the church office at 924 Van Buren Ave, Oxford, MS 38655
- Online by choosing the tab titled “Giving” at the top of the church website  
(<https://fpcxford.net/giving/>)
- Enrolling in direct deposit of withdrawal
- Scanning the QR Code provided here

If you need assistance with any specific ways to give, please contact Frances Saralvarez at [fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com](mailto:fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com), or call the church office.



## TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Proclaiming the Word....	Rev. Deb de Boer
Liturgist.....	Rev. Barrett C Milner
Director of Music.....	Creighton R. Holder
Ushers.....	Kevin Christian
	Hale Freeland
	Kathy Griffith
	Laura Jackson

# CALENDAR

## Sunday, May 22

9:45 am Sunday School Classes  
 11:00 am Worship Service\*  
 6:00 pm *Sounds of Spring Concert Series:*  
 Christopher Pharo, organ

## Monday, May 23

7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Troop 45

## Tuesday, May 24

6:00 am Men's Breakfast @ The Beacon

## Wednesday, May 25

8:15 am Men's Bible Study  
 12:00 pm Property Ministry Meeting  
 6:45 pm Chancel Choir

## Sunday, May 29

9:45 am Sunday School Classes  
 11:00 am Worship Service\*

*\*Nursery Provided*

**Are you interested in learning more? Do you have ideas to share?  
 Your church staff, Diaconate, and ministry team leaders would love to hear from you!**

### SESSION

*Adult Faith Formation* - Allyson Ashmore (2023)  
*Children & Youth Faith Formation* - Kathryn Elliott (2023) &  
 Catie Hester (2024)  
*Clerk of Session* - Drew Mauldin (2023)  
*Finance* - Susan Abbott (2022) & Richard DeVoe (2024)  
*Membership & Hospitality* - Kevin Christian (2022) &  
 Lee Miers (2023)  
*Mission* - Greg Patton (2022) & Melissa Hall (2024)  
*Personnel* - Trey Byars (2022) & Goodloe Lewis (2023)  
*Property* - John Abernathy (2022) & Bradley Goodwiller (2024)  
*Worship* - Hale Freeland (2024)

### DIACONATE

*Class of 2022* - Gabrielle Chiniche, James Day, Sarah  
 McLellan, Cliff Smith, Pattye Wilson  
*Class of 2023* - Laura Jackson, Chloe Lloyd, Allison  
 McCord, Shae Orrell, Adam Quick  
*Class of 2024* - Patrick Bolen, Tommy Cribbs, Lindsey  
 Estes, Kathy Orr Griffith, Jennifer Williams

## CHURCH STAFF

The Congregation	<i>Ministers</i>		Ext.
Rev. Barrett C. Milner	<i>Pastor</i> .....	bmilnerfpc@gmail.com	3
Rev. Deb de Boer	<i>Interim Associate Pastor</i> .....	ddeboerfpc@gmail.com	5
Rev. Allison C. Wehrung	<i>Pastor, UKirk Ministry</i> .....	ukirk.olemiss@gmail.com	
Creighton R. Holder	<i>Director of Music</i> .....	cholderfpc@gmail.com	4
Dave Garvey	<i>Director of Faith Formation for</i> <i>Children &amp; Youth</i> .....	dgarveyfpc@gmail.com	9
Frances Saralvarez	<i>Office Administrator</i> .....	fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com	6
Kate Hill	<i>Communications Director</i> .....	kohillfpc@gmail.com	7
Wade Simpson	<i>Property Manager</i> .....	wsimpson13@yahoo.com	
LaShaunda L. Sisk	<i>Nursery Director</i> .....	lsiskfpc@gmail.com	

# THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY . . .

**Summer Worship at FPC:** On Sunday, June 5, the FPC church family begins its annual summer worship schedule with one service in the sanctuary at 10:30 am. Our summer worship schedule will continue through Sunday, September 4. While regular Sunday school programming will break for the summer months, nursery care will continue for those in attendance, and a virtual worship option will be available for those on-the-go. We look forward to worshipping with you this summer at 10:30 am!

**Congregational Meeting:** A meeting of the congregation has been called by the Session for Sunday, June 5, immediately following the 10:30 am worship service. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive the slate of names of those individuals selected by our Nominating Committee for service on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and to affirm election via congregational vote. All members of the FPC church family are encouraged to attend.

**Mission Opportunities, For the Least of These:** Information for the following FPC volunteer mission activities is available by calling the church office or emailing [missionteam@fpcoxford.net](mailto:missionteam@fpcoxford.net). You will be kept abreast of our congregation's various outreach programs and opportunities to become personally involved.

- FPC is recruiting volunteers to travel to Madisonville, KY, July 21-24 to assist in the reconstruction efforts following the devastating tornadoes last December. A Signup Genius is available in Fast Facts and the June church newsletter. If you have questions, contact Niles Lovelady, 662-801-9200. We hope you can join us!
- Each June FPC is responsible for staffing the Pantry Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. Volunteers stock shelves and distribute groceries in the drive-through. All FPC members 13 and up are invited to participate. A Signup Genius is available in Fast Facts and the June church newsletter. This could be your mission!

**Sanctuary floral arrangement dates are available** Sunday June 26 and all Sunday's in July. To provide flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, contact Margaret Fancher at [fancherm@bellsouth.net](mailto:fancherm@bellsouth.net) or call 662-234-1359. Contributions to the Flower Fund are greatly appreciated.

## **Sounds of Spring Concert Series:**

- Sunday, May 22 at 6:00 pm—Christopher Pharo, organ

**Attention VIP'S:** Martha Kelley has graciously invited us to her home on June 2 at 6:00 pm, for our final get-together until the fall. Please bring your favorite picnic dish or appetizer. Since this is in town, please consider carpooling, as the bus will not be going.

**VBS: *Passport to Peace*** will explore five Bible stories that encourage children to listen to and learn from people who are different, notice the needs of others and seek to help, creatively work to keep everyone safe, and refuse to respond to conflict with violence. VBS will take place Monday, July 18—Thursday July 21 at FPC. Kids from Pre-K to 4th grade can participate. Please register your child on Realm by June 30th. The link to register is in Fast Facts.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**FPC Members:** Thomas Wade Simpson; Jeffrey Butler; Family of Stevie Campbell; Family of Nolan Waller; Family of Helen Scruggs; Family of Dr. J.T. Davis; Family of Janet Barnes; Family of Ann Caroline McIntosh; Tommy Patrick; Marianna Ochs; Family of Lynton Dilley; Max Williams; Teresa Flautt; Lydia Moak; Margaret Fancher; Family of Betty Mullen White; Joe Murphey

**Family and Friends:** Family of Thomas Mayo; Family of George Walker; Family of Gloria Smith Griffith; Valentina Iepuri and Ukraine family; Charissa Johnson; Sarah Luchin and Family; Sigrid Morrison Long; The family of John "Nat" Sumner, Connie Whelan; Lenoir Stanley; Family of Lauren "Lo" Chastain; Peter C. Wood; Doors of Hope Families; Bob Flautt; Lafayette County Detention Center inmates; Parchman Prison inmates; Haven House residents; Our Haiti partners; Oxford & Lafayette County First Responders; Community leaders

**U. S. Military:** SSgt Jason Freeland, USAF 4th Air Support Operation

*Please pray, too, for those with unspecified needs.*

*If you wish to have a name removed or added to this list, please contact the church office.*

## Music Notes

As we carry on in Eastertide and approach Ascension Sunday, it is fitting that our lectionary texts continue to emphasize Jesus' most important teaching: *love*. From John 14: *Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."* From John 5: *"Do you want to be made well?"* From Psalm 67: *May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.* This love, the light of Christ, dwells in each of us and reminds us that we are all beloved children. *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

Our reading from Revelation is a compelling description of the new Jerusalem, and speaks about the beauty in creation: *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.* Brenda Portman's arrangement, *Meditation on Peace Like a River*, is based on the African-American spiritual and captures the image of clear water. Above a repeated pedal pattern on each beat, she uses soft sounds and syncopated rhythms to reflect the assuring text: *I've got peace like a river in my soul.*

*Lead, Kindly Light* is a nineteenth-century hymn that is less familiar for our church. One verse reads:

*Meantime, along the narrow, rugged path, thyself hast trod,  
Lead, Saviour, lead me home in childlike faith, home to my God.  
To rest forever after earthly strife, in the calm light of everlasting life.*

Dale Wood's beautiful setting emphasizes the light from Revelation's text: *And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.* The piece continues to grow to a triumphant point before freely descending back to a peaceful conclusion.

The Chancel Choir will sing John Leavitt's lovely setting of *This Is My Father's World* as the offertory, and the meditation between scripture readings is based on the same hymn tune, TERRA BEATA. "Terra beata" means blessed/beautiful earth and the piece, *Lullaby on Terra Beata*, was written to welcome someone to our life together on earth. I arranged this work for Thomas Wade Simpson, son of Wade and Courtney Simpson, whose arrival came earlier than expected. While he continues to grow, let us continue to pray for strength for this precious child of God and give thanks for the wonder of new life among us.

*This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas- His hand the wonders wrought.*

As we leave worship today, we will hear the vibrant sounds of *Hail to the Brightness of Zion's Glad Morning* arranged by Marianne Kim. Harkening once again to the words of John in Revelation, this joyful work's original helps listeners to visualize growth and renewal in creation:

*Lo, in the desert rich flowers are springing, streams ever copious are gliding along;  
Loud from the mountain tops echoes are ringing, wastes rise in verdure, and mingle in song.*

Kim's setting utilizes a solo trumpet voice in both the hands and pedals, all over an accompaniment that keeps the piece moving forward to a triumphant conclusion.