

First Presbyterian Church
Energized by Grace

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022

11:00 AM

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Lectionary Texts:

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

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.

† Indicates all who are able may stand.



ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING — *There is a Balm in Gilead*

arr. Mark Hayes

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy Creator: you bring us together in this sanctuary, calling us from all those places where we live and work and play, so we can recognize you in faces lined with wisdom; so we can hear you in the questions of the smallest child; so we can sit up and notice all that you do in our midst. Open our hearts and minds to worship you, Amen.

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE — *Empathy*

Angela Kraft Cross

INTROIT — *Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing*

Gordon Young

Now let us all praise God and sing our great Redeemer's praise, that we may all with one accord our joyful voices raise. Sing alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Whether we live in an apartment or a house; if we reside in the suburbs or the city:

God tells us to pray for the places where we live.

Whether we are exiles or prisoners for the gospel; if we are young, old, insider, outcast:

God says, 'when you search for me, you will find me.'

Whether we have been wandering and lost; or if we have lived in the same place all our lives:

God says, 'I will gather you from all your places and bring you home.'

† HYMN 301 — *Let Us Build a House*

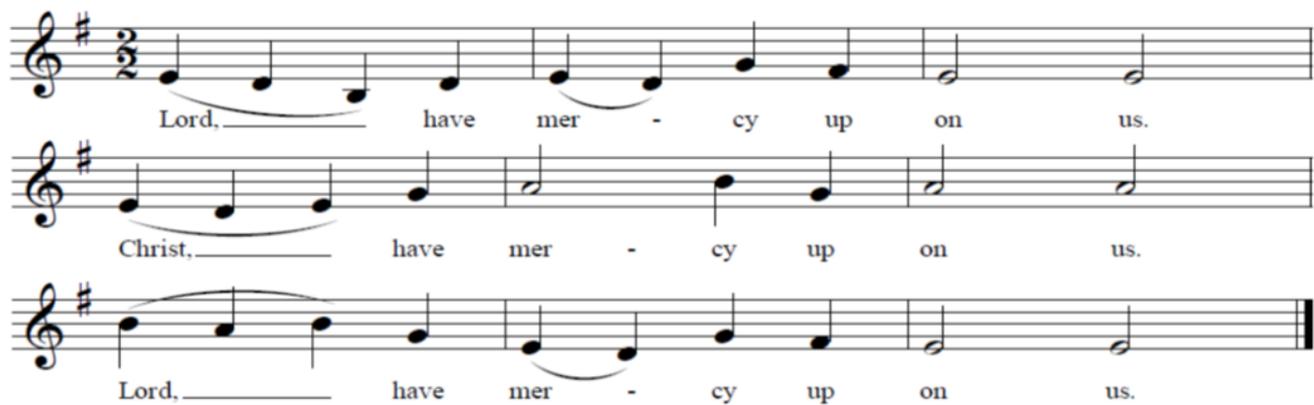
TWO OAKS

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God beyond borders, we know that on our way to worship, we may not have noticed the exiles in our neighborhoods. We admit how easy it is for us to wander down the streets of temptation, pausing at the corner of easy choices. We fall silent in the presence of those who speak words of anger and hate. We tolerate a culture that suspects all who are different from us. Have mercy on us, O God, for surely you take the side of justice. Open our hearts to all the wonders you are performing in our lives. You gift us with those of other cultures, that our lives might be blessed. You send us friends out of places we least expect, that our community might be enriched. You call us to be generous with our blessings, so others might be graced with the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

† KYRIE ELEISON



Three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. The lyrics are: Lord, have mercy up on us. Christ, have mercy up on us. Lord, have mercy up on us.

† DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news;
In the name of 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

Dave Garvey

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: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

p. 259

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *When the Poor Ones*

José Antonio Olivar & Miguel Manzano

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

p. 894

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON — "Seek the Welfare of the City"

Rev. Deb de Boer

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY — *Adagio* from *Toccata Undecima*

Georg Muffat

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

adapted from Rev. Marilyn McKelvey Tucker-Marek

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 772— *Live into Hope*

TRURO

† BENEDICTION

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

GREEN TYLER

God, be the love to search and keep me: God be the prayer to move my voice:

5
God, be the strength to now up-hold me: O Christ, sur-round me: O Christ, sur-round me.

† POSTLUDE — *Postlude on Truro*

David Lasky

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 8:45 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 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://fpcoxford.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, or call the church office.



TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Proclaiming the Word

Rev. Deb de Boer

Liturgists

Ann DeVoe

Organist

Creighton R. Holder

Ushers

Richard DeVoe

Chloe Lloyd

Sarah McLellan

CALENDAR

Sunday, October 9

9:00 am First Worship Service*
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes
 11:00 am Second Worship Service*
 1:30 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship
 @ Wise Family Farms
 2:00 pm Sip & See For Thomas Simpson
 @ Camp Hopewell
 4:30 pm Esther Ethridge Circle

Monday, October 10

12:00 pm Children and Youth Faith
 Formation Meeting
 5:30 pm Session

Tuesday, October 11

6:00 am Men's Breakfast @ the Beacon
 5:30 pm DOH Step 2 Dinner
 5:30 pm APNC Meeting
 6:00 pm UKirk- Campus Ministry

Wednesday, October 12

8:15 am Men's Bible Study
 5:30 pm Wednesdays Together
 6:00 pm Adult Class/Children's Choir
 6:45 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, October 14

12:00 pm Fall Book Study

Sunday, October 16

9:00 am First Worship Service*
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes
 9:45 am New Members Class
 11:00 am Second Worship Service*
 5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship
 6:00 pm Music at First Concert Series:
 The University of Mississippi Family Brass Quintet

**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 Goodwillier (2024)
Worship - Hale Freeland (2024)

**Nursery Provided*

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 Children & 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	
Wendy Brady	<i>Nursery Director</i>	wendybbrady@gmail.com	

THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY . . .

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Van Torbert, Rev. J.C. Browne, and Rev. Mary Tyler Browne, by Christina Torbert.

Wednesdays Together: Please join us next week for our regularly scheduled Wednesday night event. Dinner served at 5:30 pm, followed by Adult Class and Children's Choir at 6:00 pm. Adult Choir will be at 6:45 pm. Childcare will be provided for our youngest friends.

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@fpcxford.net. You will be kept abreast of our congregation's various outreach programs and opportunities to become personally involved.

- Volunteers are needed to provide healthy snacks through Leap Frog, an after-school reading program for disadvantaged students. Please volunteer on the Signup Genius in the Fast Facts article or call the church office.
- A new FPC group, In Good Order, is being organized to assist elderly and infirm members with yard clean up and light home repairs. If you would like more information, contact Adam Quick, adquick@hotmail.com
- FPC continues to collect food items to restock the Lovepacks shelves for the new school year. Please bring your donation to the church office.
- Our congregation collects new stuffed animals for the 15-20 children served each month by Family Crisis Services. Please drop your donation by the church office.
- A group from FPC is once again returning to Madisonville, Kentucky, November 3-6, to assist with the reconstruction effort following the devastating tornados there last December. No particular construction skills are required. For more information. Contact Niles Lovelady, 662-801-9200.
- Holding Hands is a local secondhand shop with a higher calling. The nonprofit resells donated clothing and household items while employing intellectually impaired individuals. PYF'ers through VIP'ers are needed to volunteer a few hours of their time at the store. Contact Melissa Perler at [540-597-3583](tel:540-597-3583) for more information. This could be your mission!

Sanctuary Floral Arrangement available dates are October 23 and November 13 and 20. To provide flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, contact Margaret Fancher at fancherm@bellsouth.net or call 662-234-1359. Contributions to the Flower Fund are greatly appreciated. Two couples or individuals can also share the responsibility and the cost.

Presbyterian Youth Fellowship: Join Dave and Feagin today at Wise Family Farms in Pontotoc for pumpkin picking, sunflower gazing, and corn mazing. Meet in in the church parking lot at 1:30 pm, and we will return at the church by 4:30 pm. Grades 6th through 12th welcome, along with their parents!

Sip & See: Drop in to meet Thomas and share your well wishes with Wade and Courtney Simpson this Sunday at 2:00 pm at the Camp Hopewell Pavilion. Please check Fast Facts to see what the family's still needing.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

FPC Members: Jean Blackston; Leon McCullouch; Family of John Edge, Family of Joe Murphey; Jane Henderson; Family of Dr. Bobby Kennedy; Michael Abraham; Doug & Margaret Fancher; Family of Jeffrey Butler; Thomas Wade Simpson; Family of Nolan Waller, Family of Helen Scruggs, Family of Janet Barnes; Family of Ann Caroline McIntosh; Family of J.T. Davis; Tommy Patrick; Marianna Ochs; Family of Lynton Dilley; Max Williams; Teresa Flautt; Lydia Moak; Michele Howie; Family of Betty Mullen White

Family and Friends: Family of Helen Nielson; Family of Millie Meaders; Family of Shirley Bragg Donnelly; James Chavers; Kathy Bremer; Susan Treas-Ewing; Nancy McPhail; Charlyn Wilson; 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; Connie Whelan; Lenoir Stanley; 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 17th Special Tactics Squadron

*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

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

This text from the African American spiritual *There is a Balm in Gilead* reminds us that becoming disheartened is a part of everyone's journey, but God's grace is always present in our lives giving us strength for the work we are called to do. The arrangement by Mark Hayes is a beautiful example of this transformation as it flourishes from a timid beginning to a triumphant conclusion.

Dr. Angela Kraft Cross is an accomplished musician as well as physician. She graduated from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music with undergraduate degrees in physics and organ performance. She then earned her Doctor of Medicine degree and later a Master of Music degree in piano performance. Her piece, *Empathy*, comes from a multimovement work entitled *Journey to Wholeness* that tells a story of illness and healing. While the inspiration came from physical illness and the anxieties of caregiving, it also connects to today's reading from Jeremiah: *But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.* "Empathy" means the ability to understand another person or people. Seeing the mutual likeness of God in each other's face is a form of empathy that has the power to transform our hearts and help us look beyond differences to serve our world. *Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to danger: all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.* This lyrical piece uses a solo stop over oscillating movement in the accompaniment and creates a call-and-response dialogue between the melody and pedal.

The reading from Timothy tells us "...the word of God is not chained." The Spanish hymn, *When the Poor Ones*, is found on page 762 in the *Glory to God* hymnal. Directly referencing the "least of these" parable from Matthew, each stanza begins with "when" (cuando) and ends with "then God still goes that road with us" (va Dios mismo en nuestro mismo caminar). God in Christ is seen through acts of love and selflessness, and this haunting melody points us toward daily service of others. Little is known about the composers of this music, but their work came post-Vatican II when the Catholic Church began to explore congregational singing and liberation theology was brought forward in teachings.

Georg Muffat was a French Baroque composer who was well-traveled, well-educated, and considered one of the first composers to transplant ideas of styles between various countries. (This can be seen in the work of other composers at this time such as G. F. Handel.) His set of multi-sectional toccatas were well-received and simply named for their compositional number; *Toccatà Undecima* means Eleventh Toccata. The beautiful *Adagio* is a simple progression that climbs upward and finds momentum in frequent ornamentations and moving rhythms in the melody.

David Lasky's *Postlude on Truro* celebrates the hymn tune with a march-like quality and full foundations in the organ. As we leave this sacred space, may we be inspired to greater service and remember to see the image of God in those we meet along the way. *Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity, removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.*