

First Presbyterian Church
Energized by Grace

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

11:00 AM

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Lectionary Texts:

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

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 — *Benedictus*

Gordon Young

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

In those words which offer hope to the despairing, in the quiet whispers which fill the emptiness of all who yearn for righteousness, in the gentle songs which can comfort those whose hearts overflow with grief, you are foolish enough to teach us to speak with the simple language of grace. Let us still ourselves to hear your words now. Amen.

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

RESPONSIVE PRELUDE — *Beatitudes*

Suzanne Toolan



One: Blest, O blest indeed are you.

All: **Blest, O blest indeed are you.**

One: Blest are the poor; the reign of God is theirs.

All: **Blest, O blest indeed are you.**

One: Blest are you who hunger; you shall be filled.

All: **Blest, O blest indeed are you.**

One: You who are weeping, you indeed shall laugh.

All: **Blest, O blest indeed are you.**

One: Blest are you when hated, shunned, or insulted because of the Son, the Son of Man.

All: **Blest, O blest indeed are you.**

One: On that day, rejoice, exalt with joy! Your reward in heaven – O how great it is!

All: **Blest, O blest indeed are you.**

One: Woe to the rich who have their comfort now; woe to those who hoard, they shall be deprived.

All: **Blest, O blest indeed are you.**

One: Woe to those who laugh, who laugh in emptiness; they shall weep with tears, with tears of grief.

All: **Blest, O blest indeed are you.**

One: Blest are they who know that they are truly poor, for they stand ready, ready to be filled.

All: **Blest, O blest indeed are you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who are poor in spirit; come, all who mourn; come, all who are meek; come, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Come, all who would be merciful; come, all who would be pure in heart; come, all who would be peacemakers.

Let us come together. Let us confess that the source of our life is Christ Jesus.

Let us worship the God of every blessing.

† HYMN 370 — *This Is My Father's World*

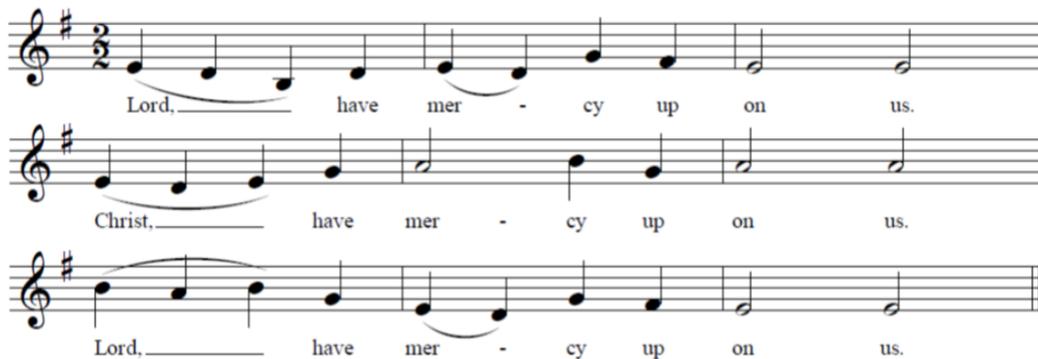
TERRA BEATA

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

What have we done to you, dear God? We dishonor you every time we treat another with disrespect. We shatter your heart when we find it easier to break our word, than to take the risk to keep it. We fill your ears with the gossip, lies, and slander we speak about those around us. You are wise enough to forgive our foolishness; you are strong enough to overcome our weakness; you are loving enough to heal the hurt we cause to you and to others. We give ourselves to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

† KYRIE ELEISON



† 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: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

p. 202

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *Offertory*

John Ness Beck

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON — “Foolishness”

Rev. Deb de Boer

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY — *Improvisation on I Hunger and Thirst*

Early Shaker Spiritual

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 769 — *For Everyone Born*

FOR EVERYONE BORN

† 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 — *Entrata Festiva*

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

Liturgist

Rev. Barrett C. Milner

Organist

Creighton R. Holder

Ushers

Goodloe Lewis

Chloe Lloyd

Laura Scott

David Shaw

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 29

9:00 am First Worship Service*
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes
 11:00 am Second Worship Service*
 4:00 pm Presbyterian Kids Club
 5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

Tuesday, January 31

6:00 am Men's Breakfast @ the Beacon
 5:30 pm APNC Meeting
 6:00 pm UKirk

Wednesday, February 1

8:15 am Men's Bible Study
 4:30 pm Bibles & Brews
 6:00 pm Chancel Choir*

Saturday, February 4

10:00 am Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza
 Session and Diaconate Retreat

Sunday, February 5

9:00 am First Worship Service*
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes
 11:00 am Second Worship Service*
 12:00 pm Chili Cookoff
 4:00 pm Presbyterian Kids Club
 5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship
 5:00 pm Arc Benders

**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 - Mary Haskell (2023) & Carole Haney (2025)
Children & Youth Faith Formation - Kathryn Elliott (2023) & Catie Hester (2024)
Clerk of Session - Drew Mauldin (2023)
Finance - Richard DeVoe (2024) & Brent Hardin (2025)
Membership & Hospitality- Lee Miers (2023) & Angela Manley (2025)
Mission - David Shaw (2025)
Personnel - Goodloe Lewis (2023) & Melissa Hall (2024)
Property - Bradley Goodwiller (2024) & Bo Elliott (2025)
Worship - Hale Freeland (2024)

DIACONATE

Class of 2023 - Chloe Lloyd, Laura Lovelady, Allison McCord, Shae Orrell, Adam Quick
Class of 2024 - Patrick Bolen, Tommy Cribbs, Lindsey Estes, Kathy Orr Griffith, Jennifer Williams
Class of 2025: Teresa Flautt, Scotty Jimenez, David McPhail, Laura Scott, Laura Whitten

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> wendybbrody@gmail.com	

THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY . . .

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God.

Stewardship 2023: “A Million Reasons Why...” - It’s stewardship season once again at FPC! By this time we hope that you have had a moment to view this year’s stewardship video, and you should have received your stewardship packet in the mail. If you have not, please contact the church office. Our hope is to have 100% participation in this year’s campaign to raise \$1,000,000.00 as we all celebrate together the Million Reasons Why we love and support our church family. We ask that you please return your pledge cards to the church office **ASAP**.

Sanctuary Floral Arrangements dates are available starting Sunday, April 16. To provide flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, contact Margaret Fancher at mfancher42@gmail.com or call 234-1359. Contributions to the Flower Fund are greatly appreciated.

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.

- Join us! The Mission Team meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30 in Room 101 of the Sanctuary building. We seek creative and effective means to serve “the least of these.” If you would like more information, call the church office or contact David Shaw, deshaw82@gmail.com.
- FPC volunteers continue to provide snacks for **Leap Frog** students and to host the **Doors of Hope Step 2 Dinners**. If you are interested in serving, look for Signup Genius links in Fast Facts and this month's church newsletter or call the church office. Thank you!
- It's a new semester and food items are needed to restock the shelves at **LovePacks**. This in school pantry provides food for 250 children in the Oxford and Lafayette schools that experience hunger in their homes. Bring your donations to the church office. For a list of needed food, please see this week's Fast Facts.

UKirk Ole Miss is seeking meal providers for their Tuesday night gatherings. If you are interested in supporting college students in this way, find the schedule at ukirkolemiss.org/tuesday-meals. Questions? Contact Allison at ukirk.olemiss@gmail.com.

FPC Annual Chili Cook-Off: Come one, come all to the FPC Chili Cook-off! Bring your best pot of chili, and we'll provide the fixings and drinks and extras for the kids. We'd love to see you and share a bowl (or more). Prizes awarded for the best, by popular vote. February 5 at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you do plan to bring a pot of chili, please let Kate know in the church office so we can make sure we have enough. Chili entries are kept anonymous, so please label your crockpot in an inconspicuous place!

VIPs: Mark your calendars for our second lunch of the year. It will be Tuesday, February 14 in the Fellowship Hall at 11:45 am. We will celebrate Valentines together VIP style. Please contact Sally Hines or Dorothy Lou Aldridge by Friday, February 10 if you plan on attending.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

FPC Members: Sarah, Cliff, and Sterlin Smith; Mary Kay McDowell; Keith & Cheryl Hayward; Scottye Boone; Jean Blackston; Leon McCullough; Family of John Edge, Family of Joe Murphey; Jane Henderson; Family of Dr. Bobby Kennedy; Doug & Margaret Fancher; 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; Marianna Ochs; Family of Lynton Dilley; Max Williams; Lydia Moak; Michele Howie

Family and Friends: Family of Richard Flautt; Family of Barbara Callery; Mike Flautt; Family of George Caffey; Family of Pat Ewing; Family of Dr. and Mrs. Gerry Foret; Family of Helen Nielson; 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

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

Today's service music presents portions of the lectionary readings in a variety of settings. We will encounter Christ delivering the Sermon on the Mount and hear the wisdom of the prophet Micah. May these offerings move our hearts to worship and turn our minds toward acts of compassion and justice.

As we gather for worship, we will hear Gordon Young's *Benedictus*. The title word means "blessed" and reflects the Beatitudes, a portion of Jesus' teachings at the opening of the Sermon on the Mount. Young's work is a beautiful chorale texture over soft supporting foundations. The middle section carries the nature of a doubt or question, as if portraying a supplication to God.

The prelude offering includes a congregational response. Suzanne Toolan's lovely setting of the *Beatitudes* features a solo voice singing the paraphrased scriptures while the choir and congregation respond with the constant refrain of assurance, "Blest, o blest indeed are you." The Beatitudes are featured in two Gospels: Matthew and Luke. While today's reading comes from the mountain in Matthew, Toolan's piece is adapted from Luke's account from the plain which shows us Christ addressing his followers directly ("Blessed are *you*...").

John Ness Beck's *Offertory* serves as the meditation between the two scripture readings (I Corinthians and Matthew), but rather than reflect one of these readings, this work proclaims the Word with an entirely different scripture: Micah 6:6-8.

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings? Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my first-born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man, he has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

The improvisation during the offertory is based on the Shaker song *I Hunger and Thirst*. The Shakers are a small American religious community known for their simplistic, unison singing carried on through oral traditions. *Simple Gifts* is a Shaker tune familiar to many and incorporated into our current hymnal as *Lord of the Dance*. *I Hunger and Thirst* is a moving text that emphasizes the connections made in the Beatitudes between physical and spiritual needs. Listen closely for the attempt to capture an ocean "without bottom or shore."

I hunger and thirst, I hunger and thirst after true righteousness;
in what I've obtained, in what I've obtained my soul cannot rest.
An ocean I see without bottom or shore.
O feed me I'm hungry, enrich me I'm poor.
I will cry unto God, I never will cease till my soul's filled with love;
love, perfect love, and sweet peace.

As we leave worship, we will hear *Entrata Festiva* by David Lasky. This processional piece features opportunities for solo trumpets, a perfect gift for this instrument. Full of joy, this music reminds us of the work we are called to share in as we go out into the world, a calling reinforced by our closing hymn: *And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion, and peace. Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*