

First Presbyterian Church
Energized by Grace

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*Fifth Sunday of Easter
and Baccalaureate Sunday*

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022

11:00 AM

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Lectionary Texts:

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Leviticus 19:9-18; Psalm 24:1-6; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

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 — *Morning Hymn*

Gordon Young

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of grace, you have come to us in Jesus Christ so we might have new life—here on earth with each other. You seek that we surrender to your grace and completely change our lives—so we might know new strength in you, so we might love beyond frustrations, so we might help and serve others as a witness to your power and grace. Be in all our days, for we pray in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

PRELUDE — *Prelude on Brynn Myrddin*

arr. William Endicott

INTROIT — *Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has made this day.

Let us rejoice and be glad.

The God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead raises us to new life daily.

Thanks be to God.

Glory be to God our Creator, to Jesus our risen Christ, and to the Spirit our Comfort.

Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!

† HYMN 15 (verses 1-4) — *All Creatures of Our God and King*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, we confess before you our slowness to embrace the new life you offer. You offer springtime to our souls, but we prefer the winter of coldness and indifference. Your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgement that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray, and give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

† 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.

† RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING SENIORS

Sallie Abernathy - Attending the University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and majoring in Accounting

Emory Barrios - Attending Belmont University, Honors College and majoring in Business and Dance Choreography

Charles Byars - Attending Washington and Lee University where he will be on the swim team and major in Pre-Med. Charles was chosen as the STAR student for the state of Mississippi.

Ella Chiniche - Attending the University of Mississippi and majoring in Journalism

William Lewis - Attending the University of Colorado and major is undecided.

Beckham McCord - Attending the University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and majoring in Psychology

Hassell Wilkinson - Attending the University of Mississippi, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and majoring in Broadcast Journalism, while minoring in Public Policy

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

PSALTER READING: PSALM 148

p. 716

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *Empathy*

Angela Kraft Cross

GOSPEL READING: John 13:31-35

p. 132

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON — "Discipleship 101"

Rev. Barrett C. Milner

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The 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 — *Aria*

Leon Nelson

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 250 — *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PROMISE

† 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 - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to His name.

POSTLUDE — *Recessional in C*

John S. Dixon

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 or 662-832-8606. All requests are held in strict confidence.

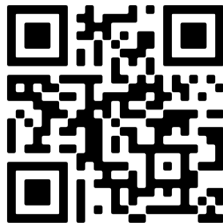
The church has two portable defibrillators on site if a cardiac event occurs. One is located in our office hallway by the east stairwell; the other is located in the library of the Education Building.

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, or call the church office.



TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Proclaiming the Word....	Rev. Barrett C. Milner
Liturgist.....	Dave Garvey
Director of Music.....	Creighton R. Holder
Ushers.....	Susan Abbott
	John Abernathy
	Sarah McLellan
	Pattye Wilson

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 15

9:45 am Baccalaureate Brunch
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes
 11:00 am Worship Service*
 12:15 pm Montreat Parent Meeting
 12:15 pm Fall Piano Studio Interest Meeting in
 Conference Room 101
 3:00 pm *Sounds of Spring Concert Series:*
 Community Hymn Festival

Monday, May 16

4:30 pm Finance Ministry Meeting
 5:30 pm AFF Ministry Meeting
 5:30 pm Arc Benders Cookout
 7:00 pm Boy Scouts - Troop 45

Tuesday, May 17

6:00 am Men's Breakfast @ The Beacon
 6:45 am Lula Gregory Circle
 6:00 pm Carroll Barr Circle

Wednesday, May 18

8:15 am Men's Bible Study
 4:30 pm Bibles & Brews @ The Growler
 5:45 pm Dinner and Class for Parents & Children
 6:45 pm Chancel Choir

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

**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 & 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 . . .

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of our graduating Seniors: Sallie Abernathy, Emory Barrios, Charles Byars, Ella Chiniche, William Lewis, Beckham McCord and Hassell Wilkinson by their parents.

Children's Programming and Parent Group: Parents, along with children and youth, will meet in Fellowship Hall at 5:45 pm for pizza, followed by our group discussion of the book *When Kids Ask Hard Questions*. There will be children's programming with Dave Garvey during this time. The evening will end at 6:45 pm. May 18 will be the last class for the semester.

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.

- FPC is recruiting volunteers to travel to western Kentucky for a long weekend to assist in the reconstruction effort following the devastating tornadoes that struck there last December. We will be heading there July 21-24. A Signup Genius will be available this week. Join us!
- Family Crisis Services requests new stuffed animals as comforting welcome gift to the 15-20 children the receive each month. Please bring your donated stuffed animal to the church office.
- Each June FPC is responsible for staffing the Pantry Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. Approximately 10 volunteers are needed each day to stock shelves and distribute groceries to clients in the drive-through. All FPC members ages 13 and up are invited to participate. A Signup Genius is in this month's FPC newsletter and Fast Facts. Any questions please contact missionteam@fpcxford.net. In the summer of '22 this could be your mission!

Sanctuary floral arrangement dates are available Sunday, May 22; 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 or call 662-234-1359. Contributions to the Flower Fund are greatly appreciated.

Sounds of Spring Concert Series:

- Sunday, May 15 at 3:00 pm—Community Hymn Festival
- 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 dish or appetizer.

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

Today's Psalter reading reminds us of the majesty in God's creation: *Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!* As we gather for worship, we will hear Gordon Young's lovely *Morning Hymn*. This piece captures the first light of day with harmonies that cascade down the keyboard each time a new idea begins. Although "hymns" are most associated with religious texts or poetry, they can also be instrumental pieces that were written with the intent of praise and celebration.

Continuing in our Eastertide celebrations, the prelude turns to a wonderful setting by William Endicott. *Brynn Myrddin* is Welsh tune by J. Morgan Nicholas (1895-1963) written for the text *Mawr oedd Crist yn nhragwyddoldeb* by Welsh Baptist minister and author Titus Lewis (1773-1811). A stunning setting full of solos that continue to build to a full conclusion, this work keeps joy alive as we give thanks for our Risen Lord.

Mawr oedd Crist yn nhragwyddoldeb,	<i>Great was Christ in life eternal,</i>
Mawr yn gwisgo natur dyn;	<i>Great on earth in man's disguise;</i>
Mawr yn marw ar Galfaria,	<i>Great in dying on Mount Calvary,</i>
Mawr yn maeddu angau'i hun;	<i>Great in conquering death itself;</i>
Hynod fawr yw yn awr,	<i>Mighty great is He now,</i>
Brenin nef a dawar lawr.	<i>King of heaven and earth in one.</i>

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 anxiety and stress of being a caregiver, this hauntingly beautiful music touches my heart and speaks to me in a direct way. Our Gospel lesson today comes from Jesus' lesson for his followers: *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.* "Empathy" means the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. It is a word synonymous with "togetherness," a state of being close to another person or other people. When we come together in mutual respect and love of our sisters and brothers in Christ, there is *nothing* that we cannot solve together. May this commandment stir our hearts to show more care and compassion for each other so that all will know who we serve.

Aria by Leon Nelson is a lovely work that harkens back to the Romantic period with its harmonies and forms. A modern composer, Nelson served a faithful career in church music for Presbyterian churches in the Chicago area.

As we wish our graduates all the best for the journey ahead, we will hear *Recessional in C* by John S. Dixon. With full organ and solo trumpet, this piece carries a hopeful voice and reminds us of the text from the previous hymn: *There's a dawn in ev'ry darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*