

# First Presbyterian Church

February 22, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.



*Embodying Christ's inclusive love through heart, mind, and service*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee  
*A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*  
**February 22, 2023 • Ash Wednesday**

*\*Please stand, in body or in spirit. Text printed in bold italics to be read in unison.*

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

The season of Lent sets us on a journey that begins in the wilderness.

***We follow the way of Jesus, who faced trouble and testing.***

Our call is to trust God, who does not leave us alone,

***For God leads us not only into the wilderness, but through it.***

**Psalm 95**

*Come, Let Us Praise the Lord*

*O come, let us sing in songs to God, our cheerful voices raise,*

*In joyful shouts let us the rock of our salvation praise!*

*Before God's presence let us come with praise and thankful voice.*

*Let us sing psalms of love and grace, and make a joyful noise!*

*To God the spacious seas belong, for God the same did make.*

*The dry land also from God's hand its for at first did take.*

*O come and let us worship God, let us bow down withal,*

*and on our knees before our Lord our Maker, let us fall.*

*O come, loud anthems let us sing, our voices high to raise*

*loud thanks to our almighty King, salvation's rock we praise!*

*Into God's presence let us haste with glad and joyful songs,*

*and giving thanks in love and praise that to God's name belongs.*

**A Reading**

**Psalm 121**

*I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes*

choir: *Up to the hills I lift mine eyes, the eternal hills beyond the skies;*

*Then all its help my soul derives, there my Almighty refuge lies.*

*Israel, a name divinely blest, may rise secure and securely rest.*

*Thy Holy Guardian's wakeful eyes admit no slumber nor surprise.*

all: *God guides our feet and guards our way, God's morning smiles bless all our day.*

*God spreads the evening veil and keeps the silent hours while Israel sleeps.*

choir: *No sun shall smite thy head by day, nor the pale moon with its gleaming ray  
shall harm thy soul, no baleful star shall send its burning fire so far.*

all: *On thee foul spirits have no pow'r, and in thy last departing hour,  
angels that trace the airy road shall bear thee homeward to thy God.*

**A Reading**

**Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline**

## Psalm 51

*Have Mercy on Me, O God*  
(choir sings verses, all sing refrain—see insert)

Refrain: *Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offense.  
Wash me, O God, from the stain of my guilt,  
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*My offenses truly I know them. My sin is always before me.  
Against you alone have I sinned. What is evil in your sight I have done.* (refrain)

*Create in me a pure heart; put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your Spirit.* (refrain)

*Defend me, O God, my Savior. My tongue shall sing out your goodness.  
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.* (refrain)

## Assurance of Forgiveness

### \*The Peace of Christ

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
***And also with you.***  
Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

### \*Sung Response

***We are forgiven; we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God, thanks be to God.*** (repeat)

## The Eucharist

### Invitation to the Table

#### Great Prayer

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Holy One, in this dry and weary land ... even dry bones in the valley of death stand to sing your praise:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.***

***Heaven and earth are full of your glory; hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus ... Do this in remembrance of me.

***When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.***

Now pour out your Holy Spirit ... all glory is yours, O God, now and always.

***Amen.***

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.***

## Breaking of the Bread Communion

*(As you come forward for Communion, you are invited to receive the imposition of ashes  
as a sign of penitence.)*

## Prayer after Communion

***Gracious God, thank you for feeding us at your Table. As we enter this season of Lent,  
encourage us with your presence, and sustain us with your Spirit; through Jesus  
Christ our Savior. Amen.***

\*Hymn 676

*Day is Done*

## Charge and Blessing

## Postlude

## Announcements

—We are grateful to members of this year's confirmation class and their mentors for their worship leadership this evening.

—This coming Sunday's schedule:

9:00 a.m.: Bible study classes; "Let's Talk about It" with guests Trish Tull and Tom Ochuka

10:30 a.m.: morning worship, Lenten sermon series: "Life in the Fast Lane"

11:50 a.m.: Conversation on Loss

—"Who Are We Presbyterians?": a 3-week series (March 12, 19, and April 2, after worship) for folks new to FPCOR that explores Presbyterianism in general and First Presbyterian Church in particular.

### Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We hope you feel the love that is present and our joy in having you with us. If you'd like to know more about First Presbyterian Church, let's talk! Please speak with Sharon or any of the ushers after the service.

#### ***First Presbyterian Church—A PC(USA) Congregation***

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❖ [fpcor.org](http://fpcor.org) ❖ on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge, TN

❖ On Instagram @firstpresbyterianchurchor ❖

Sharon Youngs, Pastor Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist Devin Earhart, Technical Assistant

Madison Hinkle, Office Manager

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