

First Presbyterian Church

October 31, 2021 • 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.)
October 31, 2021 • *Reformation Sunday*

(For the sake of brevity, we occasionally sing selected verses of hymns.)

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

With the faithful, as well as the foolish; with the voiceless, and those who talk too much:

We gather to praise our God.

With those who find it easy to follow, with those who stumble along the Way:

We rejoice in Jesus, who makes us whole, and calls us sisters and brothers.

With all who are heirs to the promises of grace, with all who share hope with others:

We give thanks to the Spirit of peace, who cradles us in the arms of hope.

Hymn 404

What Is This Place
(verses 1 and 2)

What is this place, where we are meeting?

Only a house, the earth its floor.

Walls and a roof, sheltering people,

Windows for light, an open door.

Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here,

And know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling.

Sparks that are sown in us like seed:

Names for our God, dreams, signs,

And wonders sent from the past are what we need.

We in this place remember and speak again what we have heard:

God's free redeeming word.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We search for your light, God, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Our Creator, for we are foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us find hope, instead of a destination; to find grace, instead of gratitude; to find salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love. Amen.

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

God Welcomes All
(sing twice)

(Glory to God, 399)

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.*

Scripture Reading

Psalms 42-43

Sermon

Why are You Cast Down?

Susan Reisinger

Affirmation of Faith (written by Bruce Prewer)

I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way. I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God. I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship. I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future. Because Christ has called me in this I truly believe. Amen.

Call to Prayer

Come and Fill Our Hearts
(sing twice)

(Glory to God, 466)

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (ecumenical)

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.

Hymn 778

As Pants the Deer for Living Streams

*As pants the deer for living streams, in dry or desert space,
I thirst for you, O living God; I long to see your face!*

O how I miss the happy days when with the throng I'd praise!

Take courage now, my trembling heart, for God will take your part!

Tears are my bread both night and day; fools crush me, soul and bone.

They laugh and ask, "Where is your God?" I hope in you alone.

Why cast me off? Where have you gone? Why is your grace withdrawn?

Take courage now, my trembling heart, for God will take your part!

Deep calls to deep, the billows roar; they cover me with pain.

I cry for healing and for home; God, show your love again!

Without your people, who am I? Without you I will die.

Take courage now, my trembling heart, for God will take your part!

O send your light to guide me home; my Savior, guide me still.

With shouting pilgrims I will come to climb your holy hill.

Then with the harp I'll sing your praise; my happy voice I'll raise.

Take courage now, my trembling heart, for God will take your part!

Charge and Blessing

Sung Response

Irish Blessing

*May the road rise to meet you, may the wind blow at your back,
May the sun shine warmly on your face. May the rain fall softly on your field,
And until we meet again, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.*

Postlude

✎ ✎ ✎
The flowers are given today by _____ to the glory of God
and _____.
✎ ✎ ✎

Announcements

—Thank you to Bob Cantrell for serving as our liturgist.

—Today we will celebrate a Fifth Sunday in two parts. Part 1 takes place after worship when Congregational Care & Welcome folks will trade you a bag of treats for canned goods for our food pantry. Part 2 is a churchwide movie night featuring the film *Coco* in the courtyard of the Activities building, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Bring a chair and your own snack and beverage. In the event of rain (none is expected), we'll be in the fellowship hall.

—**All Saints Sunday** is next Sunday, Nov. 7. Communion will be served, and we will remember those who have died this past year (since Nov. 1, 2020). If you have names you would like for us to remember, please send them to Adrienne at fpcadmin@comcast.net and include the name(s), date of death, and that person's relationship to you (e.g., parent, neighbor, colleague, friend, and so forth) so that we can include them in the bulletin. The deadline for submitting names is this Monday, Nov. 1.

Weekly gatherings

(See weekly emails for details.)

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. classes Early Birds; Rise 'n' Shine;
Let's Talk About It

11:30 a.m. Post-worship fellowship

Tuesdays:

12:15 p.m. Centering prayer

Wednesdays:

5:30 p.m. Midweek Bible study

First Presbyterian Church—A PC(USA) Congregation

P.O. Box 6106 ❖ Oak Ridge, TN 37831 ❖ (865) 483-1318

❖ fpcor.org ❖ on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge, TN

Church office open 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Sharon Youngs, Pastor Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist Devin Earhart, Technical Assistant

Lee Robinson, Children & Youth Coordinator

Adrienne Walker, Office Manager

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of FPC. You can mail your financial contribution to FPC (address above) or give online using the QR code here or via the link on fpcor.org.

