

# First Presbyterian Church

October 8, 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.)*

October 8, 2023 • Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship** *(from Psalm 84)*

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

***My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.***

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

***O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.***

Let us worship God!

**\*Hymn 652**

*A Grateful Heart*  
*(sung to the tune of hymn 254)*

**\*Invitation to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

*(a moment for silent confession)*

***God of abundant compassion, you formed us with your own hands and breathed life into our lungs. We are nothing without you. And yet, we go about our days with little to no acknowledgment of your presence. We excel at doing things our own way, rather than what you would have us do and be. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to recalibrate our hearts and minds, so that we might reflect your will in our words and our deeds; through Christ we pray. Amen.***

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\*The Peace of Christ**

Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace, not a halfhearted peace,  
but the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you all.

***And also with you.***

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

**\*Sung Response** *(from hymn 447)*

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.***

***Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.***

***Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

**First Scripture Reading**

Psalm 19:1-4, 7-14

**Anthem**

*Lord, You Call Us*

Haugen/Burkhardt

*Children are invited to go to the fellowship hall for an activity.*

**Second Scripture Reading**

Philippians 3:4b-14

**Sermon**

*Chasing Rabbits*

Sharon Youngs

**Musical Reflection**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (*adapted by members of FPCOR*)

***We believe in God, the Father Almighty, and in Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit. We seek to know God's will, to walk in God's ways, and to proclaim the Gospel to all people, by our lives as well as by our words. We work and pray for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human unity in our time. And we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness in our community and in our world. Amen.***

**Reception of New Member**

Will we, the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, surround and support Carol with our love and care, and will we share with her the good news of the gospel as we grow together and share Christ's love with all? ***We will.***

**Call to Prayer** (*hymn 184—first time, choir; second time, all*)

***Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind.  
Jesus whispers, "Peace, be still."  
Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end.  
In stillness, hear his voice.***

**Prayers of the People with 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 846**

*Fight the Good Fight*  
(*sung to the tune of hymn 607*)

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Sung Response**

*Irish Blessing*

(*inside back cover of hymnal*)

**Postlude**

❧                      ❧                      ❧

*The flowers today are given by Judy Greeson  
to the glory of God and in honor of her friends.*

❧                      ❧                      ❧

## **Announcements**

—Thank you to Chuck Hadden for serving as our liturgist this morning.

—Welcome to **new member Carol Howard!** Carol joins First Presbyterian Church by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church in Lake Placid, Florida.

—Sharon leaves tomorrow morning to lead a CREDO conference in Texas. She will be back in the office on Tuesday morning. Thank you to Larry and Carolyn Dipboye for covering any pastoral emergencies that may arise. They can be reached at [ldipboye@gmail.com](mailto:ldipboye@gmail.com) or (865) 640-5074.

—This Thursday, Oct. 12, is our **Welcome Table dinner**, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the fellowship hall. All are invited to this community meal! If you would like to help but aren't on the regular list, please speak with Barbara Reeve.

—Registration continues for those who'd like to participate in our **"Celebration of the Arts,"** Sunday, Oct. 29, after worship. Forms are available in the narthex or by calling Madison in the church office. For more information, contact Patty Barlow ([lovemysolara@hotmail.com](mailto:lovemysolara@hotmail.com)), Jo Kendrick ([jokendrick10@gmail.com](mailto:jokendrick10@gmail.com)), Darlene Sanders ([dsand46@aol.com](mailto:dsand46@aol.com)), or Elaine Wilson ([edw1955@aol.com](mailto:edw1955@aol.com)).

—Four identical churchwide **listening sessions** begin Sunday, Oct. 22, following worship. The other three are Oct. 23 (6:30 p.m., fellowship hall), Oct. 25 (6:30 p.m., via Zoom), and Oct. 30 (9:30 a.m., room 6). Choose the date that works best for you to attend and share your thoughts, hopes, and dreams for FPCOR in this post-pandemic time.

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

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

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

❖ On Instagram [@firstpresbyterianchurchor](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresbyterianchurchor) ❖

Sharon Youngs, Pastor    Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist    Madison Hinkle, Office Manager

*Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of FPCOR.  
You can mail your regular financial contribution to FPC (P.O. Box above)  
or give online using the QR code to the right or via the link on [fpcor.org](http://fpcor.org).*

