

First Presbyterian Church
November 12, 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.)

November 12, 2023 • Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship** *(from Psalm 116)*

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Come, let us praise God together!

Let us exalt God's name in the midst of all the people!

***Hymn 366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

(a moment for silent confession)

Great and loving God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust your direction and provision, we chase after our own happiness and hold onto more than we need. As a result, we miss opportunities to see you and to serve you. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Give us the grace to live confidently and expectantly, ready to do your will; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***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.

Anthem

Keep Your Lamps

arr. Thomas

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

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon

Oil Crisis

Sharon Youngs

Musical Reflection

***Affirmation of Faith** (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Call to Prayer (*hymn 184*)

***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 771**

What is the World Like
(*sung to the tune for hymn 450*)
(*verse 2, men; verse 4, women*)

***Charge and Blessing**

***Sung Response**

Irish Blessing

(*inside back cover of hymnal*)

Postlude

☞ ☞ ☞

*The flowers today are given by Phillis and Lewis Phillips
to the glory of God and in memory of their parents.*

☞ ☞ ☞

Announcements

—Thank you to Sally Moyer for serving as our liturgist and to Teresa Gross for sharing her musical gifts with us this morning.

—During worship today we receive our annual offering to the Christmas fund for the Morgan-Scott Project (MSP). Please write “Morgan-Scott Christmas” on the memo line of your check, or give online in the usual way and designate your gift for this purpose. MSP works to identify the needs of and provide solutions for people in peril in neighboring Morgan and Scott counties.

—Next Sunday, Nov. 19, we will have our traditional Thanksgiving feast in the fellowship hall after worship. The Congregational Care and Welcome Committee will provide turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls, and drinks. Please bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert dish for 10 to 12 people to share as we count the many blessings the Lord has given us. If you don't have a dish to share, please come anyway. There's always plenty!

LOOKING AHEAD

Nov. 23-24: Office closed for Thanksgiving

Nov. 26: Decorating for Advent/Christmas

Dec. 3: First Sunday of Advent

First Presbyterian Church—A PC(USA) Congregation

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❖ 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 Green, Office Manager

*Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of FPCOR.
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or give online using the QR code to the right or via the link on fpcor.org.*

