

First Presbyterian Church
November 19, 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 19, 2023 • Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all nations upon the earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth its increase; may God, our own God, bless us.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

***Hymn 612**

We Praise You, O God

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

(a moment for silent confession)

God our Maker, you have never failed in your presence and watchcare over us. And yet, we confess that we are not as faithful in our remembrance of you. We forget to thank you, taking for granted your loving gifts to us. We neglect to express our gratitude to you by reaching out to help our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray. Grant us a renewed spirit of thanksgiving and willing hands to serve you; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Reception of New Members

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

***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

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Anthem

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Forrest

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

Second Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Sermon

A Hand Full

Sharon Youngs

Musical Reflection

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all, and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; and in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful, so to be the church, for the glory of God. 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**

All of Life is Filled with Wonder

***Charge and Blessing**

***Sung Response**

Irish Blessing

(inside back cover of hymnal)

Postlude

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*The flowers today are given by Paul Akers and Barbara Reeve
to the glory of God and with thanksgiving for the birth of Melanie Akers.*

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Announcements

—Thank you to Dave Mullins for serving as our liturgist this morning.

—Welcome to our newest members, Valerie Blickhahn and Erynn Yant, who both join First Presbyterian Church this morning by profession of faith.

—The Affirmation of Faith in this morning’s liturgy is from Iona Worship Resources.

—All are invited to our traditional Thanksgiving feast in the fellowship hall after worship today. If you didn’t bring a dish to share, please share in the meal anyway. There’s always plenty when Presbyterians have a meal!

—Today, the Social Concerns Committee kicks off our annual sponsorship of the Angel Tree project to benefit the children of Anderson County’s Early Head Start Daycare, which is housed in our Education building. In the fellowship hall is a Christmas tree with tags on it containing a child’s name and information to help with gift choices for the child. Each child’s gifts will need to be wrapped, tagged, and returned to the fellowship hall on Sunday, Dec. 3 or Sunday, Dec. 10. Large holiday bags will be available to consolidate gift packages for each child. The gifts will be distributed to the children on Monday, Dec. 11.

LOOKING AHEAD

Nov. 23-24: Church office closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Nov. 26: Susan Reisinger, guest preacher; decorating sanctuary for Advent/Christmas

Dec. 3: First Sunday of Advent

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

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

Sharon Youngs, Pastor Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist Madison Green, Office Manager

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