

# First Presbyterian Church

July 9, 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.)***

July 9, 2023 • Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship** *(from Psalm 133)*

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

***It is like the precious oil on the head, running down the beard  
and over the collar of Aaron's robe.***

It is like the dew on Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

***For there the Lord ordained God's blessing, life forevermore.***

**\*Hymn 402**

*How Lovely Lord*  
*(verse 1, choir; verses 2 and 3, all)*

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

*(a moment for silent confession)*

***Merciful God, you call us to turn away from behaviors and attitudes that separate us from you and from others. And yet, we confess how easy it is to do what we know is wrong. We rationalize our bad decisions and make excuses for our hurtful words and actions. We find it difficult to love our enemies and pray for their well-being. Forgive us. Teach us to live with generosity and compassion, so that our words and our deeds may bring honor and glory to you; through Christ our Lord 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**

***Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.***

***Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.***

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

Anthem

*How Can We Worship God*

Duck

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:38-42

Sermon

*Picture This:  
Viewfinder*

Sharon Youngs

Musical Reflection

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed (traditional)*

***I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Call to Prayer

***God, be the love to search and keep me;  
God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God, be the strength to now uphold me:  
O Christ, surround me;  
O Christ, surround me.***

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.***

Mission Moment

**\*Hymn 684**

*Faith Begins by Letting Go*

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Sung Response**

*Irish Blessing*

*(inside back cover of hymnal)*

Postlude

✎                      ✎                      ✎

*The flowers today are given by Sharon Youngs  
to the glory of God and in memory of her father, Barna,  
who is probably perched at his favorite fishing hole in heaven this morning.*

✎                      ✎                      ✎

## **Announcements**

—Thank you to Don Spong for serving as our liturgist this morning, and to Beth Noelle for sharing her musical gifts with us.

—Beginning today and running through the end of the month, you are invited to contribute to a special offering for a charity named RIP Medical Debt. Each dollar received is converted into \$100 of purchased medical debt relief. The Presbytery of East Tennessee (PET) has set a total goal of \$25,000 for its congregations to meet in 2023, which will relieve \$2.5 million in debilitating medical debt in our region. The FPCOR Social Concerns Committee is hoping to raise \$5000 toward the PET goal, which would be converted into \$500,000 of purchased medical debt relief. Make your check payable to FPCOR (with “RIP Medical” on the memo line) or donate online using the QR code on this page (select “Other Funds” and “RIP Medical” in the comment).

—We have a special treat for our Welcome Table dinner this Thursday, July 13, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the fellowship hall! Joe Everitt is smoking pork and Jack Graham is adding his homemade barbecue sauce. Filling out the menu is cole slaw (with homemade dressing), potato salad, rolls, brownies, and fruit. Y’all come!

—Those who are participating in the Alpha program at MCRRC will be here for a retreat this coming Saturday, July 15. Volunteers are still needed to help. Please speak with Joe Everitt (865-898-4518) if you are interested in food or kitchen duties, or with Rosalyn McKeown-Ice (503-689-6175) if you are interested in participating in the program or worship.

### ***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 ❖

Sharon Youngs, Pastor    Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist    Devin Earhart, Technical Assistant

Madison Hinkle, Office Manager

*Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of FPC.  
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.*

