

First Presbyterian Church

September 17, 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.)
September 17, 2023 • Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

It is good to give thanks to God,

for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Who will tell of the Lord's mighty acts and make God's praises heard?

Those who act justly and do right at all times.

Let us worship God.

***Hymn 667**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

(a moment for silent confession)

God of grace, we are quick to seek your mercy. And yet, we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged. The forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend. And yet, we withhold compassion and carry a grudge over petty items. You never break covenant with us. And yet, we withdraw from relationships at the first sign of difficulty. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to forgive others in return; in the name of Jesus 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.

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

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 103:1-5

Anthem

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

Rumbling with Forgiveness

Sharon Youngs

***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.

Call to Prayer (*from hymn 62*)

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart.
Love the Lord your God with all your soul.
Love the Lord your God with all your mind.
Love the Lord your God with all that you are.***

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 619**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

***Charge and Blessing**

***Sung Response**

Irish Blessing

(inside back cover of hymnal)

Postlude

✿ ✿ ✿
The flowers today are given by John Drake and Patty Barlow to the glory of God.
✿ ✿ ✿

Announcements

—Thank you to Sherrie Fairchild-Keyes for serving as our liturgist this morning.

—Today we receive the **Hunger Fund offering**. Your gifts to this quarterly offering support our work to lessen food insecurity in our community and surrounding areas, including ADFAC, Second Harvest, local food pantries, and our own Welcome Table community meal. Checks can be made to FPCOR with “hunger” on the memo line, or you can give online via the QR code below. Thank you.

—Next Sunday, Sept. 24, is the next installment of our **Science and Theology Lecture Series**, sponsored jointly with First United Methodist Church. An international peacemaker with the PC(USA), Angie Wuysang of Indonesia will speak on the ethics of eating different foods, eco-theology, and environmental ethics during the current climate crisis. The lecture begins at 1:30 p.m. in our fellowship hall.

Looking ahead:

—**Oct. 29: “Celebration of the Arts.”** After worship that Sunday, FPCOR members, guests, and staff are invited to display their creative works of art, including photography, pottery, weaving, decorative baking, needlework, woodworking, writing, and much more. Exhibited items will be for display only (not for sale). Adults, youth, and children are encouraged to submit their original works of art. Registration is required to participate. Forms are available, beginning today through Oct. 15. (To register online, please contact Madison in the church office.) For questions about this exciting event, please contact Patty Barlow (lovemysolara@hotmail.com), Jo Kendrick (jokendrick10@gmail.com), Darlene Sanders (dsand46@aol.com), or Elaine Wilson (edw1955@aol.com).

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 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.

