

# First Presbyterian Church

September 24, 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 24, 2023 • Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship** *(from Psalm 105)*

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,  
***make known God's deeds among the peoples.***  
Sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works.  
***Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.***

**\*Hymn 18** *Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator*

**\*Invitation to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

*(a moment for silent confession)*

***God of unending compassion, we rely on your mercy, while expecting you to punish the wicked. We seek to be faithful in our service to you, while assuming you will give slackards their just due. We are quick to count ourselves among your chosen, while presuming you will leave the undesirables to fend for themselves. Forgive our blatant arrogance, Lord. Remind us that your lavish grace extends to all, so that we might celebrate with joy your extravagant love in and through others—especially where we least expect it; in Jesus' name 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**

Isaiah 55:6-11

**Anthem**

*Maya's Prayer for Peace*

Angelou/Trenney

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

**Second Scripture Reading**

Matthew 20:1-16

**Sermon**

*The View from the Back of the Line*

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.***

**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.***

**Moment for Mission**

**\*Hymn 754**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Sung Response**

*Irish Blessing*

*(inside back cover of hymnal)*

**Postlude**

✧                      ✧                      ✧

*The flowers today are given by Sherrie Fairchild-Keyes to the glory of God  
and in memory of her father, Phillip Fairchild.*

✧                      ✧                      ✧

## **Announcements**

—Thank you to Mimi Tilley for serving as our liturgist this morning. And special appreciation to Devin Earhart, who is finishing his time with us as our technical assistant.

—This afternoon 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.

—Next Sunday, Oct. 1, is **World Communion Sunday**. We will receive the annual Peace & Global Witness offering, which enables the PC(USA) to promote peacemaking and reconciliation and address systems that perpetuate violence. FPC will retain 25% of the offering for use in local and regional peacemaking initiatives. To give, make a check payable to FPC and note “Peace” on the memo line, or use the QR code below to give online. Thank you!

—Might you be available to help make 50 sandwiches for the upcoming Access Oak Ridge Fair on Oct. 7? Please see our weekly eNews for details or talk with Sharon.

—You are invited to host our fellowship time after worship on Oct. 1. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board just inside the fellowship hall entrance from the narthex. Please see Elaine Wilson for details.

—**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 ([lovemysolarahotmail.com](mailto:lovemysolarahotmail.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)).

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

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❖ [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 FPC.*

*You can mail your regular financial contribution to FPC (P.O. Box above)  
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