

First Presbyterian Church

September 3, 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 3, 2023 • Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

God calls us each by name as we gather on holy ground.

We come to this place, seeking to know the great I AM.

Let us worship God.

***Hymn 316**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

(a moment for silent confession)

Sometimes it sounds too hard: deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives? Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us. Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us. We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road we must take. Have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our stumbling. Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow, and lead us in your ways of peace.

***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	Romans 12:9-21	
Anthem	<i>I Choose Love</i>	Miller
Second Scripture Reading	Exodus 3:1-15	
Sermon	<i>The Bush Is Still Blazing</i>	Don Thomas
Musical Reflection		

***Affirmation of Faith** *(adapted by members of FPC)*

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 313** *Lord, Make Us More Holy*

***Charge and Blessing**

***Sung Response** *Irish Blessing* *(inside back cover of hymnal)*

Postlude

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*The flowers today are given by Kiersten Ruisard and George Hine
to the glory of God and in memory of Gunnar Bickhardt.*

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Announcements

—Thank you to Don Thomas for preaching this morning while Sharon is out and to Chuck Hadden for serving as our liturgist.

—The **church office** will be closed on Monday and Tuesday this week.

—Our monthly **Brewing Questions** commences this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (check the weekly eNews for the link). Grab your favorite beverage and a question that's on your mind and join in!

—**Church Life & Witness will not meet today** but will instead meet next Sunday, Sept. 10, after service.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We hope you feel the love that is present and our joy in having you with us. If you'd like to know more about First Presbyterian Church, let's talk! Please speak with Sharon or any of the ushers after the service.

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 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.*

