

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LEWISBURG, TENNESSEE

Service for the Lord's Day

Eleven O'clock

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020

CHIMING OF THE HOUR *Let us prepare ourselves for worship*

PRELUDE "Arioso" (J.S. Bach)

Naphtali Rothrock, Organist/Pianist

Robert Montgomery, Pastor

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP —Based on a prayer of Clement of Rome (1st century)

We pray to you, O God: **be our helper and protector.**

Save the afflicted, **have mercy on the lowly,**

raise up the fallen, **help the needy,**

humble the proud, **return the lost,**

feed the hungry, **release the captive,**

heal the sick, **revive the weak,**

and comfort those in fear.

All this we ask for the sake of the world you love, and in the name of the one you sent to save us: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*SILENT MEDITATION ON THE LYRICS: "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine" Hymn #839

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Most holy God, grant that we may never be satisfied with anything less than your holiness and purity. Teach us how to live for you, remembering that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Grant that we may think clean, generous, humble thoughts, and harbor none that stain the mind or dim our vision of you. May our words be always filled with grace, remembering that our very breath comes from you, and that all those to whom, and about whom, we speak are human beings created in your image. So cleanse our hearts and minds that we may see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Time for Silent Prayer and Confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI (SOLO)

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SPECIAL MUSIC

"A Resting Place"

(Jay Rouse)

SCRIPTURE READING: **Matthew 13: 31 - 33, 44 - 52**

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every

kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Response after the Reading: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: **Romans 8: 26-39**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "*For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.*"

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SERMON

*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.

*SILENT MEDITATION ON THE LYRICS:

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

Hymn #833

PASTORAL PRAYER, CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY: *Thank You for your continued donations to this church in the collection plates at each door or through the mail.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

“Toccata in D Minor”

(J.S. Bach)

**The congregation is asked to stand together, as each is able.*

On Our Hearts and in Our Prayers:

Family of Waverly Duning • Family of Nancy Crowder (Ken’s mother) • Family of Bobby Chaffin (Kathryn Hawkins’ father) • Jim Goodman • Our Village Manor and at-home members • Lois Purcell • Joe B. Brandon • Carolana Callaway • Barbara Wright • Family of Ernest Henegar • Family of Brad Bradley, especially Nancy • Family of Richard McBride (Dina’s brother-in-law) • McDaniel Family (Phyllis’ death) • Phillips Family (cancer/relatives of LuAnne Crocker) • Margaret Haynes (friend of the Cobles) • Drew Davidson (broken hip) • Stephanie Webster (McLains’ daughter) • Sammie Fox • Melissa Eason • Suzanne Porter (Joe B’s sister) • Stacy Harris (Joy Davis’ friend) • Janet Franklin • Patti McGilton (Joe B’s niece) • Adam Perryman • Deborah Hunter • Joan Hooten • Ed Lambert • Front-Line healthcare workers • D.J. Gould

July Birthdays: Kathryn Hawkins- 9 • Thomas Hawkins- 10 • Anne Brandon- 11 • Carson Coble- 15 • Billy Coble- 17 • Tanya Moss-19 • Love Smith- 19 • Sophie Smith- 22 • May Tansey- 29

July Anniversaries: Billy and Marsha Coble- 2 • Tommy and Betsy Leonard-31

Announcements and Reminders

Sunday Morning Class The session recently decided to offer adult Sunday School at 10 AM for those who would like to attend in person. The class will meet in the old fellowship hall, and everyone will be asked to wear masks and scatter out across the room as much as possible to maintain social distancing.

Scholarships Normally, July would be the month that we would honor our kids headed back to college and make our annual scholarship presentations. This is obviously not a normal year, so we will be hand-delivering scholarships to this year to Tyler and Cooper Moorehead, Annie Haynes, Chelsea Coble and Hutton Foster.

School Supplies Needed Regardless of what decisions are finally made about the opening of schools, it is time for our annual drive to collect backpacks, paper, pencils and other supplies. You can drop them off at the church Monday-Wednesday, 8 AM to 4:00 PM. Call first to confirm that someone will be in the office on Thursdays and Fridays.

Financial Reports for June are on the front pews on either side of the sanctuary, if you would like to pick one up. The church’s finances have remained stable this year, thanks to everyone’s generosity.

Donations to Help Others: Based on everyone’s generosity and some returns on our investment funds, the session voted to send \$5,000 as a one-time donation to HOPEtown to help with rent and utilities during these tough times, as well as \$4,000 to the presbytery to help churches that our struggling financially because of the pandemic. Thank you to everyone for making it possible for us to send help to those around us!

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