

Service for the Lord's Day

Eleven O'clock

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

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

PRELUDE *"Tis the Blessed Hour of Prayer" (arr. May Lawrence)*
Naphtali Rothrock, Organist/Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Robert Montgomery, Pastor

OPENING PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)** *from Psalm 103*

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all God's gifts--

God forgives all your iniquity, and heals all your diseases,

God crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

And satisfies you with good as long as you live.

The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

HYMN SOLO: *"Fairest Lord Jesus" Hymn #630*

CALL TO CONFESSION:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

O God, it is good to humble ourselves and open our hearts to you. You know all our ways, including our worst habits of thought and action. You know, Lord, how we have failed to love you with our whole hearts. You know how often we have avoided loving our neighbors by making their needs a priority, but instead focused only on ourselves. We confess that we have no right to cast stones of criticism at others, since we ourselves are sinners. Yet you still love all people and freely forgive, always ready to renew your Spirit's work in each of us for the sake of Jesus Christ. So now we pray that you will take us in your hands to heal us of our sins and to shape us so that we may help heal the hurts of others.

(Time for Silent Prayer and Confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *from Psalm 103*

God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

***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: *"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" (arr. Phillip Keveren)*

SCRIPTURE READING: **Matthew 18: 21-35**

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon

one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

SCRIPTURE READING:

Romans 14: 1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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.

HYMN SOLO:

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Hymn #724

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:

"Praising the Almighty"

(Edward Broughton)

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

On Our Hearts and in Our Prayers:

Joy Davis • Family of Alice Leonard Higgins (Tommy Leonard's sister) • Family of D.J. Gould (Denise Foster's mother) • Family of Clinton "Pat" Beatty • Our Village Manor and at-home members • Lois Purcell • Joe B. Brandon • Carolana Callaway • Barbara Wright • Robert Wright (Bruce's brother/cancer) • Margaret Haynes (friend of the Cobles) • Drew Davidson (broken hip) • 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 • Students, teachers and staff • Refuge Ministries' programs • Millie Williams • Ray Steely

September Birthdays: John Morgan Thomas-3 • Bill Lawrie-6 • Morgan Thomas-8 • Mary Ann Clift-12 • C. J. Coble-17 • Joe B. Brandon-17 • Carolana Callaway-20 • Annette Lawrie-21 • Steve Haynes-22 • Brady Phillips-24 • Hale Hawkins-24 • Becky Coble-25 • Andy Atkins-27 **September Anniversary:** Mike and Melody Spence -9

Announcements and Reminders

Session Meeting Tomorrow, 5:30 PM Session members, you can find reports in your mailboxes, and the reports will also be e-mailed to you.

Our Services Are Now on the Web and Facebook Thanks to the technology upgrades that Jason Hutton has helped us make, and with Darrick Gatlin's work on our webpage, you can now find our services on the church's website www.fpclewisburg.org and also on Facebook each Sunday. You can find the FB link on our webpage, as well.

Sunday School Classes are now meeting in-person. The "library class" is now meeting in the old fellowship hall, and that class is available on WebEx at 10 AM. The "new" adult class led by Darrick Gatlin is meeting in the McMillion-Lawrie Building at 9:45 AM. Masks and social distancing are requested of all attending.

Sunday, September 20 A Time of Remembrance During our worship service on Sunday, September 20, we will have a time of remembrance for those who have died during 2020, especially those who died during the pandemic when it was so difficult or impossible to hold funeral and memorial services. Please send us the names of anyone whose name you would like added to the list of those we will read during our worship. If you would like to send us a note about the person, or their obituary, we will post those on the main bulletin board in the hallway outside the sanctuary. There are so many in our church and surrounding community who have been touched by grief during the last several months.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study by Zoom Starting September 16 If you would like to join the study, just let Robert or Darlene know and we will email or text you the link.

First Presbyterian Church

122 2nd Avenue North

Lewisburg, TN 37091

Church Phone: 931-359-3398

E-mail: fstpreslewisburg@gmail.com

Website: FPCLewisburg.org