



First Presbyterian Church
Lewisburg, Tennessee

Service for the Lord's Day
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Eleven O'clock

June 27, 2021

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

PRELUDE: "Sarabande" (Giuseppe Tartini)
Naphtali Rothrock, Organist and Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Robert Montgomery

OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE) *Lamentations 3: 23-26*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: "Morning Has Broken" # 664

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)

O God, we confess that there is a voice in us that says we really have nothing to confess, especially compared to the sins of other people. Like the Pharisees of old, we are tempted to take enjoyment from thinking that we "are not like other people." Like the religious leaders of old, we are sorely tempted to think "we know" and so can judge others as if we see them exactly the way you do. We confess we have trusted too much in what we see with our eyes rather than in what you see in the heart.

For what you seek is a heart hungry for what Jesus offers and thirsty to be filled with what only your Holy Spirit can bring. What you seek is people who truly seek you, perhaps because at last they know they have tried to fill themselves up with all the wrong things from all the wrong places.

O God, do not let us become self-satisfied or self-righteousness regardless of what has happened in our lives, good or bad. Keep us seeking you in our very hearts and souls no matter how long we have been in church—or not.

Help us now not to be afraid because of any past failures but to seek afresh the true life that Jesus Christ alone can give. Forgive us for when we have not had ears to hear and our hearts have been far from you. Call us home, whenever we stray. Fill us with life that is truly life. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Time for silent prayer and confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI (CONGREGATIONAL)

**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

PIANO SOLO: *Pilgrim's Chorus from "Tannhauser"* (Richard Wagner)

SCRIPTURE READING: **2 Corinthians 8: 7-15**

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is

appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, *“The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”*

Response after the Reading: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Choir; Robert Neumeyer, Director

SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 11: 1-15

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘*See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.*’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. Let anyone with ears listen!

SERMON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (UNISON)

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.

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”

465

PASTORAL PRAYER, *concluding with the Lord's Prayer in unison*

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 contributions to our church through the collection plates at the front and back of the sanctuary and 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:

"Prelude in Bb Major"

(J.S. Bach)

On Our Hearts and in Our Prayers

Mary Ann Clift • Ken Crowder (back) • Lawrence Moorehead (Hugh's father) • Judy Horton (Becky Coble's mother) • Carolana Callaway • Nancy Bradley • Micah McClendon • Joe B. Brandon • Suzanne Porter (Joe B's sister) • Stacy Harris • Janet Franklin • Patti McGilton (Joe B's niece) • Adam Perryman • Deborah Hunter • Ed Lambert • Cathy Whitmore • Phil and Flora Allen • Nate Estes • Jim and Roxie Gibson • Robbie McDaniel • Genevieve Stegall • Ann Floyd • Kande Wyatt • Larry Johnsey • Betty Blackwell Welch • Family of Terry Beatty • Luke Reeves • Jerry Wayne Weaver

June Birthdays: Maggie Phillips- 23 • Patricia Hawkins-23 • Tim Holder-25 • Dylan Kilpatrick- 26 • Timothy Hawkins-28

June Anniversaries: Don & Beverly McLain – 21 • Brian & Carolana Callaway -27

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

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

Announcements and Reminders

We're glad to welcome Frank Sullivan, the Director of HOPEtown, as our guest preacher this morning. Frank and Julie have done wonderful work on behalf of our entire community and all our churches. We are grateful to have Frank preach this morning and update us on recent (amazing) developments at HOPEtown.

HOPEtown Summer Food Drive With kids out of school, many families will see their food expenses going up. Healthy canned foods and staples are a real help, if you can buy some extras on your summer grocery shopping trips.

NaCoMe Family Weekend We are making plans for our elementary school kids to go to NaCoMe on July 2-4. Other ages are welcome. Please see Anne Brandon for more details.

Session Meeting Notes:

- We plan to begin serving the Lord's Supper using our communion trays again starting with the first Sunday in August. Pre-packaged communion elements will also continue to be available in the pews for those who prefer them.
- **Please mark your calendars for HOMECOMING SUNDAY on August 29. We will have invitation cards for everyone to hand out very soon.** If you would be willing to help with the preparations, please let Robert or Tim Holder know.
- We will have a congregational meeting on Sunday, July 11, in order to elect the next class of session members.

Information to Join Our Services from Home

- **Option 1:** Join to listen by phone (audio only)
Dial: **1 312 626 6799**
Meeting ID Number: **819 8291 3549**, Press # as a participant, if asked
When it asks for a Password: **372**
- **Option 2:** Listen and watch via the internet by computer or smart-phone:
Go to **www.Zoom.com**
Click "**Join a Meeting**" near the top of the screen
Zoom may ask permission to install software on your computer. That is normal.
Meeting ID Number: **819 8291 3549** Password/Passcode: **372**
- You can join via Facebook Live or after the service through our website:
www.fpclewisburg.org.

First Presbyterian Church

122 2nd Avenue North
Lewisburg, TN 37091
Church Phone: 931-359-3398
E-mail: fstpreslewisburg@gmail.com
Website: FPCLewisburg.org

Contact Information for the Pastor
205-902-7576 or RHMont4@gmail.com

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Church Staff

Pastor.....Robert Montgomery Choir Director.....Robert Neumeyer
Organist/Pianist....Naphtali Rothrock Office Manager....Darlene Roberson
PYF Coordinator...Nick Phillips Nursery Worker.....Shelby Crosslin

Contact Information for the Pastor
205-902-7576 or RHMont4@gmail.com

The Session (Elders)

(Regularly Stated meeting on the second Monday of each month, 5:30 PM)
Moderator..... Rev. Robert Montgomery Clerk.....Dina Crigger
Church Treasurer.....Elinor Foster

Class of 2021
Elinor Foster
Roy Lambert
Hugh Moorehead

Class of 2022
Pat Davis
Jeff Foreman
Bob Phillips

Class of 2023
Anne Brandon
Dina Crigger
May Tansey

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Claude McMillion

Elders Emeriti
Joe B. Brandon
John Hursh

Organist Emerita
Annette Lawrie