

Ninth
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time

June 2, 2024
10:30 A.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 81

Sing aloud to God our strength.

Shout for joy; raise a song!

With Miriam, we will sound the tambourine.

From new moon to full moon, we praise the God who has freed our hands

From the brick baskets of Egypt.

With Moses, we praise God, who feeds us with the finest of wheat

And with honey from the rock.

*OPENING PRAYER

O God of Creation and Sabbath, you know us better than we know ourselves. You formed our inward parts and wrote the book of all our days; you made the Sabbath for us and revealed to us your glory and our identity in the face of Jesus Christ, who healed and fed his people. May we accept your invitation to Sabbath rest, not a rest that comes after all that we can accomplish, but the rest of those who have been set free, even as you bring about a world in which all creation can cease from striving, through the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Stephanie Dube

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may return to sit with their families.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The hardness of our hearts grieves God. We prefer to follow our own counsel rather than to seek and submit to the counsel of God. Confessing our sin, may God soften our hearts and guide our feet to walk in the ways of faithfulness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the outstretched arm, though you lead us into freedom, we choose again and again the chains of sin. Forgive us, we pray, for bowing to the false gods of our time: We believe that we have made ourselves rather than being made in your image—the work of your hands. We practice legalism against others, yet expect exceptions for ourselves. We rest in ease, while others bear heavy burdens on our behalf. Heal us where we are withered in hand or heart or faith. Stretch us beyond what we have managed or imagined, to live as you intend and command. In the name of Christ, who came to set us free. Amen.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God promises to break our hearts of stone, to give us hearts for love alone.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

**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. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 69)

HERE I AM

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, as a deep breath fills our lungs with air, so fill us with your Spirit as we hear your Word this day. Ground us in your love, convict us with your truth, and move us to respond, that we may embody your good news in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 (OT p.162)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 81:1-10 (OT p.541)

A song of God's covenant people. **Amen.**

Mark 2:23-3:6 (NT p.36)

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from a Brief Statement of Faith—Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God

delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

This is the Day

Dan Forrest

This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.
The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my song, He has become my salvation. (from Psalm 118)

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sung by all:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!** *The prayer continues.*

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Prepackaged gluten-free elements are available in the baskets near the communion stations. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and eternal God, you are as far away as the distant stars and as close as our breath. You meet us at this table and we discover our hearts burning within us. Go with us as we leave this place, so that your light and your life may shine brightly for all to see. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 315

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matthew Covington* | Liturgist: *Janice Odom*

Communion Servers: *Patti & Jerry Price*

We welcome **Rev. Matthew Covington** back to our pulpit today. Matthew recently retired after 21 years of serving as pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The Life of the Church

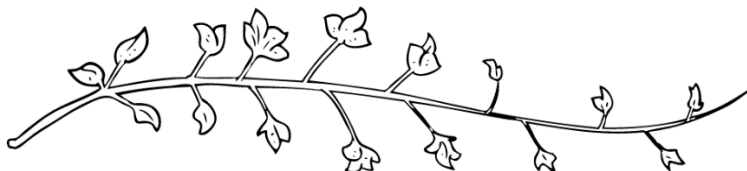
Worship and Wonder will be taking a break during the months of June and July. We look forward to having kids in worship with us. Books and activity bags will be available in the Sanctuary.

SpiritLifters, our monthly dinner fellowship group, will meet at Famous Bistro this Wednesday, June 5, at 5:30 P.M. Please let Jerry Price know if you would like to attend. All are welcome!

Southern Gospel Sunday is set for June 16. We will have special music during the service and will gather following worship for a meal in Fellowship Hall.

The Prism Arts Alliance will be hosting panel discussions in our Fellowship Hall at 5:00 P.M. each Saturday evening in June to educate the community on issues related to understanding and supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

- June 8: Trans 101
- June 15: Queerness and Faith
- June 22: Parenting a Queer Child
- June 29: Fostering LGBTQ+ Creativity



You are invited to make a gift to support our church's ministry of sharing God's love:

- As the offering plate is passed
- By scanning the QR code to the right
- Online at fpcobky.com/give
- Or by contacting the church office to set up automatic withdrawals





First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

1328 Griffith Avenue | Owensboro, Kentucky | 270.684.1467



fpcobky.com



FPCOwensboro



[fpcobky](https://www.instagram.com/fpcobky)

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SESSION

Debbie McCoy, Clerk
Pat Corkran
Tom Furlong
Creda Heffelfinger
Debbie Hutchinson
Don Preuss
Jerry Price
Patti Price
CeCe Robinson
Brad Smith
Mary Lou Taylor

DEACONS

Susan Furlong
Judy Hughes
Janice Odom
Beverly Swanson
Karen Taylor
Patti Burns Taylor

STAFF

Jeff Moles
Director of Christian Education
& Mission; Organist

Stephanie Dube
Director of Children's &
Youth Ministries

Dennis Jewett
Director of Music

Sasha O'Bryan
Office Manager &
Pastoral Assistant

Dylan Schroader
Custodian

Debbie Hutchinson
Interim Staff Accountant