



Bible Quilt, Harriet Powers, 1885-1886

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Twenty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Sunday, September 10, 2023
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

When two or three are gathered together,

God is in their midst.

We gather to proclaim the promises, to retell the stories,

To remember who we are as people of God.

Let us worship!

*OPENING PRAYER

Direct and help us, O Lord, in all our deeds, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 396

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Marrett Baker, Killian Brailsford, and Jay Hamilton

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Ezek. 33:10-11

Our sins weigh us down, and we struggle to live in freedom and joy. When we turn and return to the God who loves us, God finds pleasure. We turn now, confessing our sins against God and neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ezek. 33, Matt. 18, Ps. 119

From evil, even when it masquerades as good,

Merciful God, deliver us. *A brief silence is kept after each petition.*

From selfishness and vain desires,

Merciful God, deliver us.

From irresponsible behaviors, quarreling, and jealousy,

Merciful God, deliver us.

From hurtful disagreements and irreconcilable differences,

Merciful God, deliver us.

Turn us away from the death sin inflicts. Lead us into the abundant life Christ brings. Forgive us, we pray, and teach us to forgive, through Jesus Christ.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Laying aside the works of darkness, we live in the light of Christ. Gathered in Christ's name, surely he is among us, full of grace and truth.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and lifted up to new life. 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.**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Awaken our hearts and minds to your Word, O God. Give us understanding so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we are able to do all that you command for love's sake. Gathered in Christ's name, gathered around the Word, we pray. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalms 119:33-40 A song of God's covenant people. **Amen.**

Matthew 18:15-20 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“As a Tax Collector and a Gentile”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Book of Order, F-1.0301

The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community in the world:

- **The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.**
- **The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation.**

- The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.
- The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Service Worship Sunday

Tom Furlong

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Dale Wood

To this temple, where we call Thee, come of Lord of hosts, today;
with Thy wonted loving-kindness hear Thy servants as they pray. (Latin hymn, 7th Century)

*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 small 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

O God, send us out from our Lord's table to answer his summons into new life and to follow him with joy and gladness. Set our feet in his holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life and all we do may show forth his love. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 377 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* HOUSTON

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry* | Liturgist: *Suzanne Guyer* | Communion Servers: *Debbie McCoy & Bill Jansing*

The Life of the Church

Apple Cider Making is set for this afternoon at 2:00. Tina Temple has invited us to her farm for an afternoon of working together to make cider. Please bring a clean, empty jug so you can take some home. Bring a side dish so we can enjoy dinner when the work is done. Tina will be providing meat, so please RSVP to the church office so we will know how many to expect.

Tina's farm is located at 1124 State Route 657, Lewisport, KY 42351. From Owensboro, take Hwy 60 to Lewisport. At Jumpin' Jack's Truck Stop, turn right onto State Route 657. Follow the road for about a mile. The Temple's farm is the third home on the left, the driveway between white fences.

Service Worship Sunday is coming up next week, September 17, which means our Sunday morning schedule will be very different. Please see the insert for complete details.

Youth Group will officially kick off the year with a parent meeting on Sunday, September 24 at 5:00pm. In October, we will begin a new schedule of meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Middle school youth will meet 4:00-6:00 and high school youth will meet 5:00-7:00.

The Nominating Committee is beginning its work of discerning who it should present for election as church leaders for 2024. If you are interested in serving as an elder, deacon, or trustee, or know of someone who would be great for one of these roles, please contact Debbie Hutchinson or the church office.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.





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.



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Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Tyler Simpson, Organist
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider