



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day ~ Graduation Sunday



~The Gathering~

Prelude

Miles Lane (March)
Tami Newsom, organ

Wright

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Call to Worship

Our God gathers us here.

We have been tested, we have suffered, but God has brought us through.

Come, let us tell of what God has done for us!

We cried aloud to God, and God listened and answered.

Therefore, we will praise God with shouts of joy!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Hymn #473

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

~continued next page~

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Text: Foliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838. Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861. Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

Prayer of Confession

Holy One,

We love you imperfectly: we do not always keep your commandments.

**We love each other imperfectly: we hurt those you call us to love
through our actions and our inaction.**

**We love ourselves imperfectly: we struggle to believe that we are truly your
children, made in your image.**

Forgive us.

**By the power of your Spirit, make us more faithful that we might live
as Christ has shown us, reflecting your love and grace.**

(please continue in silent prayer)

Kyrie Eleison



For give our sins as we for - give, you taught us Christ, to pray, but_

you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

From: *Lift Up Your Hearts: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs*. 2013 Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI.
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Declaration of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

**I praise the Christ of God; I rest on love divine,
and with unfaltering lip and heart I call this Savior mine.
My Lord has saved my life and freely pardon gives;
I love because he first loved me, I live because he lives.**

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Diademata



The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

~The Word~

Prayer for Illumination

Kirk Morris

**Come Holy Spirit, our helper and advocate: Open our hearts and minds this day,
entice us with your presence. Spark us with a word of life – a message that we
may share with others as we seek to live Christ's love in the world. All this we ask
in the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us. Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: John 14:15-21
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Psalm 66 (unison; Tune: Dix)

Morgan

1. **Make a joyful noise to God!
All creation sings Your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed,
Unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is Your sacred name,
Ages old, yet still the same.**

2. **Come and see what God has done;
Great the blessings to the just;
Walked the chosen through the sea;
Brought their enemies to dust.
Let us lift a thankful voice
For God's mercies and rejoice!**

3. **Bless the Lord, our refuge sure;
Let your song of praise be heard!
By whose justice, we are tried;
By whose grace, our guilt deferred.
When our life's sure end shall come,
bring us to Your heav'nly home.**



Second Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Reason for the Hope Within You”

Rev. Matt Nieman

~The Response~

*Affirmation of Faith (from Acts 17)

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

The Anthem

One More River To Cross
Men’s Ensemble

arr. Rentz

Old Noah, he once built the ark, there's one more river to cross;
and stuck it together with hickory bark, there's one more river to cross.

There’s one more river and that’s the river of Jordan.

The animals went in one by one, the elephant chewing a caraway bun,
the animals went in two by two, the crocodile and the kangaroo.
By three, by four, by five, by six, by seven, by eight, by nine and ten!!!

Call for the Offering

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

Sabbatical Send-Off Liturgy

Jessica Lewis: We wish Godspeed to Matt as he begins his sabbatical.
Congregation: **As you journey, Matt, we ask God to guard you from harm.**
Pastor Matt: God's peace be with you as I leave to walk in new places.
Congregation: **God dwell with you while we are away from one another.**
Pastor Matt: God's blessing on you while I am gone from you.
Congregation: **God fill you with a light spirit as you spend time with old friends and make new ones; as you study, visit new surroundings, and travel to familiar ones.**

Pastor Matt: I thank God for my ministry with you and the gift of this time you've given me.
Congregation: **May you experience the gift of spiritual growth in your journey.**
Pastor Matt: I pray God gifts you, also, with the taste of transformation.
Congregation: **God grant you a trusting heart as you plant your feet and heart in new places. We send you with our blessing.**

Pastor Matt: Pray for me while I am gone. And I will be in prayer for you.
Congregation: **We will pray that you return renewed and energized for ministry.**

Pastor Matt: I go seeking those gifts. I will pray that you, too, are keeping the Sabbath so that you might be renewed to serve in God's name.

Jessica Lewis: Let us pray. Spirit of God, let the dancing that's meant to be in Matt start its movement anew. Renew him for ministry through this time set aside for reflection and study, the refreshment of a break from daily tasks and routine, and the excitement of new learning and direction. Grace him with your presence and keep him steadfast in the faith while he and the congregation are gone one from another.

All: **Amen.**

~ The Sending ~

Hymn #145

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

Marion

**Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.**

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

**Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.** *Refrain*

**At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest.** *Refrain*

**Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.** *Refrain*

Text: Edward Hayes Plumtre, 1865. Music: Arthur Henry Messiter, 1883
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response #104

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Hymn to Joy

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, See, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**



If you would like the church office to record your attendance today, you can:

- Scan this QR code and click on the generated google doc link, or
- Go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance>, or
- Email the office at office@fpcn.org

Our Men's Ensemble sings today in honor of the women of our congregation!

We give thanks for all of our wonderful FPC Moms. We are truly blessed!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Olivia Colloredo

OLIVIA IS GRADUATING FROM HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY ON MAY 26. SHE WILL ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA IN THE FALL WHERE SHE WILL MAJOR IN NURSING.



Evelyn Snelling

EVELYN IS GRADUATING FROM FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL ON MAY 21. SHE HAS MANY INTERESTS AND IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING FUTURE CAREER OPTIONS.

Congrats!

CLASS OF 2023!

We are so proud of you and ask for God's love, guidance, and protection in everything you do.



Evening Rockers

will be "sailing" to the Tellico Village Yacht Club on May 20th at 6pm with dessert to follow at the Hickman's. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please contact Irene Rice, 865/675-4804, with any questions.

Special thanks to Wayne and MaryAnne Walls, Gayle Williams, and Kathy Emmerson for feeding the homeless in April at [Volunteer Ministry Center](#). If you would like to help this month, sign up in the narthex or contact May 16th coordinators, Jim and Linda Scothorn.



Special welcome to our newest members who joined the flock last Sunday:

Larry and Jane Byars, Tom, Cheyanne, Eli and Mia Feldhausen, Dave and Megan Figel, Bob and Gwen Mitchell, Debbie Schwartz, Tara, Evie, and Grace Taylor, and Gail Wallace. There is an insert listing our newest members to add to your current directory in the narthex. Be sure to grab one and introduce yourself!



I am the vine, you are the branches. — John 15:5a

As Matt begins his sabbatical on Monday, May 15, we will begin to pray alongside him as a family of faith. We encourage you to make your commitment to travel with us by adding your name to the list posted on the whiteboard before or after worship or by calling the church office. A guide featuring daily readings from the Psalms is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/Sabbatical-Prayer-Guide>.

*Joining Our Family of Faith
in Prayer:
A Sabbatical Journey*



We welcome Jessica Lewis, candidate for ordained ministry, as our summer worship and pastoral leader while Pastor Matt is on sabbatical this summer.

We are happy to announce that Jessica Lewis will be joining us as Temporary Supply for most of mid-May through mid-August, the period of Matt's sabbatical. Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Jessica attended Maryville College and received her BA in Biology in 2007. Through a connection with Rev. Anne McKee, she moved to Laurel, Mississippi in 2008 to work as the Director of Christian Education at First-Trinity Presbyterian Church. During that time, she married her husband, Josh, and her family has grown to include 3 sons: Patton, Jack, and Noah.

In 2020, they moved back to East Tennessee where she is Program Director for MAST (Maryville Adventures in Studying Theology) a partnership between Maryville College and the Presbytery of East Tennessee. Through this program, she helps lead the Small & Mighty Youth Group Collaborative with Mason Warren. Jessica is a candidate for ordination in the Presbytery of East Tennessee and will finish her seminary studies later this year. Since Jessica is not yet ordained, our own Reverend Hal Oakley has graciously agreed to fill in where necessary.

Peace from the Sabbatical Team, *Liz Preston, Sharon Koch, John Begovich, and Kirby Purjet.*

The **PENTECOST OFFERING** will be collected on May 28, Pentecost Sunday. This offering will help the Church to encourage, develop, and support its young people and address the needs of at-risk children. Sixty percent of our offering will be given to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and 40 percent will be retained for distribution to a local agency to make an impact in the lives of young people. The Outreach Committee has chosen the *Boys and Girls Club of Tennessee Valley* as the local agency recipient. This group supports economically disadvantaged children in Knox, Blount, Loudon, and North Anderson County. For every dollar invested in Boys and Girls Club of Tennessee Valley, there is a \$12.47 positive economic impact in the community. Please consider making a contribution during this Special Offering.



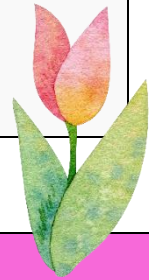
Pentecost Sunday



SAVE THE DATE! for a **Summer Kick Off** family event on Sunday, May 28th at 4:00 p.m. Location and details to follow in next week's bulletin.

This Week at FPC

Sun, May 14	9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship		
	*****	*****	HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
	*****	*****	GRADUATION RECOGNITION SUNDAY
Mon, May 15	10:00	p.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
	5:00	p.m.	Church Life Committee/Room A
	7:00	p.m.	Property Committee/Library
Tues, May 16	10:00	a.m.	PET Stated Meeting/Westminster Presbyterian
	10:30	a.m.	Feed the Homeless /Volunteer Ministry Center
	11:30	a.m.	Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
	7:00	p.m.	COURT OF HONOR Boy Scouts #444/FH, N, A, Sanc
Wed., May 17	11:30	a.m.	Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
	6:00	p.m.	Tennessee Valley Players (TVP) Rehearsal/FH/N/RmA
	7:30	p.m.	Chancel Choir/Sanctuary
Thur, May 18	7:00	p.m.	Thursday Night Bible Study/Zoom
Fri, May 19	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
	7:00	p.m.	Gentle Yoga/Narthex
Sat, May 20	2:00	p.m.	TVP Rehearsal/FH/Room A/Sanctuary
	6:00	p.m.	ROCKERS /Tellico Village Yacht Club



Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Class	Room	Topic
Adult Bible Study	Outside or in the Parlor in bad weather	This class discusses the Lectionary text from the sermon, and still meets under the trees in good weather and in the parlor in bad weather.
Monday Connection/Pastor Matt's Class	Library	Monday Connection class and Pastor Matt's class are studying the book, "In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land" by Max Lucado. This pastor and New York Times bestselling author offers an unforgettable journey following Jesus through his life on earth, and gives you a chance to see the Holy Land and God's heart for humanity in a brand-new light.
Youth	Summer break	The youth Sunday School class is on summer break and will resume in August



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To praise God, welcome all, serve others, grow in faith, and make disciples of Jesus Christ.