



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8, 2026

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart.

—John Calvin

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

O For a Closer Walk with God (Caithness)
Healey Willan

WELCOME

Dr. Darren Kennedy

INTROIT

O Lord, Open Thou Our Lips
Richard Webster

O Lord, open thou our lips, and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. John Musgrave

Leader: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

All: Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?

Leader: The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

All: Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

Leader: Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle!

All: The LORD of hosts—he is the King of glory!

*OPENING HYMN 1

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
NICEA

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dr. Sandra Randleman

FIRST LESSON | Micah 6:6-8 (page 779)

Vic Apple (8:30)
Dr. Elisabeth Kennedy (11:00)

⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

⁶ بِمِ أَنْتَقَدَّمُ إِلَى الرَّبِّ وَأُنْحِنِي لِلإِلَهِ العَلِيِّ؟ هَلْ أَنْتَقَدَّمُ بِمُحْرَقَاتٍ، بِعُجُولِ أَبْنَاءِ سَنَةٍ؟ ⁷ هَلْ يُسَرُّ الرَّبُّ بِالْوَفِّ الكِبَاشِ، بِرَبَوَاتِ أَنهَارِ زَيْتٍ؟ هَلْ أُعْطِيَ بِكِرِي عَنِ مَعْصِيَتِي، ثَمْرَةَ جَسَدِي عَنِ خَطِيئَةِ نَفْسِي؟ ⁸ قَدْ أَخْبَرَكَ أَيُّهَا الإِنْسَانُ مَا هُوَ صَالِحٌ، وَمَاذَا يَطْلُبُهُ مِنْكَ الرَّبُّ، إِلا أَنْ تَصْنَعَ الحَقَّ وَتُحِبَّ الرَّحْمَةَ، وَتَسْلُكَ مَتَوَاضِعًا مَعَ الإِلهِ.

⁶ Bima ataqaddamu ila al-rabbi wa anhani lil'ilah al-'aliyy? Hal ataqaddamu bimuhraqatin, bi 'ugoulin abna'i sana? ⁷ Hal yusarru al-rabbu bi 'uluf al-kibash, biribwati anhari zaitin? Hal u'ti bikri 'an ma'siyati, thamaratu

jasadi ‘an khatiyati nafsi? ⁸ Qad akhbaraka ayyuha al-insan ma huwa salih, wa madha yatlubuhu minka al-rabbu, illa an tasna‘ al-haqqa wa tuhibbu al-rahma, wa tasluka mutawadi‘an ma‘a ilahika.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Ryan Moore (8:30)

Rev. Sara Hill (11:00)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

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.

Whether you are a longtime member or a guest, please mark your presence by signing the friendship pad and greet those seated near you as you pass it along.

‡BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

‡During the 8:30 and 11:00 services, PreK and Kindergarten children (ages 4–6) are invited to join Young Children & Worship.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (8:30)

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Abigail and Jubal Miller are presenting their daughter, Beverly Ann Miller, for baptism.

Assisting Elder: Ellie Billington

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Matthew 6:25-34 (page 811)

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

What Is First?

Dr. Mark Labberton

OFFERTORY

O How Amiable
R. Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be always praising thee. The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handiwork, O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

As you reflect on the Lord's goodness, you can make an offering by dropping your gift in the offering plate, texting "GIVE" to 707-475-3005, or donating online at fpcnashville.org.

INSTALLATION OF DARREN KENNEDY (11:00)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF THE SERVICE	Dr. Ryan Moore
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATE (see back of bulletin)	Chris Williams
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION (see back of bulletin)	Jane Smith
PRAYER OF INSTALLATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER	Dr. Adam Neder
DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION	Chris Williams
CHARGE TO THE PASTOR	Dr. Jeffery O'Grady
CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION	Dr. Shane Berg

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (8:30)

Adrian Taylor

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.

*CLOSING HYMN 265

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
DUKE STREET

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You
Peter Lutkin

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Fantasia in C Minor, BWV 537
J.S. Bach

** Those who are able, please stand.*

SYMPATHIES

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of

Sylvia Rogers Graham, who died February 11.

Eleanor Lawson Willis, who died February 13.

John M. Johns, who died February 27.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*

Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*

Darren Kennedy, PhD – *Associate Pastor for Discipleship*

John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*

Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*

Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*

Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*

Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

Acolytes – Lauren Pitman, Ryan Pitman, Lylah Hill, Georgia Moore

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of George W. Turner by his wife and children.

SUPPORTING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

You can make a gift or fulfill a pledge payment by placing your gift in the offering plate, texting "GIVE" to 707-475-3005, donating online at fpcnashville.org, or scan the QR code.



WELCOME

First Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. Since 1814 First Presbyterian has sought to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good. We are rooted in the Reformed, orthodox, and evangelical traditions of the larger church. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you!

Hearing Assistance App Directions

Join FPC_guest WiFi network. You must be connected to this network for the app to work. Download the WaveCAST app. Open the app and select "First Pres Sanctuary." Plug in your headphones and adjust the volume to your preference.

To **livestream** worship or to view past services, visit youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville.

Sunday Morning for Families

On Sunday mornings, children are welcome in worship alongside their families. **Nursery** care is available for ages 0–3 in the Nursery Wing from 8:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m., with a Mother and Infant Quiet Room nearby.

Children ages 4–6 are invited, following the Blessing of the Young Disciples, to Young Children & Worship (Pickup in Room CW 110 after the service). **Older children** remain in worship, where activity bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance. At 9:45 a.m., children of all ages are invited to the Education Hour. Nursery through 3rd grade gather in the Children's Ministry lobby for check-in and pickup. Preteens (4th–5th grade) check in outside Room CC 131, while 6th graders in Confirmation gather outside Room E201 in the Oak Hill C-Wing.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday | Mar. 29

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Services

Maundy Thursday | Apr. 2

5:30 p.m. Dinner | Courtenay Hall

6:30 p.m. Service (Communion) | Sanctuary

Good Friday | Apr. 3

5:30 p.m. Dinner | Courtenay Hall

6:30 p.m. Service | Sanctuary

Easter Day | Sunday, April 5

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service | Sullivan Gardens

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

MUSIC NOTES: *Caithness* by Healey Willan Music - ©1960 Alfred Sacred All rights reserved OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Be Thou My Vision* by David Evans Tune: © 1927, Oxford University Press All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *O How Amiable* by R. Vaughan Williams © 1940 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by Peter Lutkin Text: © 1959, Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895.

COVER IMAGE: Unknown artist. *Frescoes in the garden of the Hanging Church (Church of the Virgin Mary)*, Old Cairo. Cairo, Egypt. Date unknown. — From the garden frescoes of the Hanging Church in Cairo, this image speaks quietly of God's care across time and place. As we welcome new pastoral leadership during the Third Sunday of Lent, we are reminded in Gospel of Matthew 6:25–34 to trust in the God who provides.

New Baby Reception | Today | 4:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall — This is a special gathering for families in our church who have welcomed a new baby! This reception is designed for parents and their little ones to meet other families, make new connections, and build bonds within our church community. We'll enjoy meaningful moments of fellowship, uplifting music, and a time of prayer for your family and your child. We look forward to celebrating this exciting season with you and your little one! Questions? Contact Rev. Mallory Hammond at mhammond@fpcnashville.org.

Service Opportunity with Nueva Vida | Tuesday, Mar. 10 | 4:30–7:30 p.m. — Looking for a meaningful way to serve? Help pack and distribute food to our neighbors in need through the Nueva Vida Food Project. Whether you're sorting items, stocking shelves, or offering a warm smile, your time makes a real impact. No experience necessary—just a willing heart! We're looking for up to five volunteers each evening. If you're interested in joining or have any questions, reach out to Adrian Taylor at ataylor@fpcnashville.org.

Lenten Vesper Services | Wednesdays through Mar. 25 | 6:30 p.m. — Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. as we journey through Lent, remembering God's faithfulness and trustworthiness and remembering our great need. Worship in Stanford Chapel with candlelight, beautiful music, meaningful meditations, and the Lord's Supper.

Next Mahjong Open Play is on Mar. 11 — We're excited to offer Mahjong as a fun way to build intergenerational community at our church. This is not a competitive league, but a welcoming space to connect through a game many already enjoy and others are eager to learn. Bring your tiles if you have them and sit with varying play abilities. Daytime open play sessions for all levels will be held 12:30–2:30 p.m. on Mar. 11, 25, Apr. 8 and 22 in the Cheek House. Registration is requested to ensure enough tables and coaches are available. Sign up at fpcnashville.org/mahjong.

Easter Floral Dedications | Due by Mar. 27 — Memorialize or honor loved ones with a contribution to the Flower Fund. Your donation helps purchase the decor beautifying our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday and Easter Day. Names of those being memorialized or honored will be printed in the Easter morning bulletin. Last day to submit a dedication is March 27. To make a dedication and contribution, pick up a form from the Narthex or Hospitality Center or submit your dedication online at fpcnashville.org/flowers

Youth Spring Serve Saturday | Saturday, Mar. 28 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. — Join us for a Saturday morning of meaningful service as we partner with one of our local mission organizations to make a real impact in our community. We'll head out together, spend the morning serving, then enjoy lunch and take time to reflect on what God is doing in and through us. Come ready to work, connect, and grow—this is a day you won't want to miss!

Easter Festival | Sunday, Mar. 29 | 3:30 p.m. — We hope you'll join us for the Easter Festival on Sunday, March 29, at 3:30 p.m. There will be an Easter egg hunt, family games, a cake walk, and a time to sing and hear the story of Palm Sunday.

Interested in getting more connected? — Whether you're a guest or a longtime member, fill out the Connect Card to get more involved, update your contact information, or sign up for church communications. Drop your completed Connect Card in the offering plate so we can follow up! For information about becoming a church member or attending an Inquirers Class, contact Membership and Connections Coordinator, Julia Wilk (jwilk@fpcnashville.org).

FIRST FRIENDS

Gatherings for adults, retired and not-so-retired! Register online or contact Sally Ostheimer (sostheimer@fpcnashville.org). For more information, visit fpcnashville.org/first-friends.

Book Club: *The Jackal's Mistress* | Tuesday, Mar. 17 | 2:30–3:45 p.m. — This month's book is *The Jackal's Mistress* by Chris Bohjalian. Based loosely on a true story, this is a suspenseful Civil War tale, with a bit of romance, that raises some interesting moral questions about war, violence, loyalty, and friendship. Our selections feature contemporary and historical fiction, as well as an occasional memoir or biography. We welcome all book lovers to join us and participate in these lively and thought-provoking discussions. Book suggestions are always welcome! ZOOM opportunities are available.

Luncheon & Speaker Series: Elder Law and What To Know | Thursday, Mar. 19 | 12:00–1:30 p.m. — This month we have the honor of a well-known Elder Law attorney, Barbara Moss, who concentrates her practice on elder law issues. Come and enjoy a meal for just \$10 per person. To ensure proper planning, please register in advance. Online registration and payment are preferred. Please note that credit cards can now be used for payment at the luncheons.

Day Trip: Chattanooga Medal of Honor Heritage Museum | Thursday, Mar. 26 | 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. — Join us for a day in Chattanooga learning about Medal of Honor recipients. Lunch will be Dutch Treat at the Maple Street Biscuit Company. We will meet in the church parking lot in front of the administrative offices to load the bus at 7:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15, which includes snacks on the bus. Please pay in advance on the church website, or to Sally in person. For additional information contact Sally Ostheimer at 615-298-9551 or sostheimer@fpcnashville.org.

INSTALLATION OF DARREN KENNEDY

Commission Members and Guests:

Shane Berg, PhD, National Presbyterian Church

Sally J. Hughes, MDiv, TE Honorably Retired Member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

Elisabeth Kennedy, PhD

Mark A. Labberton, PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary, Member of the Presbytery of San Francisco

Ryan V. Moore, PhD, First Presbyterian Church of Nashville

Adam Neder, PhD, Belmont University

Jeffrey V. O'Grady, MDiv, Honorably Retired Member of the Presbytery of San Gabriel

Jane Smith, RE, First Presbyterian Church of Nashville

J. Christopher Williams, RE First Pulaski, Moderator of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATE | *Book of Order*, W-4.0404

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Will you be a faithful minister of the Word and Sacrament, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Do we, the members of the church, accept Darren Kennedy as our associate pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for Darren, to encourage him, to respect his decisions, and to follow as he guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

Do we promise to pay him fairly and provide for his welfare as he works among us; to stand by him in trouble and share his joys? Will we listen to the Word he preaches, welcome his pastoral care, and honor his authority as he seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?