



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 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

Yielding to God's will can be hard. And sometimes, it really hurts. But it always brings peace.
—John M. Perkins

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

At the Name of Jesus
Robert Lind

WELCOME

Rev. Mallory Hammond (8:30)
Rev. Sara Hill (11:00)

SPIRITUAL

Ride On, King Jesus
Alice Parker | Robert Shaw

Congregation joins in singing the refrain:

Ride on, King Je - sus, No man can hin - der me,
5
Ride on, King Je - sus, No man can hin - der me.

I was but young when I begun, no man can hinder me. But now my race is almost done, no man can hinder me. *Refrain*

King Jesus rides on a milk white horse, no man can hinder me. The river of Jordan he did cross, no man can hinder me. *Refrain*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. John Musgrave (8:30)
Gage Arnold (11:00)

Leader: King Jesus comes, King Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah.

All: Hail! King Jesus, King of all!

Leader: Recall the words of the Scriptures: "A great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!'"

All: In praise we adore you, King Jesus. Enter our hearts today as you entered Jerusalem long ago, and lead us by faith in the way everlasting. Amen!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 196

All Glory, Laud and Honor
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Adrian Taylor

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

Little Grey Donkey
Natalie Sleeth

Little grey donkey, little grey donkey, little grey donkey, ho. Do you know just who it is you carry on your back? 'Tis no ordinary load, no mean or common pack. You are blessed of all beasts to carry into town Christ the Lord of Galilee; he wears no earthly crown. Little grey donkey, little grey donkey, little grey donkey, ho. Yonder is a grassy hill; it's known as Calvary. Up against the cloudless sky a barren cross you see. Little grey donkey, little grey mare, don't hide your head in shame. For you bear the Lamb of God, and Jesus is his name. For you bear the Lamb of God, and Jesus is his name.

FIRST LESSON | Psalm 118:19-29 (page 511)

Sam Cook (8:30)
Beth Alexander (11:00)

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. ²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵ Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! ²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. ²⁹ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Sandra Randleman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O King of glory, we confess that our praise of your majesty has often been faint, our performance as citizens of your kingdom treasonous. For we have surrendered to the enemy by our secret and our known sins. For our treason you died, Lord Jesus. For our restoration, you rose again. Draw us closer to you in this holy week, that our eyes may catch the vision of your tears, and our hearts, the wonder of your grace. By the Holy Spirit's continuing discipline, let us be loyal and loving servants of the King. Praise be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you,

All: **And also with you.**

At this time, please stand and pass a greeting to your fellow worshippers.

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

The Power of the Cross
Getty | Townend

**Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day. Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then nailed to a cross of wood.**

**This the pow'r of the cross. Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath. We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**Oh to see the pain written on your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed crowning your bloodstained brow.**

**This the pow'r of the cross, Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath. We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath quakes as its maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life. "Finished!" the vict'ry cry.**

**This the pow'r of the cross. Son of God slain for us.
What a love, what a cost. We stand forgiven at the cross.**

*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.

HYMN OF PREPARATION 223 (8:30)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
HAMBURG

ANTHEM (11:00)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Bob Chilcott

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down; did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Matthew 7:24-29 (page 812)

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” ²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Kingdom Authority

Dr. Ryan Moore

...the crowds were astonished at his teaching... —Matthew 7:28

OFFERTORY

Benedictus
Karl Jenkins

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Darren Kennedy

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 197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
ELLACOMBE

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You
Peter Lutkin

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Variations on a Bass
Henry Coleman

** Those who are able, please stand.*

SYMPATHIES

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of
Audrey Kennedy Brown, who died March 24.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*
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*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*
Josh Hickman, Timpani
Austin Hoke, Cello
FPC Children's Choir, Kevin Salter, Director
Sanctuary Singers, Greg Thomas, Director
Acolytes – Ella Hancock, Mattie Grace Pearson, Caroline Cahill, Elyse Cahill

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.

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COVER IMAGE: Unknown Artist. *Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem*, fresco, nineteenth century, Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Bitola, North Macedonia.

Easter Festival | Today | 3:30 p.m. | Front Fields — All ages are invited to join us for the Easter Festival today 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. Please enter via Franklin Pike entrance.

Office Closed for Easter Monday | Apr. 6 — The church office will be closed in observance of Easter Monday on Apr. 6.

The Space Between: Holding both Hope and Heartache | Tuesday, Apr. 7 | 4:30 p.m. | Vance Hall — FPC Elder and Licensed Professional Counselor Lauren Ross will present on how, in a world of conflicting emotions, holding both hope and heartache is deeply uncomfortable. She will explore how, as Christians, we can turn to God for the strength to navigate this discomfort. Hosted by the Stephen Ministry.

Next Mahjong Open Play | Wednesday, Apr. 8 | 12:30–2:30 p.m. — 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 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.

Intergenerational Esther Women's Study Begins | Mondays, Apr. 13 – May 18 | 9:30–11:00 a.m. — We are so excited to invite you to an intergenerational study of the book of Esther. Each week we'll gather as a large group and then break into smaller discussion groups as we explore how the story of Esther points to a God who fulfills his promises to his people and creates redemptive patterns in human events. Cost is \$10 and includes a study guide. Those who participated in the Ruth Study may use their existing book at no cost. Registration is required (fpcnashville.org/esther), and childcare is provided. Led by Rev. Mallory Hammond and Ellie Richmond. Questions? Contact Ellie Richmond at erichmond@fpcnashville.org.

Small Vases Needed — Each week, volunteers repurpose our sanctuary flowers into several smaller arrangements and deliver them to homebound members of our church family. These arrangements bring cheer and encouragement to those who cannot worship with us in person. We are in need several small vases, approximately 5 inches high, preferably with a curve at the top. Vase donations can be dropped off at the Hospitality Center. Thank you for supporting our ministry of encouragement.

MISSIONS

Kenya Interest Meeting featuring Stu Ross | Thursday, Apr. 9 | 5:00–6:00 p.m. | Vance Hall — Stu Ross, our mission partner in East Africa, will be joining us in person on April 9th to share about the mission trip to Kenya scheduled for September 14-25, 2026. Anyone interested in learning more about the trip is welcome! The meeting will take place in Vance Hall. Please reach out to Adrian Taylor with any questions.

Blood Drive | Wednesday, Apr. 15 | 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall — Someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds due to an accident, disaster, or illness. Roll up your sleeves to help save lives in your community by giving the gift of life by donating blood at our next blood drive. Sign up on our website or in person in Courtenay Hall between services on Apr. 12. Register at fpcnashville.org/blooddrive.

Matthew 25 Meal Service Project | Sunday, Apr. 19 | 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. — Serve alongside your church family to serve a meal at Matthew 25, a Christ-centered residential facility for men recovering from poverty, addiction, and homelessness. Come spend this Sunday evening in service and fellowship – older children welcome if accompanied by a parent! Sign up at fpcnashville.org/matthew-25.

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.

Luncheon and Speaker Series: Dr. Darren Kennedy | Apr. 16 | 12:00–1:30 p.m. — New Associate Pastor of Discipleship, Dr. Darren Kennedy, will join us for our April luncheon. Darren brings nearly three decades of ministry experience, including 26 years as a PC(USA) missionary in Cairo. We can look forward to learning more about his life in Egypt. Enjoy a delicious meal prepared by our own Chef Kim Rogers 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.

GENERAL FUND GIVING SUMMARY

YTD AT FEB 28, 2026

Actual \$1,055,499

We are grateful for your faithful giving and your commitment to the life of our congregation. Your generosity sustains the ministries we share and strengthens our work in the community. Above is this month's financial summary.

MAUNDY THURSDAY | *Thursday, April 2*

5:30 p.m. Dinner | Courtenay Hall

6:30 p.m. Service* | Sanctuary

On Maundy Thursday, we will gather for dinner and worship to remember Jesus' final meal with his disciples. Worship recounts Christ's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and we will partake in the Lord's Supper. Childcare will be provided during the service. Register for dinner and childcare at fpcnashville.org/easter.

GOOD FRIDAY | *Friday, April 3*

5:30 p.m. Dinner | Courtenay Hall

6:30-8:00 p.m. Service* | Sanctuary

This service will feature selected movements from Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, a profound and rarely performed masterpiece that has shaped Christian worship for centuries. Through Scripture and extraordinary music, we are invited into a solemn and beautiful encounter with the depth of God's redeeming love as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. Childcare will be provided during the service. Register for dinner and childcare at fpcnashville.org/easter.

EASTER DAY | *Sunday, April 5*

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

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

7:00-10:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast | Courtenay Hall

A joyful morning of worship proclaiming the heart of the Gospel: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. The tomb is empty, and he promises new life for all creation. Once an instrument of suffering, the cross is transformed into a symbol of victory. Bring flowers from home to help "flower the cross" as you enter worship—a beautiful symbol of resurrection. Nursery care for ages 0-3 opens at 7:45 a.m. No Sunday School.

**Service will be livestreamed.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 6 | Church Office Closed for Easter Monday

Apr. 7 | 4:30 p.m. | The Space Between: Holding both Hope and Heartache Talk

Apr. 8, 22 | 12:30-2:30 p.m. | Winter Mahjong Play

Apr. 8, 15, 22 | 6:00-8:00 p.m. | Spring Mahjong Lessons

Apr. 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11, 18 | 9:30-11:00 a.m. | Intergenerational Esther Women's COB

Apr. 29 | 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. | Spring Mahjong Play

May 4 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | PW Handiwork Drop-in

May 31 | 12:15 p.m. | At-Home Communion

May 31 | Summer COB's Begin

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Apr. 12 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Bible Milestone (4 yrs. & 3rd Grade)

Apr. 12 | 9:45 a.m. | Confirmation Exam

Apr. 12 | 5:00 p.m. | Mock Youth Group for Confirmands

Apr. 19 | 9:45 a.m. | Missions Milestone (4th-5th Grade)

Apr. 19 | 9:45 a.m. | Confirmation Make-up Exam

Apr. 26 | 11:00 a.m. | Confirmation Sunday

FIRST FRIENDS

Apr. 16 | 12:00 p.m. | First Friends Luncheon

Apr. 21 | 2:30 p.m. | Book Club: *Connie: A Memoir*

Apr. 28 | Day Trip: Home of Helen Keller

May 7 | 10:30 a.m. | Natchez Trace Picnic on the Parkway

May 19 | 2:30 p.m. | Book Club

May 21 | 12:00 p.m. | Luncheon

MISSIONS

Apr. 14 | 4:30-7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida Service Project

Apr. 15 | 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Blood Drive

Apr. 19 | 4:30-6:30 p.m. | Matthew 25 Meal

RECREATION

Apr. 11, 18, 25 | 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. | Soccer Game Day

YOUTH

Apr. 19 | 2:00-3:30 p.m. | Youth Senior Blessing

Apr. 26 | 9:45 a.m. | Youth Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

May 3 | 8:30 a.m. | Youth Sunday

Jun. 1-5 | Pilgrimage to Yosemite (Seniors)