



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*May 3, 2026*

*11:00 a.m.*



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

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## WORDS OF PREPARATION

*If, then, you are the work of God, wait patiently for the Hand of your Artist, who does all things at the opportune time.... Present him with a malleable and docile heart, and retain the form the Artist has given you, keeping in yourself the water that comes from him, and, lacking which, you would grow hard and reject the imprint of his fingers.*

—Ireneaus

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

## VOLUNTARY

*Praeludium in G minor, BuxWV 148*  
Dietrich Buxtehude

## WELCOME

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP | Psalm 103:1-5

Dr. Sandra Randleman

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**All: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity.**

Leader: He heals all your diseases, he redeems your life from the pit, he crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

**All: Come, let us worship with joy our great God and King.**

## \*OPENING HYMN 475

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
NETTLETON

## \*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Scotty Smith

## FIRST LESSON | Joshua 24:14-24 (page 198)

Missy Wallace

<sup>14</sup> “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” <sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, <sup>17</sup> for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.” <sup>19</sup> But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” <sup>21</sup> And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD.” <sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” <sup>23</sup> He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel.” <sup>24</sup> And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Sara Hill

PRAYER OF CONFESSION | A Prayer of Henry Thornton

**We have great reason, O Lord, to be humbled before you, on account of the coldness and insensibility of our hearts, the disorder and irregularity of our lives, and the prevalence of worldly affections within us. Too often have we indulged the tempers which we ought to have subdued, and have left our duty unperformed. O Lord, be merciful to us for your Son Jesus Christ's sake. Produce in us deep repentance, and a lively faith in that Savior who has died for our sins, and risen again for our justification. Amen.**

*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

*His Mercy Is More*

Papa | Boswell

**What love could remember, no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient all-knowing, he counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea, without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more**

**Praise the Lord, his mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn  
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Heidelberg Catechism Q1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

All: **My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, both in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

*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

Rev. Mallory Hammond

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HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Speak, O Lord*  
Getty | Townend

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to you  
To receive the food of your holy Word  
Take your truth, plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us  
All your purposes for your glory**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience  
Holy reverence, true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of your purity  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of pow'r that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace, we'll stand on your promises  
And by faith, we'll walk as you walk with us  
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built  
And the earth is filled with your glory**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Philippians 3:7-14 (page 981)

<sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**The Upward Call**

Dr. Ryan Moore

*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*

—Philippians 3:7

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## OFFERTORY

*Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*  
CityAlight

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone. What is our only confidence? That our souls to him belong. Who holds our days within his hand? What comes, apart from his command? And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand. O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal. O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess, Christ our hope in life and death. What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good. Where is his grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood. Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial? Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore, the rock of Christ? Unto the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, he lives; Christ, he lives!" And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with him. There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be destroyed. And we will feast in endless joy when Christ is ours forevermore.

*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](http://fpcnashville.org).*

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF GAGE ARNOLD

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF THE SERVICE

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

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

Carrie Hininger

Do we, the members of the church, accept Gage Arnold 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 Gage, 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?

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PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Dr. Austin Hill

**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.**

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Chris Williams

CHARGE TO THE PASTOR

Rev. Ken Leggett

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Dr. Darren Kennedy

\*CLOSING HYMN 39

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
FAITHFULNESS

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

*May the Mind of Christ, My Savior*  
ST. LEONARDS

May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day, by his love and power controlling all I do and say. May the Word of God swell richly in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may see I triumph only thro' his pow'r. May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything, that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing. May his beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win; and may they forget the channel, seeing only him.

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Fugal Selections from Magnificat Sexti Toni*  
Johannes Pachelbel

*\* Those who are able, please stand.*

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## PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*  
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*  
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*  
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*  
Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*  
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*  
Stephen King, Guitar and Vocals  
Zac Schurman, Guest Organist  
Emily Young, Soprano; Sara Crigger, Alto; Kevin Salter, Tenor; Ryan Bede, Bass  
*Acolytes* – Elijah Moore, Jonah Moore

### *Commission Members and Guests:*

Austin Hill, DMin, TE Member-at-Large, Presbytery of Middle Tennessee  
Carrie Hininger, RE, First Presbyterian Church of Nashville  
Darren Kennedy, PhD, TE First Presbyterian Church of Nashville  
Ken Leggett, MDiv, TE Koinonia Church, Mid-South Presbytery (EPC)  
Ryan Moore, PhD, TE First Presbyterian Church of Nashville  
Sandra Randleman, DMin, TE First Presbyterian Church of Nashville  
Scotty Smith, DMin, TE Member-at-Large, Nashville Presbytery (PCA)  
Missy Wallace, Liturgist  
J. Christopher Williams, RE First Pulaski, Moderator of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Alice Ann Floyd Barge by her family.

## 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](http://fpcnashville.org), or scan the QR code.



## NEWS AND EVENTS



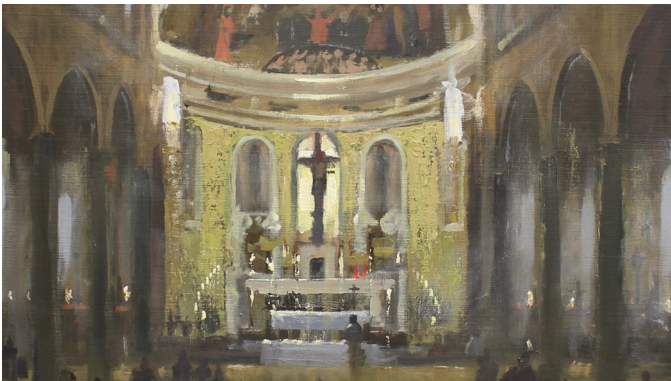
## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

### National Day of Prayer

**Thursday, May 7**

*Coffee & Refreshments | 7:00 a.m. | Cheek House*  
*Prayer Service | 7:15 a.m. | Stanford Chapel*

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people to pray for our nation.



### Theology & the Arts: Roger Dale Brown

**Saturday, May 9**

*10:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall*

What happens when faith takes shape on canvas? Join artist and FPC member Roger Dale Brown—whose work has taken him around the world—as he offers a live painting demonstration and reflects on the creative process as a spiritual practice. Facilitated by Dr. Darren Kennedy, this conversation will explore the intersection of art and theology, beauty and belief, and the ways visual art can deepen our understanding of the gospel. If you were moved by the Beatitudes series that graced our bulletins last fall, come see the heart—and the hands—behind the work. Join us Saturday, May 9, in Courtenay Hall. Enter through the Hospitality Center doors. Register at [fpcnashville.org/arts](http://fpcnashville.org/arts) or contact Dr. Darren Kennedy ([dkennedy@fpcnashville.org](mailto:dkennedy@fpcnashville.org)) for more information.

**First Tuesday Men's Lunches with Darren | Tuesday, May 5 | 12:00 p.m. | Martin's BBQ Belmont Blvd.**— Join us for a relaxed lunch gathering on the first Tuesday of each month at locations around town. We'll begin at Martin's BBQ on Belmont Blvd. These lunches are open to anyone able to step away from work or daily routines to share a meal and enjoy conversation together. Darren will be present each month and looks forward to connecting with those who are able to attend.

**Men's Summer Breakfast Speaker Series | Thursday, May 14 | 7:00–8:00 a.m. | Courtenay Hall**— This summer we will gather monthly for a men's breakfast and speaker series. The first gathering will take place on Thursday, May 14, with Darren serving as the speaker. Breakfast will be served as we spend time together in conversation and reflection to begin the day.

**Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering | Tuesday, May 12 | 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. | Stanford Chapel**— A time for fellowship and reflection on the past year. Join us in the Cheek House as we enjoy lunch, thank our outgoing leadership and discuss the focus for Presbyterian Women heading into the next year. Join us for worship in Stanford Chapel at 10:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon and fellowship in the Cheek House. Registration ends at 5:00 p.m. on May 5. Register at [fpcnashville.org/pw](http://fpcnashville.org/pw), or in person today in Courtenay Hall.

**Ascension Day Worship (11:00 a.m.) and Lunch (12:00 p.m.) | Thursday, May 14**— Join us as we celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven on Ascension Day, traditionally celebrated 40 days after Easter. This intimate service will remind us that Christ's promise is good news for today, tomorrow, and eternity. We will worship together at 11:00 a.m. in the Sullivan Gardens, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, worship will be in the Stanford Chapel. We will gather for a light lunch following the service in the Cheek House. Please register for lunch at [fpcnashville.org/events](http://fpcnashville.org/events).

**Officer Nominations for Class of 2029 | Recommendations due by May 22**— The Officer Nominating Committee is soliciting recommendations from the members of First Presbyterian Church for persons to be considered to serve in the Offices of Elder and Deacon for the Class of 2029. Please prayerfully consider submitting a recommendation for this important and vital service for your church. To submit a recommendation, please complete an Officer Nomination form found in the church literature areas or on the church website by May 22.

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**COVER IMAGE:** Dürer, Albrecht. *Pentecost*, from *The Small Passion*. Ca. 1510. Woodcut. Metropolitan Museum of Art.