



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*May 3, 2026*

*8:30 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

Gage Arnold

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Anna Blair

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

Ella Claire Ketcham

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

Milly Hininger

FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 40:27-31 (page 600)

Sophie O'Keefe

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Drew Couden

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**

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**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

Elizabeth Ekiss

\*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 worshipers.*

\*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 | 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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Dr. Ryan Moore

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Hallie and Oliver Oldacre are presenting their son, William Oliver Oldacre, for baptism.  
Assisting Elder: Bill Oldacre

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

‡PreK and Kindergarten children (ages 4–6) are invited to join Young Children & Worship.

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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

Robert Hininger

SCRIPTURE READING | 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 (page 965)

Kennedy Conyers

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death is at work in us, but life in you. <sup>13</sup> Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup> For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. <sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.  
All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**Jars of Clay**

Isaac Shapiro  
Evelyn Watlington  
Owen Rouse

*For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.*  
—2 Corinthians 4:17

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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).*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bronson Wall

**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 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*  
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

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**Thanks to the graduating seniors who are leading us in worship today:** Anna Blair, Kennedy Conyers, Drew Couden, Elizabeth Ekiss, Robert Hininger, Milly Hininger, Ella Claire Ketcham, Sophie O’Keefe, Owen Rouse, Isaac Shapiro, Evelyn Watlington, Will Watlington, Bronson Wall.

**Thanks to our volunteer leaders of this graduating senior class for their six-plus years of love and support:** Mary Daniel Danieley, Will Hannon, Carrie Hininger, Damon Hininger, Allen Roberts, Julie Roberts, Brad Rouse, Laura Rouse, Andrew Wall, Alice Wall, Jacquie Watlington.

## 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.



## 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](https://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.

**MUSIC NOTES:** *His Mercy Is More* by Matt Boswell & Matt Papa © 2016 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 1121456. | *Speak, O Lord* by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2005 Thankyou Music Ltd By For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 1121456 | *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death* by CityALight © 2020 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Jordan Kauflin Music; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Matthew Merker Music; Messenger Hymns For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 1121456. | *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Words and Music - ©1923, 1951 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895.

**COVER IMAGE:** Unknown Japanese artist. *Costume for Nō Theater (Karaori)*. Edo period (1615–1868). Silk with embroidery. Metropolitan Museum of Art. *Image cropped from original.* — The garment’s pattern of leaves and stems suggests growth, fitting for a time of transition.

**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.

**Natchez Trace Picnic on the Parkway | Thursday, May 7 | 10:30 a.m.**— The Natchez Trace Parkway is a limited-access national parkway in the Southeastern United States that commemorates the historic Natchez Trace and preserves sections of that original trail. Join us for a springtime picnic on part of the Parkway near Leiper's Fork. We will provide the picnic set up. Cost is only \$10 per person. Register online at [fpcnashville.org/events](http://fpcnashville.org/events). Contact Sally Ostheimer ([sostheimer@fpcnashville.org](mailto:sostheimer@fpcnashville.org)) for more information.

**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.

**Intergenerational Esther Women's Study | Mondays through 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](http://fpcnashville.org/esther)), and childcare is provided. Led by Rev. Mallory Hammond and Ellie Richmond. Questions? Contact Ellie Richmond at [erichmond@fpcnashville.org](mailto:erichmond@fpcnashville.org).

**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).

**Soccer Saints Volunteer Sign-Up | Saturdays through May 23 | One-hour shifts from 7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**— Thousands of guests attend our campus for spring and fall soccer each year. We want to welcome and love these families as they play, cheer, and coach on the FPC campus. Would you help us create a warm and welcoming atmosphere by volunteering as a Soccer Saint at one of our welcome tents on Saturday mornings? Whether you are young, old, or in between, it's a great way to serve God's people and spread joy. Your ministry of presence will be a blessing to our community. To sign up, visit [fpcnashville.org/ministry/soccer](http://fpcnashville.org/ministry/soccer).

**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.

**Flower 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 of small vases, approximately 5 inches high, preferably with a curve at the top. We cannot use large vases or round pot/planter type containers. Vase donations can be dropped off at the Hospitality Center. Thank you for supporting our ministry of encouragement.

### MISSIONS

**Nueva Vida | Tuesday, May 12 | 4:30-7:30**— 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 5 volunteers each evening. If you're interested in joining or have any questions, reach out to Adrian Taylor ([ataylor@fpcnashville.org](mailto:ataylor@fpcnashville.org)).

**Intergenerational Mission Trip | July 18–25 | Lynn, MA**— Join FPC for an intergenerational trip to Lynn, Massachusetts, July 18-25, 2026. We will serve a diverse community by offering VBS, as well as participating in other mission activities. The cost is \$650 per person, which includes everything except travel to Boston (accommodation, ground transportation, and food). Families are responsible for arranging their own transportation to Boston Logan International Airport by 2:00 p.m. on July 18. The minimum age to participate is 6; all minors must be accompanied by at least one parent. Contact Adrian Taylor at [ataylor@fpcnashville.org](mailto:ataylor@fpcnashville.org) for more details.



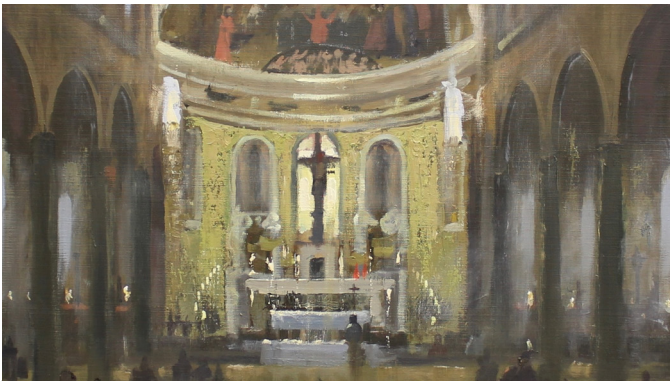
## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

### 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.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 4, June 1 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | PW Handiwork Drop-in
- May 4, 11, 18 | 9:30–11:00 a.m. | Intergenerational Esther Women's COB
- May 5 | 12:00 p.m. | First Tuesday Men's Lunch with Darren: Martin's BBQ Belmont Blvd
- May 7 | 7:00 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments; 7:15 a.m. Prayer Service | National Day of Prayer
- May 9 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00p.m. | Theology & the Arts: Roger Dale Brown
- May 12 | 10:30 a.m. | Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering
- May 13, 27 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Evening Mahjong Open Play
- May 14 | 7:00 a.m. | Men's Summer Breakfast Speaker Series
- May 14 | 11:00 a.m. | Ascension Day Service
- May 14 | 12:00 p.m. | Ascension Day Lunch
- May 17 | Kirkin' Sunday
- May 28 | 8:00 a.m. | College of Elders Breakfast

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- June 23-25 | 5:00-7:45 p.m. | VBS

### FIRST FRIENDS

- May 7 | 10:30 a.m. | Natchez Trace Picnic on the Parkway
- May 19 | 2:30 p.m. | Book Club: *Sipsworth*
- May 21 | 12:00 p.m. | Luncheon: Mission Presentation from Matthew 25
- June 16 | 2:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m. | Book Club: *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*

### MISSIONS

- May 12, June 8 | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida Service Project
- July 18-25 | Intergenerational Mission Trip
- Sept. 14-25 | Kenya Mission Trip

### RECREATION

- May 9, 16 | 8:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. | Soccer Saints
- Wednesdays | 5:30–8:00 p.m. | Pickleball (Except May 6)
- June 7, 14, 21, 28 | 2:30–4:30 p.m. | Pool Fellowship & Open Swim

### YOUTH

- June 1-5 | Pilgrimage to Yosemite (Seniors)
- June 8, 15, 29, July 1, 6, 20 | 7:00–8:00 p.m. | College Bible Study
- June 10 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Mega Slip & Slide
- June 14–20 | Youth Appalachia Service Project

### GENERAL FUND GIVING SUMMARY

YTD AT **MARCH 31, 2026**

**Actual \$1,390,129**

**Budget \$1,444,257**

**Variance (\$54,065)**

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.