



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Shelbyville, Tennessee
Sunday, January 24, 2021



January 19, 2021

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all. I hope you are all well.

It is hard to believe it has been a year since the first case of COVID-19 was reported here in the U.S. And while more and more people are receiving vaccinations against this deadly virus, the death count and the pace of new infections continues to rise at what I consider an alarming rate.

So please continue to follow the guidelines set out by the CDC. Wear your mask, limit the occasions you are in public, when you are around others please stay 6 feet apart, and remember to sanitize your hands frequently.

Your session met last night by Zoom and have extended the protocols and restrictions currently in place through February. Hopefully by March we will be able to ease restrictions somewhat. Time will tell.

Your Music and Worship committee has a Zoom meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening, at 5:30p.m.

Ash Wednesday falls on February 17th this year. I have ordered a Lenten study written by Roger Gench as a possible congregation wide Lenten study. I knew Roger in seminary although he was a year or two ahead of me.

His wife Francis Taylor Gench was also at Union when I was. Francis is now teaching homiletics at Union. Francis has also written some of the Bible studies our Presbyterian Women have used in the past. Both Roger and Francis are first rate ministers and theologians. I'm looking forward to what Roger has come up with.

I am unable to download a copy of the study until February 1st. I hope it is something we can use here during Lent. I'll let you know what I think after I have had a chance to look it over.

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Your Stewardship and Finance committee is also meeting this week to finalize our 2021 budget. One of the things we will discuss on Thursday is sending a follow up stewardship letter to the congregation. So, if you get one in the next week or so you will know why.

You may have noticed that we have not yet been able to use the new audio/video to live stream our worship service yet. Turns out it is a bit more complicated than the iPad we have been using. So again, I ask for your patience as we become familiar and proficient with this new technology.

I do want you to know even though we are not able to gather for worship or other activities so near and dear to our hearts and the life of this congregation, your session and your committees continue to do their work. You have chosen your leaders wisely. Good for you. Keep them in your prayers.

Please also keep the folks on our prayer list in your prayers. I know Edwin and Elaine Holcomb are already on the list, but in case you hadn't heard, Elaine fell Saturday and broke her wrist. She is back home but it has been painful. They may need an extra prayer or two.

Well, dear ones, I think that's all I have. At least its all I can remember at this point, so I'll sign off for now. Please stay safe and may God bless you throughout this week and may God bestow His loving and healing presence upon our nation this week and in the years to come as we continue to struggle to be the UNITED States of America.

Grace and Peace,

Taylor

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Unison Call to Worship

The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear? The Lord is the stronghold of life; of whom shall we be afraid? One thing I ask of the Lord, to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. "Come," our hearts say, "seek the face of the Lord." Your face, Lord do we seek. Come let us worship God.

Prayer of Preparation

Startle us, O God, with Your truth. Open our minds to Your Spirit that we maybe one with Christ our Lord, and serve as faithful disciples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call to Confession

We are a people born of water and the Spirit. We have made promises to be Christ's faithful disciples, and to show his love to our life's end. Although we fail to fulfill those baptismal vows, God's faithful love endures forever. Confident of God's grace, let us confess our sin and the sin of this world. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

Sovereign and loving God, we confess to You that harmful distinctions and divisions have ensnared us. Too often we act toward others as though they were our enemies or inferiors. We allow the boundaries of nation, language, political affiliation, or tradition to separate us from one another. Social, ethnic, economic and gender differences come to define who we are and with whom we will live and work.

May Your gracious Word break in upon us and give us a vision of what You would have us be and do. Like the first disciples Your Son called to follow him, take us in Your direction and make us messengers of Your grace in Jesus Christ. Bless our churches, our neighborhoods, our country, and our world with a renewed sense of those blessed ties that bind us to one another and create within us and among us a mutual respect and acceptance so we may live in Your hallowed peace.

(A time of silent confession). Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Evangelist John, author of our fourth gospel, rejoices in the knowledge that, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Friends, this is the good news of the gospel message. Hear and believe this good news and know that by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross our sins have been forgiven. Amen.

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.

Passing of the Peace

Minister: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.

Time for Children

Cindy Lamb

Prayer for Illumination

Speak to us Your word, O God, that we may hear Jesus' call to be his disciples. Amen.

Scripture

Jonah 3:1-5 and Mark 1:14-20

Sermon

"A Sense of Urgency"

Dr. Taylor Todd

Music

Billie Crowell

Profession of Faith

(from A Declaration of Faith)

Before Jesus left his disciples, he commanded them to proclaim to all people the good news of his victory over death and promised to be with them always. We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity, and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God. We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden.

The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge His rule. But His lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Dear God, giver of all good gifts, we thank You for all that we have received. We recognize that You have given different gifts to each of us. Help us to use these special skills and abilities in ways that will benefit others. May the gifts of our hands, our voices, our wills, our minds, our very lives be used wisely and to Your glory. In Christ's name we give and pray. Amen.

Charge and Blessing

Repent and believe the good news that God is with us and calls us for a purpose!

And may the God of second chances renew your sense of call and inspire you to go out and share the good news of forgiveness and hope! Amen.

Postlude

Billie Crowell



Children's & Youth Ministry



Matt Coroson
Evelyn Davidson
Bob & Alice Durio
Pat Edmiston
Tommy Franks
Elaine Holcombe
Carolyn Matusek
Gail Parsons

Children's Church at 9:00am via Zoom on
Sundays through January.

Youth will meet at 6:00pm on Sundays
through January via Zoom.

In Military Service
LT Andy Canady
Airman Chase Blanton

go

You are a child of God, deeply beloved, and you have great purpose in God's kingdom. **GO**, and do what is yours to do, in the love of Christ, our Redeemer! Amen.