



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Shelbyville, Tennessee**  
**Sunday, March 7, 2021**  
**with HOLY COMMUNION**



Dear Friends,

As we here at FPC prepare to begin in-person worship this Sunday, I would like to share a few thoughts with you. Our lessons for Sunday include the Book of Exodus's version of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) and John's description of Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem (John 2:13-22). Both lessons remind us of the importance of worship for God's covenant people.

It is often overlooked that the story of the giving of the Ten Commandments is set within a context of worship. The verses leading up to this encounter with God are largely concerned with preparing the people to come into the presence of God.

This mistake can lead us to forget the primary purpose of the Ten Commandments is not to provide the people of God with a set of laws to live by, or even a code of ethics to guide them. Though they certainly do include these two important imperatives. But the primary purpose of the Ten Commandments is to reveal something important about the character of God Himself and how God's character ought to impinge on and impact our character as well.

Here at the foot of Mount Sinai God establishes early on in His relationship with His people the importance of worship. It is in worship that something of the character of God is revealed to us. Worship stands at the very heart of the life of God's people and when the people of God neglect worship, we go astray like sheep lost without their shepherd.

Worship is also emphasized in our New Testament lesson from John. What angered Jesus the most when he entered the Temple that day, was what was going on in the house of God. The people of God had allowed the Temple of God to become a center of commerce rather than a place of worship. Try to imagine, if you will, the sights, sounds and smells that greeted each worshipper as they entered the Temple to celebrate the sacred Passover. If you have been around cattle or sheep, not to mention birds, you know they can be rather smelly.

Each year during this season of Lent we turn our attention more fully to the importance of developing habits of spiritual disciplines meant to help aid us as we prepare each week for this sacred act of worshipping God

As we open the sanctuary up again for in-person worship I understand there will be some of you who will still not feel comfortable coming due to the continuing threat from the COVID-19 virus and the various new strains that continue to manifest themselves. As I have said so many times before, we are by no means out of the woods. This virus is still very much with us, so please know, I support and respect your decision to continue to worship virtually and pray for the time we can all come together in worship without fear or restrictions.

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But let me leave you with this thought. It is part of our confession of faith that God is all around us and nothing can separate us from God's loving presence. And if that true, and I believe it is, then it is also true that wherever we are on Sunday morning we can still worship God, whether is through a livestream on Facebook or worship services broadcast on our televisions. Don't let not being in church keep you from worshipping.

Granted it's not the same as being with the gathered community in body as well as spirit, but it far better than not worshipping at all on Sundays. Don't cut these moorings which help keep you grounded and help keep you from going astray like a lost sheep. Because as we know from this story, when the people of God feel separated from God, they make their own golden statues to worship. That's a really bad idea. It never works out well for those who worship anything or anyone other than our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer God.



FYI – As we resume in-person worship we will continue to require worshippers to wear masks, social distance and sanitize your hands often. We will not be singing hymns at this time either.

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS March 14<sup>th</sup>! SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR.**

Your Mission Committee will be meeting in-person at the church on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

**All youth and their parents** of FPC are invited to dinner (6PM) at the El Mexico restaurant on North Main St. this coming Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Cindy and I will be talking about our youth program in the coming months which will focus primarily on confirmation but is open to all youth, including those who have been confirmed in the past and those who do not plan to be confirmed at this time.

On Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> we will be taking up our monthly offering for the Good Samaritan food pantry. A collection box will be placed outside the Fellowship Hall's doors during church office hours for you to drop off your donations.

I look forward to the day when we can safely lift all restrictions in worship, sing hymns and maybe even hug a neck or two. We are not there yet, so sit tight just a bit longer. This too shall pass.

Be smart. Stay safe.

Grace and Peace,  
Taylor

# **SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY~SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021**

## **with HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Mission Committee meeting Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. This will be an in- person meeting.

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY**

Next Sunday (March 14<sup>th</sup>) we will be collecting your food donations for the Good Samaritan ministry. As we have been doing for the past several weeks, a collection box will be placed outside the Fellowship Hall doors during church office hours so you may drop off your donations. Thank you for your support.

### **Prelude**

**Billie Crowell**

### **Responsive Call to Worship**

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

**People: The teachings of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.**

Leader: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**People: Come, let us worship God.**

### **Prayer of Preparation**

Almighty God, You built Your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the cornerstone. Join us together by their teaching, so that we may be a holy temple in whom Your Spirit dwells; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Call to Confession**

The prophet Joel announces, "Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Trusting in the promises of God as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*(A time of silent personal confession).*

Amen.

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

God of mighty deliverance, we gratefully embrace the redemption You have offered us through Jesus our Savior, who was lifted high on the cross for our sake. Yet we have dishonored his sacrifice for us; we have not followed his example of loving service and have spurned his call to honor Your life-giving law.

In mercy, forgive us for rejecting his way of life. Quicken us by Your Spirit to take up our cross, that we may walk purposefully and joyously in the ways of life and peace You have set before us, loving You with all our heart and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

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### **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, yet Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Friends believe the gospel message in Jesus Christ our sins are 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 Young Christians**

**Kate Canady**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

God of glory, we cannot hear the heavens proclaim Your handiwork, though the speech of the skies must be magnificent. We cannot hear what day and night are singing about You, though their song must be both bright and deep. Yet somehow You are made known to us through our own foolish proclamation. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that Your Word can be heard in our words. Open our hearts to what You are saying to us today, we pray; and perhaps we may also hear echoes of Your glory in the broad firmament above. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### **Scripture**

**Exodus 10:1-17 and John 2:13-32**

### **Sermon**

**"Sacred Space"**

**Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd**

### **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.

### **SEALING OF THE WORD**

\*Doxology (Instrumental)

**Billie Crowell**

Prayer of Dedication

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks and praise.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution (Minister continues)

**All: Christ is the bread of life; when we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim Your death, Lord Jesus, until You come in glory.**

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith.

**People: Great is the mystery of faith; Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ shall come again.**

Communion of the People

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**All: 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. Thine is the kingdom, power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Billie Crowell

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**Children's & Youth Ministry** Children's Church on Sundays during Worship  
Youth and parents will meet at 6:00pm on Sunday night at El Mexico

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Matt Coroson, Evelyn Davidson, Bob & Alice Durio, Pat Edmiston, Tommy Franks, Ed & Elaine Holcombe, Carolyn Matusek, The Family and Friends of Gail Parsons.

In Military Service: LT Andy Canady, Airman Chase Blanton.  
*Those serving at home and abroad.*

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COMMUNION PREPARATION March 7th

Kate Canady & Belinda Craig



**Sunday, March 7th**

Set your clocks  
**'forward'** one  
hour on  
Saturday night,  
March 6th

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart  
be pleasing to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

What one thought do you want to meditate on today to see  
more of God?

Who needs to hear an encouraging word from your mouth?