

First Presbyterian Church

Huntsville, Tennessee

September 17, 2023

Please remember to silence your cell phone during worship.

Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *text*

*Call to Worship

Leader: In the midst of meaninglessness, ..

People: You call us to meaning, O God.

Leader: In the midst of divisiveness, ..

People: You call us to community through Christ.

Leader: Out of our brokenness,

People: You call us to wholeness and new life in the Spirit

Leader: In praise and thanksgiving, let us worship God.

***Hymn of Praise** *Here I Am to Worship* *(side panel >)*

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Holy God, you see into our hearts. You see the true selves we try to hide from others, the sins we fear would destroy our images, the evils that lurk so deep within us we can scarcely name them, the unholy habits that have been with us so long that they no longer prick our consciences. But you also see in us Jesus Christ, the Holy One who took on our sin and covers us in his righteousness. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Silent Confession

*The Assurance of Pardon

People On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves.

Leader By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri #546 or** *(side panel >)*

Time With Children

Choral Anthem *Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)*

First Scripture Reading Psalm 107:1-7

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You.

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days
Oh, so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor.

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.

Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me.

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.

***Hymn of Preparation #91** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (side panel >

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision

Doxology #544

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

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 23:1-12

Sermon

"Great Pretending or Humble Serving"

Hymn of Response #275 *Amazing Grace* (side panel >)

Benediction

*Postlude

Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow

*Indicates you may stand.

Liturgist: Name: Lee Ann Knudson

Mission Statement

We seek to reflect the gospel of Jesus Christ through service and love.

Welcome to all who worship here today! If you are interested in becoming a member of this congregation, please speak to the pastor or an elder. All are welcome!

Prayer Concerns

A listing of prayer requests for church family members and friends is provided in the bulletin mailed to the church mailing list.

Upcoming Events

Every Saturday the youth will meet from 5 PM to 7 PM followed by the young adults (ages 18-30) from 7 PM to 8 PM.

Every Thursday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM the church will be open for prayer time.

Rehearsal Times

9/17, 10/8, 10/15- Children's Group after worship (A.W.)-1:15

9/24, 10/01, 10/22- Handbell Choir (middle school age to adult) A.W. -1:15

10/29 No group will meet

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Protecting us with staff and rod,
And power all prevailing.
What if the nations rage
And surging seas rampage;
What though the mountains fall,
The Lord is God of all;
The Lord of hosts is with us.
2. The waters of God's goodness flow
Throughout the holy city,
And gladden hearts of those who know
God's tenderness and pity.
Though nations stand unsure,
God's kingdom shall endure;
God's power shall remain,
And peace shall ever reign,
The Lord of hosts is with us.
3. Behold what wondrous deeds of peace
God does for our salvation;
God knows our wars and makes them
cease
In every land and nation.
The warrior's spear and lance
Are splintered by God's glance;
The guns and nuclear might
Stand withered in God's sight;
The Lord of hosts is with us.

AMAZING GRACE

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.