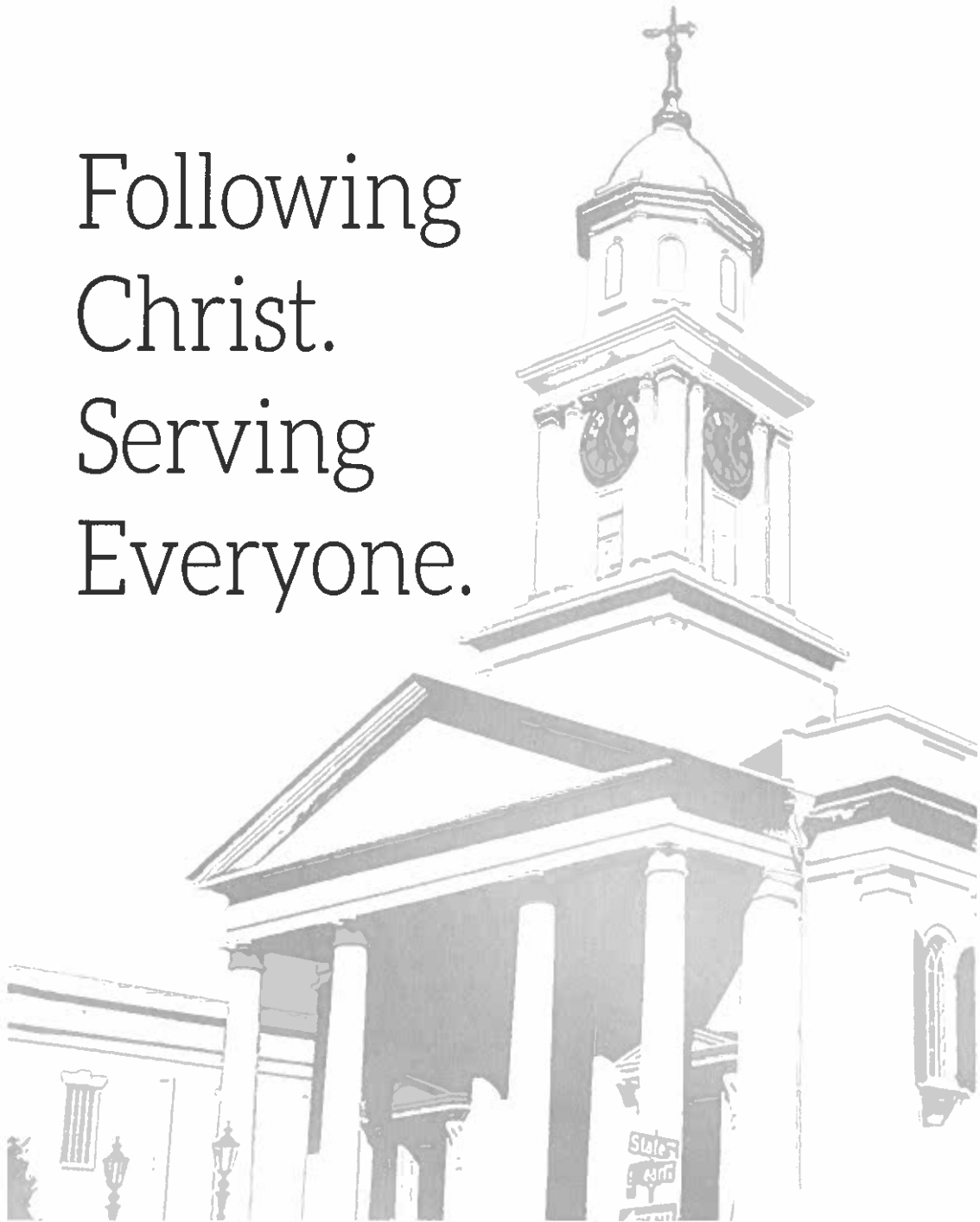




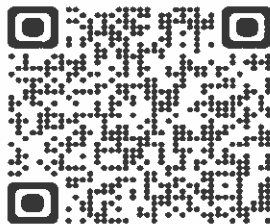
First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

Following
Christ.
Serving
Everyone.



Welcome!

We are delighted you have joined us in worship at First Presbyterian Church Natchez. So that we might get to know you a little better, please take a moment to fill out a connect card by scanning the QR code below.



You may also send your contact information to fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net.

First Presbyterian Church Natchez
Morning Worship
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 4, 2024 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Minister
The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Minister
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist

THE GATHERING

Westminster Chimes

The chiming of the hour signals to us that it is time to be seated.
Now let us direct our hearts to the One who calls us here!

Prelude *Ariette: Sainte-Chapelle* Richard Lloyd

Welcome Rev. Dr. Joan Gandy

Call to Worship 1 John 4:7, 8, 12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

God is love. If we love one another, God lives in us.

His love is perfected in us.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised!

*Processional Hymn 667: *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

667 When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing
 2 Does sad - ness fill my mind? A so - lace here I
 3 Let earth's wide cir - cle round in joy - ful notes re -
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di -

cries: may Je - sus Christ be praised! A -
 find: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or
 sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let
 vine: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be

like at work and prayer to Je - sus I re -
 fades my earth - ly bliss? My com - fort still is
 air and sea and sky from depth to height re -
 this the e - ter - nal song through all the a - ges

pair: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 this: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ply: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

This is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

Morning Prayer of Praise

Confession of Sin

The congregation joins in Call to Confession and Unison Prayer of Confession.
After silent prayer, all sing the *Kyrie* (*Lord, Have Mercy*).

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in a time of need.

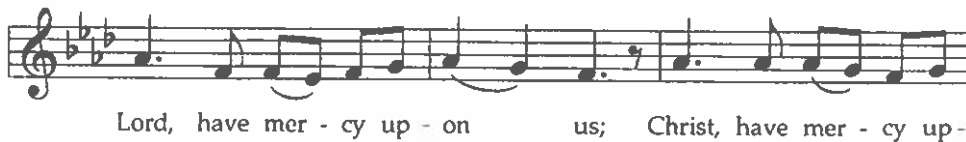
Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, we confess to you now, in your presence, our shortcomings, our sinfulness, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned -- wandering from your ways, wasting your gifts, forgetting your love. Have mercy, O Lord. Forgive us our sins. Help us to live in your light and walk in your ways.

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us
(Choir and congregation sing.)

Kyrie



Declaration of Forgiveness

*Response Hymn 581

Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

**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.**

* Greeting and the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with all of you today.

All: **And also with you.**

THE WORD

Story and Prayers for Young Disciples:

Blessing of the Backpacks

Children are invited to come forward with backpacks and study tools.

A Blessing for the School Year

When it's the night before going to school, and I'm picking out my clothes and making sure I have all my school supplies...

God hears my prayers.

When I'm waking up and eating a healthy breakfast to start the day...

God hears my prayers

When I meet my teachers and new friends in my class...

God hears my prayers

When I'm playing with my friends at recess...

God hears my prayers.

When I'm telling my family about my day at school...

God hears my prayers.

When I'm praying at night and thanking God for my family, my friends and my school...

God hears my prayers

Let's pray together:

Thank you, dear God, for always being by my side. I know that if I get nervous or afraid, you will be there with me. When I see the card on my backpack, I will remember that GOD HAS MY BACK. God, you are always with me. I know that I can talk with Jesus any time – day or night – and for that I am so thankful. I pray this all in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Congregational Litany (Please respond "Hear our Prayer" when you hear the words, "O Lord of Life and Love.")

O Holy God, the time is come when school begins. As these your children begin their studies, we ask a blessing on their backpacks in which they carry the books and notebooks, markers and pens and pencils they will use to learn. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

Bless, O God, all who will teach our children in the coming days and weeks and months. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

Bless, O God, all school administrators that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care. Make them fair and merciful, able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

Bless, O God, each one gathered here that we will seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you. Grant that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

And bless, O God, these our cherished children, those whom we have promised to love and nurture at their baptism. Keep them safe, keep them excited, keep them ever seeking to learn more and to develop their gifts. Grant that through their study, they may gain the tools to grow in love and faith and service, all their days. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

Bless, O God, these backpacks and the children who carry them. O Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Danna Mooney, Reader

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Pew Bible Page 353

Reading from Psalms: Psalm 51:1-12

Pew Bible Page 640

Reading from the Epistles: Ephesians 4:1-16

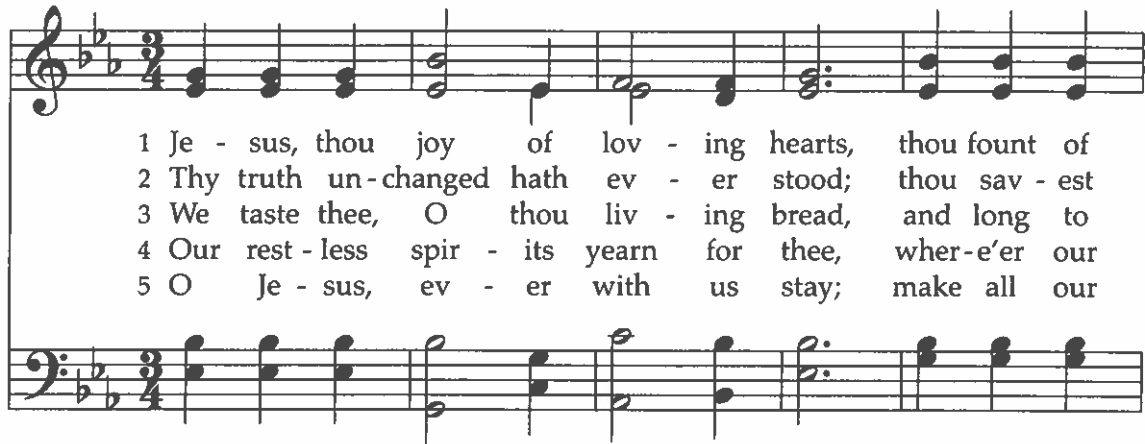
Pew Bible Page 236

*Gospel Hymn, 494, verses 1, 2, & 3

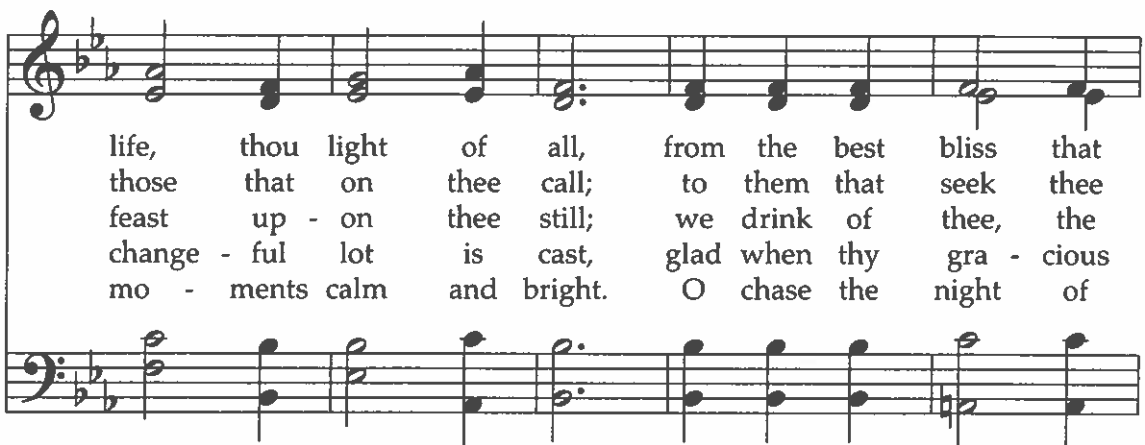
Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

QUEBEC

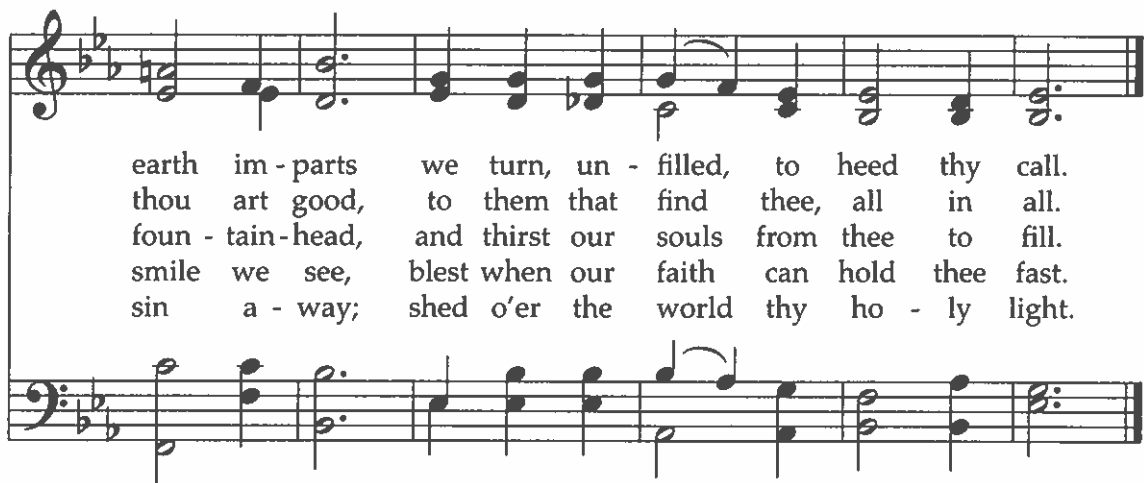
Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts 494



1 Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, thou fount of
 2 Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood; thou sav - est
 3 We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread, and long to
 4 Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, wher - e'er our
 5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; make all our



life, thou light of all, from the best bliss that
 those that on thee call; to them that seek thee
 feast up - on thee still; we drink of thee, the
 change - ful lot is cast, glad when thy gra - cious
 mo - ments calm and bright. O chase the night of



earth im - parts we turn, un - filled, to heed thy call.
 thou art good, to them that find thee, all in all.
 foun - tain - head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.
 smile we see, blest when our faith can hold thee fast.
 sin a - way; shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

This 19th-century American translation of stanzas from a longer Latin poem is so well shaped that it sounds like an original meditation on Christian experience centered on the Lord's Supper. The North American tune name seems not to have originated with the English composer.

Gospel Reading: John 6:24-35

Pew Bible Page 119

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Truth, Love, and Bread”

Rev. Gandy

Affirmation of Our Faith

*Apostles' Creed

Traditional

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.

THE THANKSGIVING

Call for the Offering

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.*

Psalm 24:1



Scan FPC QR code here to give online

Offertory

Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken

Text: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Music: Bourgeois/Young

Bread of the world, in mercy broken, Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
By Whom the words of life were spoken, And in Whose death our sins are dead.

Look on the heart by sorrow broken, Look on the tears by sinners shed;
And be Thy feast to us the token, That by Thy grace our souls are fed.

*Response Hymn 606

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Hymn 529: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UNION SEMINARY

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

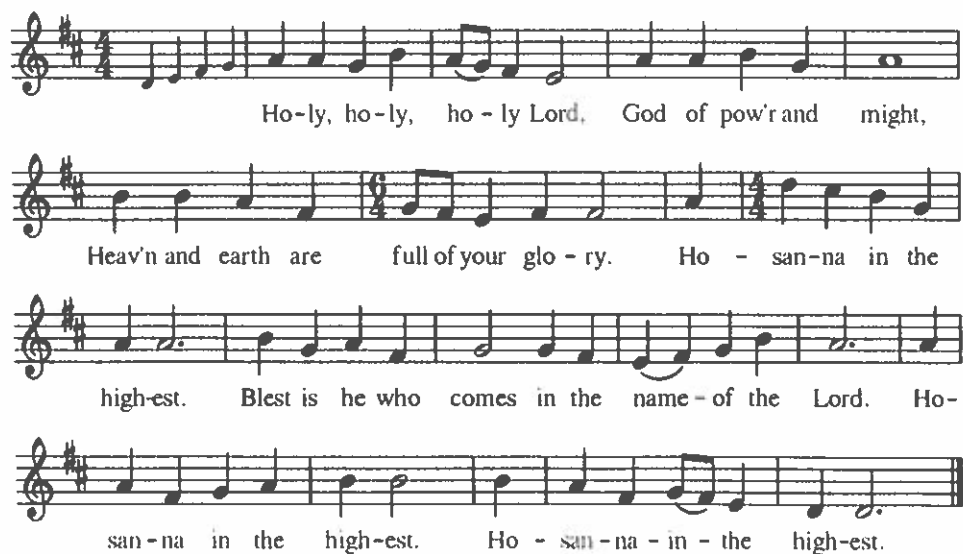
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Pastor continues in prayer.)

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All sing: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Vincent Bache III, 2018



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the
high-est. Blest is he who comes in the name - of the Lord. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Ho - san - na - in - the high-est.

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether 529



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Here we touch your gar - ment's hem.
 lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This communion text calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The tune, originally composed for an anthem setting of this text, honors the institution where the composer was trained and later taught.

(Minister continues in prayer.)

...With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

(Minister continues in prayer, concluding with Lord's Prayer.)

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

As our Savior has taught us, we are bold to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

(debts/debtors)

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.

Breaking the Bread

"The gifts of God for the people of God"

[Choir and congregation sing: *Lamb of God*]



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace; grant us peace.

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Meal

THE SENDING

*Hymn 550, verses 1 & 4: *Give Praise to the Lord*

LAUDATE DOMINUM

*Benediction

*Postlude

Praeludium in F

Vincent Lübeck

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the all of our loved ones by Judy Stahlman, Susan Jane, and Debbie.

Music Notes: The Prelude this morning is the lyrical *Ariette: Sainte-Chapelle* by British organist and composer Richard Lloyd (b. 1933). Mr. Lloyd has written several pieces in this series inspired by churches and sights in Paris. The Anthem at the Offertory is a setting of the hymn *Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken*. The tune was composed by Louis Bourgeois (1510-1561) and set here for choir by American composer Carlton Young. The Postlude is *Praeludium in F* by German Baroque composer Vincent Lübeck (1654-1740).

550

Give Praise to the Lord

(Psalm 149)

1 Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song;
 2 With tim-brel and harp and joy-ful ac-claim,
 3 In glo-ry ex-ult, all saints of the Lord;
 4 For this is God's word: the saints shall not fail,
 a - mid all the saints God's prais - es pro - long;
 with glad - ness, O God, we praise your great name;
 with song in the night high prais - es ac - cord;
 but o - ver the earth their power shall pre - vail;
 a song to your Mak - er and Rul - er now raise,
 for now in your peo - ple good plea - sure you seek;
 go forth in God's ser - vice and strong in God's might
 all king - doms and na - tions shall yield to their sway.
 all chil - dren of Zi - on: re - joice and give praise.
 with robes of sal - va - tion you cov - er the meek.
 to con - quer all e - vil and stand for the right.
 To God give the glo - ry; sing prais - es for aye.

This adaptation of Psalm 149 is organized by themes of praise and service, with a strong implication that they are not really separable but are two aspects of the same God-centered impulse. This text is set to a jubilant tune derived from a late 19th-century English anthem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Potluck Luncheon Today: We will gather in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship today for a luncheon. This is the day to give a good send-off to our young people who return to school this coming week. Please come and join in the fellowship and delicious food.

Congregational Meeting: The Congregation will meet immediately after worship on Sunday, August 18, to elect an Officer Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will recommend candidates for elder and deacon positions for the Class of 2027.

Tuesday Bible Study: The Pastor's Bible Study meets on Tuesday, August 6, at 11 a.m. Scriptures for study this week are 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; and John 6:35, 41-51.

Mission Committee meeting: The Mission Committee will meet Thursday, August 8, at 4:30 in the church library.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee will meet Monday, August 12, at 4:15 p.m. in the church library.

Session Meeting: The session will meet Monday, August 12, at 5 p.m. in the church library.

Monday Prayer: Community prayer in the Prayer Room, located adjacent to the sanctuary, is held Mondays at 11:30 a.m. This prayer time is informal and offers opportunity to pray with others for people and things that are on each heart.

Grief Support Group at FPC: First Presbyterian Grief Support Group meets Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in the church library.

Wonderful Wednesday: The Wednesday gathering will begin with a meal at 5:15 with Bible study afterwards.

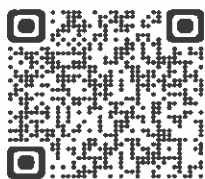
Wednesday Youth Group: Wednesday Youth Group will meet at 4:15 in the youth room.

Photo Gallery Docents: Attendance has been high during the past few months at Natchez in Historic Photographs. Are you available to serve as a docent, welcoming and giving a few words of explanation about the church and photographs? Please consider donating a couple of hours to the museum as a docent. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call Rosemary Hall or the church office to sign up.

Sanctuary Choir: The Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. and will resume regular weekday rehearsals on Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m., beginning on August 21.

Organ Update Fund: We are halfway there! Please help to get the organ update scheduled soon! The new programs will include rich new tones and instruments to give new ways for our gifted organist to give glory to God through music. Gifts may be made in honor of the organist and choir or in honor or memory of others. Every gift is important!

Give to the Organ Fund:



Mission Request: Medical missionaries in third world countries need your used prescription medicine bottles. Patients now must take medicine home with them in their pockets, wrapped in a leaf, or just in their hand.

Working with Matthew 25 Ministries in Cincinnati, Ohio, we will send as many used bottles as possible to these missions for re-use. Please remove the labels and adhesive material and drop off your bottles (with caps) in the box in Stratton Chapel or the church office.

New Members Welcomed: If you are interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian, you will be warmly welcomed. The first step is to let the minister know of your interest. You may see her before or after worship; or call the church at 601-442-2581 to speak with her.

AA Meetings: Open Gates AA Meeting meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. These are open discussion meetings.

Pastoral Visits: If you have special needs and wish to share them with the minister, please plan a visit so that you can talk about what's going on in your life. Contact the minister at 601-442-2581.

AUGUST 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

03

5 Deacons' meeting

Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while.
Noon AA

Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow!

Communion

Rally Day 04

05

06

07

08

09

10

9:15 Blessing of the Backpacks
Coffee Time
9:45 Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Worship
11:30 Potluck Luncheon

9-noon VBS
8:30 Exercise
10 Staff meeting
11:30 Prayer Group
Noon AA
7 Boy Scouts Troop 157

11 Bible Study

8:30 Exercise
10 Food Boxes
Noon AA
4:15 Youth
4 Grief Support Group
Wonderful Wednesday
5:15 Supper
6 Bible Study

Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while.
Noon AA

Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow!

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

9:15 Sunday School
Coffee Time
9:45 Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Worship

8:30 Exercise
10 Staff meeting
11:30 Prayer Group
Noon AA
4:15 Finance Committee
5 Session
7 Boy Scouts Troop 157

10:30 Pack food boxes

11 Bible Study

8:30 Exercise
10 Food Box Distribution
Noon AA
4:15 Youth
4 Grief Support Group
Wonderful Wednesday
5:15 Supper
6 Bible Study

5 Book Club

Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while.
Noon AA

Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow!

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

9:15 Sunday School
Coffee Time
9:45 Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Worship

9-noon VBS
8:30 Exercise
10 Staff meeting
11:30 Prayer Group
Noon AA
7 Boy Scouts Troop 157

11 Bible Study

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Noon AA
4:15 Youth
4 Grief Support Group
Wonderful Wednesday
5:15 Supper
6 Bible Study

Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while.
Noon AA

Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow!
Stated Presbytery meeting, Meridian, MS

Stewpot 25

26

27

28

29

30

31

9:15 Sunday School
Coffee Time
9:45 Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Worship

9-noon VBS
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Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while.
Noon AA

Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow!

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor
The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Pastor
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary
Deon Buford, Sexton

Officers of the Church

ELDERS

Class of 2024: George Bates, Stratton Bull, Bobby Meason, Cara Moody
Class of 2025: Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore
Class of 2026: Mary Lessley, Helen Smith, Anne Vidal Suen

DEACONS

Class of 2024: Kristen Abney, Everette Ratcliffe, Hubert Smith
Class of 2025: Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith
Class of 2026: Leigh Anderson, Ken Price

Thank you to Charles Hall (Director), Lance Harris, Ryan Sharp, Slade Gagnard, Robert Seyfarth, and Jon Borum for livestreaming and video services.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

117 South Pearl Street

(Mailing Address: 400 State Street)

Natchez, Mississippi 39120

601-442-2581

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fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net

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