



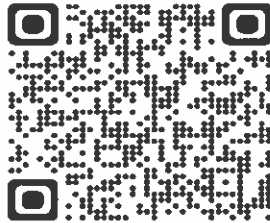
First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

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.

Proclaiming the Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem

Luke 19:28-40

(All in the congregation who wish to process with the choir, please gather now, pick up palm branches, and follow the choir down the center aisle and around the side aisles in celebration as we sing together.)

*Processional Hymn 196: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

VALET WILL ICK DIR BEN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

Confession of Sin

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

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

See 1 Samuel 16:7

The Lord sees our hearts.

The Lord knows our innermost thoughts.

We can deny to ourselves the sins of our life.

But we cannot hide them from the Lord our God.

Let us confess our sins, knowing that God already knows them but loves us still, in all the weaknesses of our life.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Triumphant God, we join the crowds of the ages in shouting your praises. But we confess that while our lips give you glory, our lives do not always reflect your will for us. We sing easily of your greatness, but living faithfully is often harder for us to do. We hear of your salvation, but sin is still close and real. Have mercy on us, Lord. Cleanse us of our sins. Save us, Lord, as we cry with the people of long ago, "Hosanna!"

Time for Silent Confession

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

Vincent Bach III

Musical notation for the first line of the Kyrie. It consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled "Cantor:" and the second staff is labeled "All:". Both staves show a melodic line in G major (one sharp) with lyrics underneath: "Lord, - have - mer - cy." followed by "Lord, - have - mer - cy."

Musical notation for the second line of the Kyrie. It consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled "Cantor:" and the second staff is labeled "All:". Both staves show a melodic line in G major (one sharp) with lyrics underneath: "Christ, - have - mer - cy." followed by "Christ, - have - mer - cy."

Musical notation for the third line of the Kyrie. It consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled "Cantor:" and the second staff is labeled "All:". Both staves show a melodic line in G major (one sharp) with lyrics underneath: "Lord, - have - mer - cy." followed by "Lord, - have - mer - cy."

Declaration of Forgiveness

Psalm 118:4-5, 14, 17

Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118:

Let those who fear the Lord say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.

The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!
In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*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

A Time for Young Disciples

(After this, the children will go to the children's church or rejoin families in the pews.)

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Lessley, Reader

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9

Pew Bible Page 833

Reading from Psalms: Psalm 31:1, 7-16

Pew Bible Page 622

Reading from the Epistles: Philippians 2:5-11

Pew Bible Page 240

*Gospel Hymn 220, verses 1 & 2: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

REDHEAD

220 Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his

tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;
 life ar - rained; O the worm - wood and the gall!
 at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
 breath - less clay: all is sol - i - tude and gloom.

watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his
 O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete; "It is fin - ished!"
 Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is risen! He

griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

The composer intended this tune for "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" (no. 438), but its solemn tone and small range make it an effective setting for this series of somber vignettes portraying what Christians can learn from Christ: to pray, to bear the cross, to die, and to rise.

Gospel Readings:

Luke 22:39-53

Nicole Harris, Reader
Pew Bible Page 106

Luke 22:54-71

Sammy Gore, Reader
Pew Bible Pages 106-107

Luke 23:1-12

Vincent Bache, Reader
Pew Bible Page 107

Luke 23:13-25

Doris Ann Benoist, Reader
Pew Bible Pages 107-108

Luke 23:26-38

Rev. Dr. Gandy
Pew Bible Page 108

Luke 23:39-49

Rev. Chase Caldwell
Pew Bible Pages 108-109

Meditation

Rev. Caldwell

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.

Responsive Prayer on Christ's Passion

Our Redeemer suffered death, was buried and rose again for our sake. With love let us adore him, aware of our needs.

Christ, our teacher, for us you were obedient, even to death.

Teach us to obey God's will in all things.

Christ our life, by dying on the cross you destroyed the power of evil and death:

Enable us to die with you, and to rise with you in glory.

Christ, our strength, you were despised, and humiliated as a condemned criminal:

Teach us the humility by which you saved the world.

Christ, our salvation, you gave your life out of love for us:

Help us to love one another.

Christ our Savior, on the cross you embraced all time with your outstretched arms:

Gather all the scattered children of God into your realm.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

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

Improperium

Text: Palm Sunday Offertory, translated from the Latin

Music: McNeil Robinson

You have abandoned me and broken my heart, and I am full of woe.

I look about for someone who will be merciful, but there is no one.

No one will console me, no one will comfort my pain.

But you gave me vinegar to drink, and when I was hungry you fed me the bitterest gall.

You have abandoned me and broken my heart, and I am full of woe.

*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 Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Pastor continues in prayer, ending with The Lord's Prayer.)

The Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

Traditional

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.

THE SENDING

*Hymn 221: *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

*Benediction

Postlude

Christ lag in Todesbanden
(Christ lay in death's strong grasp)

J. S. Bach

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Robert "Bob" Savino by his family.

Music Notes: The Prelude this morning is a Chorale-Prelude on *Es ist das Heil (It is our Savior)* by an unknown 17th Century German Composer. The Anthem at the Offertory is the hauntingly beautiful and poignant *Improperium* by American organist and composer McNeil Robinson (1943-2015). It utilizes the traditional text for the Offertory chant on Palm Sunday, expressing (in the English translation of the Latin), the sorrow and pain of our Savior on the Cross. The Postlude is taken from the *Orgelbüchlein* of J. S. Bach, a chorale setting of *Christ lag in Todesbanden (Christ Lay in Death's Strong Grasp)*.

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 221

1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down;
 2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:
 3 What lan-guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear-est friend,

now scorn-ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead-ly pain.
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with-out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint-ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17th century.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After Worship: The Session meets immediately after worship this morning to receive new members.

Natchez Festival of Music: Festival directors continue to rehearse the 2025 season's opera in the FPC Fellowship Hall through April 20.

Children's Sunday School: Elementary Sunday School Class for ages 4 to 9 meets in the youth and children's room across from the gym in the education building at 9:15 a.m. with Christine Borum.

Sunday School: Adult classes on Sunday morning meet with Sammy Gore in the Westminster Room 9:15-10; with Chuck Borum in the parlor 9:15-10; or with Rev. Chase Caldwell upstairs in Stratton Chapel 9-9:45.

Session Meeting: The Session will meet Monday, April 14, at 5 p.m. in the church library.

Pastor's Bible Study: The Pastor's Bible study will meet not meet this week.

Prayer Chain: Anyone interested in participating in the prayer chain, please call the church office and leave your name and phone number.

Maundy Thursday: The service for Maundy Thursday will be 5:30 p.m. on April 17 in the sanctuary.

Good Friday: The service for Good Friday will be 12 noon on April 18 in the sanctuary.

Resurrection of the Lord: Easter Sunday, our celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord, is April 20, a day of joy in the church. Make plans to attend this most special worship service!

Easter Holiday: The church offices will be closed Monday, April 21, for Easter break.

Mark Calendars: Join others in the church and community at the festive event on Thursday, April 24, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30, to mark the 30th anniversary of Natchez in Historic Photographs. There will be a reception in Stratton Chapel with other events related to the exhibit taking place along with the good food and drink. Please let Debbie Germany or Walter Tipton know if you are interested in helping with this event.

Youth Group: First Presbyterian Youth Group meets Wednesdays at 4:15 in the youth room.

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

Wonderful Wednesday: Come for supper at 5:15 and stay for Bible study, held in the library beginning at 6 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir: The Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Mississippi Delta Mission Trip: Our congregation is sending a team to Leland Presbyterian Church to serve in that church's local ministry of home repairs and community improvements. The trip will be from June 2-6, and is open to anyone who feels called to serve. To register or for more information, reach out to Rev. Caldwell at 318-719-2060, or to George Bates at 601-807-5863.

Hearing the Service: If you have some trouble hearing during the Sunday worship service, will you please let Joan or Chase know of your difficulty? We are looking into some solutions to assist people who do not feel they are taking part fully because of hearing loss.

Medicine Bottle Ministry: Keep the empty bottles coming! Thank you again for your excellent response to your mission committee's request for used pill bottles with labels removed. A gracious volunteer has offered to remove labels. Drop the bottles in the baskets with labels still on, if you prefer.

Acolyte Formation: Young people ages 9 to 16 are invited to become acolytes, assisting with worship services on Sunday. Please let Rev. Gandy know if a young person in your family would like to participate.

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.

Pickleball at FPC: The FPC Fellowship Hall Pickleball Court will not be available for use until Tuesday, April 22.

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.

Photo Gallery Docents: Natchez in Historic Photographs is a favorite destination! Viking Cruise Line has included the photo gallery in their "Best of Natchez" tours, which are happening on Tuesdays. 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 any day of the week, but especially on Tuesdays. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Rosemary Hall or the church office to sign up.

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: Rev. Gandy is available for you when you have needs! Call the church for an appointment or just stop by the church office if it is an emergency. When there are burdens on your heart, problems you are trying to solve, questions about your faith you want to resolve, or any other reasons for your wanting support from the pastor, do not hesitate to call and seek that help. You are important!

Photo Gallery: 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. You may call Rosemary Hall or the church office to sign up.

Dedication of the Natchez City Cemetery's Columbarium

Since the 1929 formation of the Natchez Cemetery Association, our congregation has had important representation on that board. Over the years, many faithful women from our church have served on this board and dedicated long hours to care for our cemetery. It has been and remains important to these ladies, to their churches, and to our City of Natchez to provide a well-cared-for and beautiful final resting place for the many generations of Natchez and area residents and even those from afar.

As more people are deciding on cremation for their loved ones, the association members felt the need to design a unique spot for the "inurnment" of cremated remains. The recently completed columbarium provides this hallowed place on elevated ground in the "Bluff" section of our celebrated historic Natchez City Cemetery.

For you to view and experience the signature addition of this structure and its setting, we cordially invite you to join the Natchez Cemetery Association at the Dedication of the Bluff Columbarium Garden on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at 2:00 in the afternoon.



You are cordially invited to the

**Bluff Garden Columbarium Dedication
on the grounds of the historic Natchez City Cemetery**

**Sunday, April 27, 2025
two o'clock in the afternoon**

APRIL 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01		02		03
		04				05
Sunday Schedule 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship		Viking Tours 11 Bible Study	8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study 6 Choir		Noon AA	
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Daily rehearsals for the Festival of Music opera begin in the gym.	8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 5 Deacons 7 Boy Scouts Troop 157	Viking Tours 10:30 Pack Food Boxes 11 Bible Study	8:30 Exercise class 10 Rebekah Circle 10 Food Boxes Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study; Choir		Noon AA	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY	8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 4:15 Finance 5 Session 7 Boy Scouts Troop	Viking Tours 11 Bible Study	8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study 6 Choir	Maundy Thursday 5:30 Worship Service	Good Friday Noon Worship Service Noon AA Playschool closed	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
EASTER Rehearsals for Festival of Music opera end today.	Church Offices Closed for Easter Break Noon-AA	Viking Tours 11 Bible Study	8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study 6 Choir	5:30-7:30 Natchez Photo Gallery 30th year Celebration	Noon AA	
27	28	29	30			
Stewpot Sunday	8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop	Viking Tours 11 Bible Study	8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study 6 Choir			

NOTE: April 30 is the deadline for Youth to sign up for Montreat!

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 2025: Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore

Class of 2026: Mary Lessley, Helen Smith, Anne Vidal Suen

Class of 2027: Bobby Meason, George Bates, Danna Mooney, Ralph Loe

Clerk of Session: Rosemary Hall

Assistant Clerk of Session: Danna Mooney

Treasurer: Stratton Bull

DEACONS

Class of 2025: Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith

Class of 2026: Leigh Anderson, Ken Price

Class of 2027: Kristen Graham, Hubert Smith, and Sharon Williams

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

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