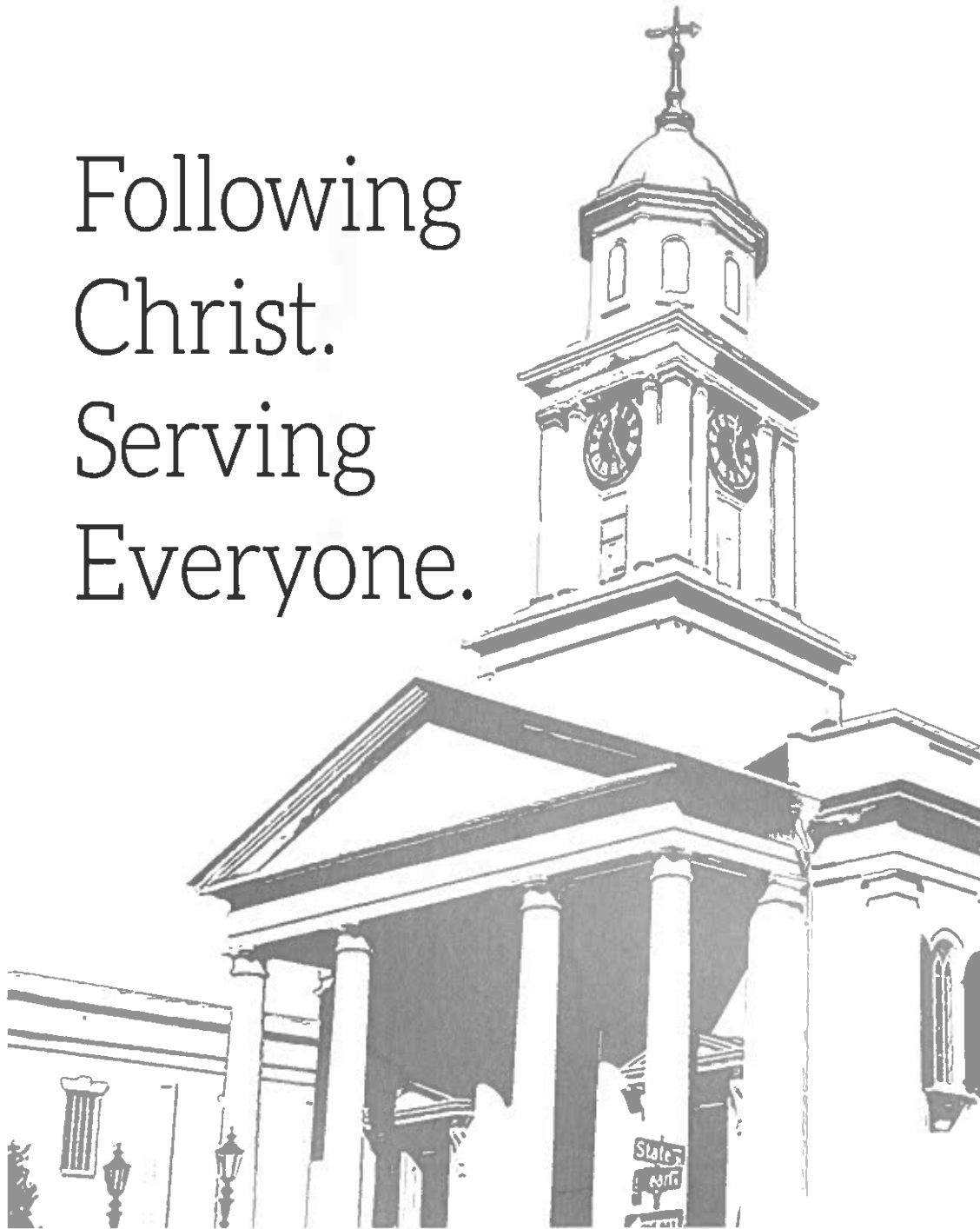




First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

Following
Christ.
Serving
Everyone.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, 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

Andante Calmato

John Lee

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Joan Gandy

Call to Worship

from Psalm 146:1, 5, 6, 10

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: **Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

Leader: The Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

All: **The Lord keeps faith forever. Praise the Lord!**

*Processional Hymn 307: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

TEXT: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1910, alt.
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1917

CWWRHONDDA
 8 7 8 7 4 7 7

Offering our lives in the life of Christ's church

Join in the ministries of your church as God calls you!

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*)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Time for Silent Confession

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

Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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

A Time for Young Disciples

Afterwards, children may return to their seats or go to children's class.

Prayer for Illumination

Sammy Gore, reader

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

Pew Bible Page 780

A Reading from Psalms: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Pew Bible Page 619

Reading from the Epistles: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Pew Bible Page 201

*Gospel Hymn 156, verses 1 & 2: *Sing of God Made Manifest*

SALZBURG

Sing of God Made Manifest 156



1 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
 2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,
 3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
 4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,



to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:



ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face



myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
 hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.
 towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.



"Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "showing forth," and this text cites key disclosures of Jesus as Messiah: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John the Baptist, the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the Transfiguration, recalled on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

Pew Bible Page 4

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

Sermon

"God's Kingdom at Dawn"

Rev. Dr. Gandy

A SERVICE OF REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

Candidate for Membership: Sue Simpson

Elder Sponsor: Dr. Charles Borum

Presentation

Elder Dr. Charles Borum: On behalf of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, I present to you Sue Simpson, who has been received into membership of this congregation by reaffirmation of faith. Hear these words:

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, through all, and in all." Ephesians 4:4-6

Rev. Gandy: Sue, you come to us as a member of the church of Jesus Christ into which you were baptized. We are sisters and brothers in the family of God. We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. As you join with us in the worship and service of this congregation, it is fitting that together we reaffirm the covenant into which we were baptized, claiming again the promises of God which are ours in baptism.

(The pastor continues.)

To all who are present today, hear these words from Holy Scripture:

"As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Jesus Christ." Galatians 3:27, 28

Renunciations and Profession of Faith

Pastor: Sue, in Christ, through your baptism, you are a citizen of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. You celebrate that freedom and redemption today through the renewal of the promises made at your baptism. I ask you therefore, once again, at this time, to reject sin, and to profess your faith in Jesus Christ, and to confess the faith of the church gathered in his name, the church in which we all were baptized.

Renunciations

Pastor: Sue, trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn away from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Sue Simpson: **I do.**

Pastor: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

Sue Simpson: **I do.**

Pastor: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love to your life's end?

Sue Simpson: **I will, with God's help.**

Profession of Faith

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

(The congregation will stand to join in the Apostles' Creed.)

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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 ever-lasting. Amen.

Call to Discipleship

Pastor: Sue, you have publicly professed your faith. I ask you now: Will you be attentive and devoted to the church's teaching and fellowship, and to the breaking of bread and the prayers we lift to God together?

Sue Simpson: **I will, with God's help.**

Prayer: Rev. Dr. Gandy

Welcome

Elder Charles Borum: Sue, by publicly professing her faith, has expressed her intention to continue in the covenant God made with her in baptism. Let us welcome her as she joins with us in the worship and mission of the church.

All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.

A Charge to All Members of the Church

John 3:16-17

Jesus said: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Prayers of the People

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 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

With gladness, let us present the offering of our life and labor to the Lord.

*Offertory *Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord*

Text: David Evans

Music: arr. Martin How

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Come, bow before him now with reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;

he burns with holy fire; with splendor he is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;

he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.

No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Be still, be still.

*Response Hymn 606

Doxology

OLD HUNDRETH

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

THE SENDING

*Hymn 826: *Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

*Benediction

*Postlude

Pasticcio

Jean Langlais

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Caroline Shields Brown by her family.

Lift High the Cross

826

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

to Refrain

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
 your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

TEXT: George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.

MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916; desc. Richard Proulx, 1985

Text and Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

Music Desc. © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

CRUCIFER
 10.10 with refrain

Music Notes: The Prelude this morning is *Andante calmato* by living American organist and composer John Lee (b. 1952). The Anthem at the Offertory is the beautiful *Be Still, For the Presence of the Lord*, music by David Evans, here arranged by British composer Martin How (1931-2022). The Postlude is *Pasticcio* from *Ten Pieces for Organ* by French organist and composer Jean Langlais (1907-1991). This set of pieces was written for the organist of the Basilica of St. Clotilde in Paris.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Pastor's Bible Study: Join the Bible study Tuesday, January 24, at 11 a.m. in the parlor in Stratton Chapel. Scriptures for this week's study are Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; and Matthew 5:1-12.

Handbell Choir: The Handbell choir meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. upstairs in the Sanctuary.

Wonderful Wednesday: Join us in Fellowship Hall for Wonderful Wednesdays, beginning with supper at 5:15 and Bible at study at 6 p.m. A study of the Immerse Reading Bible is just getting started. Come and participate in this interesting and stimulating way to read large sections of the Bible, beginning with New Testament studies.

Sunday Immerse Study: A second study group reading the Immerse Bible lessons meets on Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Join this group in the parlor in Stratton Chapel.

Sanctuary Choir: The choir meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. upstairs in the choir room.

Handbell Choir: The Handbell choir meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. upstairs in the Sanctuary.

ACOA Meetings: Adult Children of Alcoholics meets every Tuesday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. ACOA is a fellowship of people who desire to recover from the effects of growing up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional family setting. Anyone interested in attending is welcome!

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.

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.

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.

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, 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 2023: Lane Feltus, Mary Lessley, Catherine Ratcliffe
Class of 2024: George Bates, Stratton Bull, Bobby Meason, Cara Moody
Class of 2025: Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore

DEACONS

Class of 2023: Ken Price, Ryan Sharp
Class of 2024: Kristen Abney, Everette Ratcliffe, Hubert Smith
Class of 2025: Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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