

The  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of  
Jackson



*“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”*

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-Second Day of March, Two Thousand Twenty-Six  
MORNING WORSHIP  
Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain  
Senior Minister

The Reverend Mr. Gary W. Sinclair  
Assistant Pastor and FPDS Chaplain

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

### The Greetings and Announcements

The Prelude — "Little Prelude" ..... B. Breland  
Mrs. Susan Lawler, harp

The Introit — "Awake, My Heart" ..... Jane Marshall  
Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender,  
thy Maker thy preserver, a song of love and fervor.

The Call to Worship — Psalm 100

The Hymn No. 343 (stz. 1-4) — "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

### The Invocation

The Doxology No. 343 (stz. 5) — "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"  
Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,  
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One,  
One in might, and One in glory, while unending ages run.

### The Corporate Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, You do not change. You have revealed Yourself to us in Your Word. You call us to worship You in spirit and in truth, but we confess that we often worship not Your true self but who we wish You to be. We too often ask You to bless what we do, rather than seeking to do what You bless. Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance. Forgive us when our worship shapes You into what we want, instead of shaping us into what You want. Help us to meet You here, that we might bow before Your unspeakable majesty and so live for You now and ever in Christ. Amen.

### The Assurance of Pardon

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Hymn No. 614 — "Now Israel May Say, and That in Truth" (from Psalm 124)

The Scripture Reading — Ezra 6:19-22 .....pew Bible page 393

### The Pastoral Prayer

### The Offering

**The Offertory** — “My Song Is Love Unknown” .....Edwin T. Childs

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me;  
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Sometimes they strew His way, and His sweet praises sing;  
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.  
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath, and for His death they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done? To cause this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run; He gave the blind their sight.  
What injuries! Yet these are why The Lord most high so cruelly dies,  
my Savior, my song of love so cruelly dies.

Here might I stay and sing of Him my soul adores.  
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Yours.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.  
My song is love.

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Scripture Reading** — 2 Timothy 2:8-13 .....pew Bible page 995

**The Sermon** — **Keep the Faith: He Cannot Deny Himself**..... Dr. Strain

**The Hymn No. 707 (stz. 1-4)** — “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”

**The Benediction**

**The Congregational Response**

**Hasten on from grace to glory, armed by faith, and winged by prayer;  
heav'n's eternal day's before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;  
hope shall change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.**

**The Postlude** — “Improvisation”

Mr. Aaron Patterson, organist

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. If you are a visitor, we would love to know more about you. Please leave your contact information in the “Welcome Pad” at the end of your pew. We will follow up with you to introduce ourselves and tell you about ways to get plugged into the church.

# SERVICE GUIDE

## GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

### *Why do we have a prayer of confession?*

The Christian is one who has been given truth to confess. The heart of our confession is the good news that God has come in the flesh to redeem helpless sinners from our natural state of sin and misery. But it is the bad news of our natural sin and misery that makes the good news intelligible. This is why it is necessary and truly beneficial that we, as God's people, corporately confess our sins in worship. Corporate confession is one way that we reorient ourselves to the shocking reality of the kindness, mercy, and inestimable love of God—"for even while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

Our confession of sin also reminds us that we are ever dependent on His grace, because, in this life, we are ever struggling with the darkness of our own sinful hearts. The Bible is crystal clear that even though we've been justified by the blood of Christ, as long as we are on this earthly pilgrimage, we will always be at war with our sin (Col. 3:5). When we confess our sins together, we stop hiding, and we allow the light of God's grace to expose our deeds. And it is in this act of confession that His mercy renews us, fixes our eyes once again upon Christ, and cleanses our consciences to serve the Lord with gladness, joy, and hope—hope that even we can be made clean by the precious blood of Christ!

## GUIDE TO THE EVENING SERVICE

### *The Vows of Baptism*

In order for the congregation to participate in the sacrament of baptism and to refresh our own commitment to these vows, they are included below:

#### **TO THE PARENTS**

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on (his) behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for (his) salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before (him) a godly example, that you will pray with and for (him), that you will teach (him) the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring (him) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

#### **TO THE CONGREGATION**

Do you, as a congregation, undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

#### **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO**

Magee Claire VanDevender

Ellie Louise VanDevender

William Pardner VanDevender

Joyce Elizabeth VanDevender

children of Meredith and William VanDevender

# EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III — Minister of Teaching and Pastoral Care  
The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain — Senior Minister

## The Greetings and Announcements

The Prelude — “Pastorale on a Theme by Mendelssohn”.....Dr. John Howard

The Call to Worship — Galatians 2:20

## The Invocation

The Hymn No. 246 — “Man of Sorrows! What a Name”

## The Sacrament of Baptism

The Words of Institution

The Introduction of the Covenant Children and Their Families

The Biblical Promise

The Questions to the Parents and Congregation

The Prayer of Consecration

The Baptism

The Baptismal Benediction

The Hymn — “Arise, My Soul, Arise” ..... (hymn sheet)

## The Greetings

## The Offering

The Offertory — “Psalm 121” ..... The Student Choir

\*The Young Children’s Devotional — *The Children’s Catechism*

Q150. What will the new heaven and the new earth be like? **A. A glorious and happy place, where the saved will be with Jesus forever.**

The Meditation & Prayer....Rev. Gary Sinclair, Assistant Pastor & FPDS Chaplain

The Hymn (stz. 1-2) — “I Am Making All Things New” ..... (hymn sheet)

## The Prayer of Illumination

The Scripture Reading — Mark 2:18-28.....pew Bible page 837

The Sermon — That We Would See Jesus.....Mr. Lowry

## The Benediction

## The Congregational Response

We will no more fear the darkness, and the night will be like day;

For the Lamb in all His beauty, like a torch, will light our way.

And the gates of that great city never close to those who come;

Every nation brings its glory to our new creation home!

For behold, I am making all things new! Write this down; ev’ry word is true.

Tell the world what I came to do: I am making all things new!

## The Postlude

\*Children ages four through third grade will be dismissed to a children’s devotional and can be picked up after the service in room 133, just outside the sanctuary doors.

# FPC THIS WEEK

## Sunday, March 22, 2026

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship Services	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
9:45 a.m.	Membership Class	MB 123
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime for 3 and 4 year olds	M135
12:00 p.m.	College Lunch	The Strain Home (7 Pond Side Dr.)
3:30-5:00 p.m.	Communicant/Pastor Interviews	Welcome Center
4:30 p.m.	Student Choir Rehearsal	MS
5:00 p.m.	Prayer for Global Missions	Parlor
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship Service	Sanctuary (age 4 through 3rd grade dismissed for Children's Classes)
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Forster Home (4616 E Cheryl Dr.)

## Monday, March 23, 2026

9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Senior Adults Serve Day	PEARSON
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## Tuesday, March 24, 2026

6:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Series	MH
9:30 a.m.	Sew & Sow	WH 302
9:30 a.m.	Quilters	Bookstore
10:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	WH 305
12:00 p.m.	Weekday Prayer Meeting	PH
6:00 p.m.	Women's Ministry Spring Dinner	MH
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class	PH

## Wednesday, March 25, 2026

9:00 a.m.	MOMS Bible Study	MH
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Midweek Dinner	MH
5:30 p.m.	Children's Playtime	Playground
5:50 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MS
6:00 p.m.	Midweek Adult Programs	
	Philippians: Side by Side	MH
	The Christian Household	PH
	D Groups	Various Locations
	Evangelism Training	WH 304
	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	Session Room
6:00 p.m.	Children's Choirs	Playground
6:00 p.m.	Rise: Sixth Grade Fellowship	SC 211
6:00 p.m.	Student Ministry D Groups	YH & Baird Center Gym

## Thursday, March 26, 2026

9:15 a.m.	Women's Bible Study: Exodus	PH
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## Saturday, March 28, 2026

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast	PH
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## Sunday, March 29, 2026

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship Services	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
9:45 a.m.	Membership Class	MB 123
11:00 a.m.	Children's Churchtime for 3 and 4 year olds	M135
4:30 p.m.	Student Choir Rehearsal	MS
5:00 p.m.	Prayer for Global Missions	Parlor
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship Service	Sanctuary (age 4 through 3rd grade dismissed for Children's Classes)
7:30 p.m.	Senior High Insight	the Oakley Home (2006 Douglass Dr.)

# CARE TEAMS

## SHEPHERDING OUR CHURCH

Care teams are the vehicle by which our church organizes pastoral ministry. In a church of our size, we are at risk to miss opportunities to minister to one another. Therefore, our church leadership uses these teams to address needs, support, encouragement, and prayer. Each team is led by a group of elders and consists of elders, deacons, and Sunday school class leadership. We want you to know the pastor, elders, and deacons assigned to your class and feel comfortable reaching out to them. We also understand that in some circumstances female members of the church may prefer to approach a woman. Our Women's Discipleship Coordinator, Ella Payne, would love to hear from you. You can contact her at [ellap@fpcjackson.org](mailto:ellap@fpcjackson.org). If you are not a member of a Sunday School class and would like to contact an elder or pastor, please email [ccare@fpcjackson.org](mailto:ccare@fpcjackson.org).

### CORNERSTONE

Pastor	Deacons	Elders
Wiley Lowry	Guy McClain	Ken Ball
<b>Deacons</b>	Doug Morgan	Sharkey Burke
Will Barbour	Rob Oates	Matt Graves
Jay Brown	Weston Russ	Zeb Henson
Ty Hardy	Bryan Rutledge	Nathan Oakley
Michael Hogue	Neil Witherow	Malcolm Saxon

### COVENANT

Pastor	Elders	Elders
Billy Dempsey	David Cleland	John Neill
<b>Deacon</b>	Marcy Forester	Richard Ridgway
Chris Wyatt	Rob Jones	

### FIRST LADIES

Pastor	Elder	Deacon
Billy Dempsey	Reid Cotten	John McBride

### LAMPLIGHTERS

Pastor	Elders	Elders
Gary Sinclair	Hall Bailey	Stephen Kruger
<b>Deacons</b>	Kyle Ball	Bill Stone
William Griffin	Max Bowman	Cal Wells
	Bob Cunningham	Mark Windham
	Ned Currie	Marcus Wilson
	Arthur Davis Sr.	

### LIFE LEARNERS

Pastor	Deacons	Elders
Gary Sinclair	Brooks Buchanan	Mark Baird
<b>Deacons</b>	David Marchetti	Stuart Clarke
Walter Brand	Mike Myers	Doug McDaniell
Jesse Browning	Hugh Trussell	Hu Meena
	Coles Wilkins	

### LIGHT HOUSE

Pastor	Deacons	Elders
David Felker	Willem Lamar	Charles Barbour
<b>Deacons</b>	Read Meadows	Spence Flatgard
Price Davis	Sanford Moore	Craig Flowers
William Denney	Lee Thorne	Dave Fulcher
Gary Dye	Les Triplett	Phillip Parker
Matt Glover	Alan Walters	Ernie Strahan
David Luter	Chase Wynn	

### LOST AND FOUND

Pastor	Deacons	Elders
David Felker	Josh Hollingsworth	Paul Hurst
<b>Deacons</b>	Harrison Matheny	Parker Ellison
Turner Brown	Matt Peaster	Danny Story
Matthew Burrow	Bowen Thigpen	Mike Tramel
Paul Davis	Beau Burrow	Frank York

### PILGRIMS

Pastor	Elders	Deacons
Jamie Peipon	Tian Teh	Rob Lake
		Ken Seawright

### PROVIDENCE

Pastor	Deacons	Elders
Charlie Wingard	Alston Ludwig	Paul Forster
<b>Deacons</b>	Jeff Sumrall	Jimmy Moore
Jamey Elkin	Arthur Wadsworth	Matthew Turnage
Bailey Fair	Lee J. Webb	Alan Walters
Harrison Hood	Walt Wofford	

### SALT AND LIGHT

Pastor	Deacons	Elders
Wiley Lowry	Anthony Hall	Dallis Ketchum
<b>Deacons</b>	Virgil Payne	George May
Auston Edwards	Taylor F. Smith	John McVey
	Jason McNeel	

### SPECIAL FRIENDS

Pastor	Elders	Deacon
Rupert Hunt	Stuart Clarke	Jim Prince
Taylor	Craig Flowers	

### STEWARDS

Pastor	Elders	Deacons
Rupert Hunt	Ben Roberson	Bo Gregg
Taylor	Tim Threadgill	Robert Leard
<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>	Trey Porter
Jack Crawford	Allen Holiman	Jeff Skelton
Holt Crews	T. Dale	Stewart Swayze
Harper Keeler	Dave Dear	Will Vise

### YOUNG ADULTS

Pastor	Elders	Deacons
Scott Miller	Beau Burrow	Matt Peaster
	Reid Cotten	Bowen Thigpen
	Phillip Parker	

### YOUNG SEEKERS

Pastor	Elders	Elders
Billy Dempsey	Bud Bratley	Bill Harper
<b>Deacons</b>	Bill Crim	Wayne Husband
Glen Bush	Steve Edwards	Bill Payne
Ford Terry	George Fair	Steve Rosenblatt
	Claude Harbarger	John Lowe Smith

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God from the wedding of El Knotts and Eric Russ, and in loving memory of the grandfather of the bride, Charles Lewis Graeber III.

## COLLEGE LUNCH — TODAY

College students, join us for a free lunch today, at the Strain home (7 Pond Side Dr.) following the 11 a.m. service. Contact Peyton for more info or if you need a ride at 205-613-1059.

## EASTER WEEKEND

Join us at FPC this Easter to worship our Risen Lord! Nursery is available for children age three and younger. Children's Churchtime is during the 11 a.m. service and is for children ages three and four.

- Good Friday Worship Service — April 3, 6 p.m.
- Easter Morning Worship Services — April 5, 8:30 & 11 a.m.  
Sunday School to be held at 9:45 a.m.
- Easter Evening Worship Service — April 5, 6 p.m.

## SENIOR ADULTS SERVE DAY — MARCH 23

Senior Adults, join us on Monday, March 23, anytime between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. as we partner with the PEARSON Foundation. We will assist with their community garden pilot project and prepare packets for the Foundation's summer reading program. Come for an hour or stay for the morning!

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY SPRING DINNER — MARCH 24

*Loving the Local Church: Committed in the Age of Me*

Women, join us Tuesday, March 24, 6-8 p.m., in Miller Hall for our spring dinner gathering. Please register online at [fpcj.ms/events](http://fpcj.ms/events) to help us plan for the dinner. The cost is \$10 and will be taken at the door. A nursery is available by request at registration.

## BOUND TOGETHER BOOK CLUB — MARCH 30

*Living in Fellowship*

Join us Monday, March 30, at 6:30 p.m., for the next meeting of our Bound Together Book Club. The discussion of *A Place to Belong: Loving the Local Church* by Megan Hill, will be led by Tricia and Alan Walters and Allison and Brad Jeffries. Each book club meeting is independent, so all are welcome even if you missed previous book clubs. Desserts and coffee are provided; nursery is available upon request. Register online at [fpcj.ms/events](http://fpcj.ms/events).

## GATEWAY CHAPEL — MARCH 31

FPC will lead Gateway's evening chapel service on Tuesday, March 31. Please come at 3:45 p.m. if you'd like to help serve the meal. Chapel will begin at 5:15 p.m. and will include a message and singing with all being finished by 6 p.m. or before.

## PRAY FOR SUPPORTED MINISTRY PARTNERS

For detailed prayer requests and contact information for our supported missionaries and ministry partners, please contact Jo Lynn at [jolynnm@fpcjackson.org](mailto:jolynnm@fpcjackson.org).

**Kurt & Jill** – Kurt & Jill work with Mission to the World in Central Asia.

**James Post** – James serves as the RUF Campus Minister at the University of Oklahoma. Email: [james.post@ruf.org](mailto:james.post@ruf.org)

**Lifeline** – Supported through Mission to Jackson under the guidance of the Benevolence Committee, Lifeline is a Christian agency that services women in crisis pregnancy, services families through adoption, assists families in crisis through partnering with local churches for hosting and support of vulnerable children.