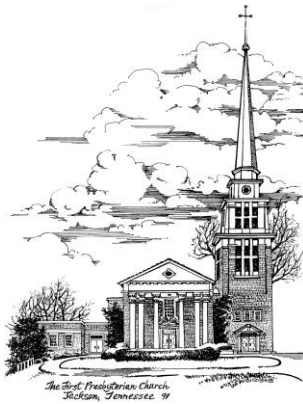


KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS

First Presbyterian Church | Jackson, Tennessee



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KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS

November 5, 2023

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

Eternal God, neither death nor life can separate us from your love. Grant that we may serve you faithfully here on earth, and in heaven rejoice with all your saints who ceaselessly proclaim your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John H. White

ORGAN PRELUDE

Fanfare-Trumpet Tune

Ashdown

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*PROCESSIONAL

The Rowan Tree

City of Memphis Pipe Band

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 146)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

ALL: *Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save.*

One: When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

ALL: *Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord our God!*

One: God upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. He sets prisoners free, and gives sight to the blind!

ALL: *The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord, and let us worship God together!*

*HYMN OF PRAISE: 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

Martin Luther

TO OFFER CONFESSION AND THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Let us be ourselves before God, who knows us better than we know ourselves, yet loves us steadfastly and redemptively.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: *Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into Your presence because of our many sins. If You dealt with us as we deserve, we would not deserve any grace or mercy from You. We have sinned against You, O Lord, and we have offended You. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, and loving and favorable Father to all who turn to You. We humbly ask You, for the sake of Christ Your Son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By Your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouth, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by You, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.*

— from John Knox Sunday Service

SILENT CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, believe the Good News.

ALL: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

*GLORIA PATRI: 581

*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.*

ANTHEM

All Earth Rejoice with a Gladsome Voice
Chancel Choir

Vivaldi / Hopson

(At this time, our young friends ages 4-2nd grade are invited to the Children's Church in the Education Building. An adult will escort the children. You may pick them up after the service on the first floor of the Education Building just outside the nursery. Grades 3-5 are invited to remain in the Sanctuary for worship.)

**Dismiss children*

THE REMEMBRANCE

Rev. John White
Ann Y. Schmidt (*Bell Ringer*)

*We honor the memory of those in our congregation who have died since last All Saints' Day:
Bill Duke, Doug Jones, Richard McCune, Helen Johnson, Martha Hanserd, Robert Elam, Jr.,
Wayne Monks, Bill Lawrence, Bill Hatch.*

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR ALL SAINTS

Rev. John White

One: Eternal and Almighty God, we give you thanks for all your faithful servants who have followed your will in a grand procession of praise throughout the world and through the centuries, into our own time and place.

ALL: *We hear their stories in the pages of scripture, in the records of history, in the recollections of our families, and our own childhood memories.*

One: As we remember these people, inspire us by your Spirit to join their ranks and follow our Lord through life, to be bold as they were, and brave as well, witnessing to your righteous truth and generous love.

ALL: *Give us grace, O God, that we will leave a legacy of faithfulness to encourage and challenge those who follow us along the way of discipleship; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

***HYMN: 326** (*all stanzas*)
For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE
Ralph Vaughan Williams

PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE

Rev. John White

ACT OF PRAISE

Amazing Grace
City of Memphis Pipe Band

arr. Wilberg

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Genesis 3:1-7**
(read from the 1599 Geneva Bible—the “Breeches” Bible)

Rev. Courtney Bowen
(Pew Bible, pgs. 2-3)

PSALTER READING, Psalm 95 *(read responsively)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
 let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

ALL: *Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
 and extol him with music and song.*

One: For the Lord is a great God,
 the great King above all gods.

ALL: *In his hand are the depths of the earth,
 the mountains and peaks belong to him.*

One: The sea is his, for he made it,
 and his hands formed the dry land.

ALL: *Come, let us bow down in worship,
 let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture,
 the flock under his care.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING **Revelation 21:1-7**

Rev. John H. White
(Pew Bible, pg.259)

SERMON *The Best is Yet to Come!*

Rev. John H. White

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

ALL: *We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to Whom alone we must
 cleave, Whom alone we must serve, Whom alone we must worship, and in
 Whom alone we must put our trust; Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable,
 incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct
 in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; by Whom we
 confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible...*

—from The Scots Confession, 1560 (chapter 1)

OFFERING
INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Offertory *Dawning of the Day*
City of Memphis Pipe Band

*Doxology (Tune: 591) 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.

*Dedicatory Prayer Rev. Courtney Bowen

PIPERS ANTHEM *Balmoral*
City of Memphis Pipe Band

PIPERS CALL City of Memphis Pipe Band

KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS Rev. John White
Elder James Harris

One: Who brings these Tartans to the Kirk?
Beadle: *We do.*
One: What say you?
Beadle: *On behalf of believers everywhere, we raise these Tartans before Almighty God in appreciation of our heritage, and ask God's blessing on His servants. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; even the One who taught us to pray, saying:*

LORD'S PRAYER (*spoken together*)
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.

TO GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION: 305
Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

DARWELL'S 148TH

BENEDICTION

Rev. John White

CHORAL BENEDICTION:

Celtic Benediction
Chancel Choir

Schram

*RECESSIONAL

Scotland the Brave
City of Memphis Pipe Band

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

Today we celebrate the Scottish Presbyterian heritage through the *Kirkin' of the Tartans*. This is also the day we are celebrating "All Saints Sunday" when we remember the faithfully departed, as well as living Saints. Much of the music for the service today comes from, or is in some way related, to the Reformation and Celtic tradition.

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for today's Hymn of Praise, "*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*," his most famous hymn, based on Psalm 46. We sing it today in honor of the anniversary of the Reformation.

The hymn, "*For All the Saints*," was written by William Walsham How, for All Saints' Day in 1864. It is a commentary on the phrase "*I believe in the communion of saints*" from the Apostle's Creed. The great English composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, composed the tune, SINE NOMINE. The name SINE NOMINE means "without name."

According to our *Glory to God* Hymnal, "the text for the hymn, *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*, was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church USA Bicentennial Committee for the 1988-89 observance, which had the theme "Celebrate the Journey. The late 18th century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

The Affirmation of Faith is taken from *The Scots Confession of 1560*, which was the first Reformed confession in the English language. John Knox and five other colleagues created the confession of faith at the request of the Scottish Parliament to be a confession of faith for the church and the nation of Scotland.

We thank the *City of Memphis Pipe Band* for providing the thrilling music today! The bagpipe is now regarded as the national instrument of Scotland.

Elder James Harris is the Beadle for the service today. The Beadle was an historic lay office that was established during the Reformation. The Beadle served as a guardian of the church, especially for the protection of the “Kirk’s” most treasured possession: the Bible. The Bible used in the service today is the Geneva Bible, affectionately referred to as the “Breeches” Bible. This Bible is the Bible that crossed the Atlantic with the Puritans and is also referred to by some as the “Puritan Bible”.

THE BANNERS DISPLAYED IN WORSHIP TODAY were designed and constructed by members of the Liturgical Arts Committee for use at our first *Kirkin’ of the Tartans* service in 2002. As you face the communion table, the banner to the right includes themes of the *Kirkin’ of the Tartans*: the shield with the cross of St. Andrew (Patron Saint of Scotland), the Scottish lion, thistle flowers (traditional flower of Scotland), and flames representing the Holy Spirit. The banner to the left of the communion table includes themes of the Reformation: three central figures representing the great Reformers (Luther, Calvin and Knox), the cross (primary Christian symbol), the Bible (representing the foundation of our faith and beliefs as Christians, as well as the Protestant watchwords “grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone”), a stained glass window (a familiar element in many churches), and gold stars that represent saints of the church.

As we celebrate the blessing of our church and families today, you will notice *for the ninth year* – T-pole banners designed and made by Ms. Martha Chism of Ms. Em’s Custom Draperies. We would like to sincerely thank her for her beautiful work which will be a tradition in our church for many years to come.

IN OBSERVANCE OF ALL SAINTS DAY, we invite your special prayers for those in our church family who have lost loved ones since last All Saints’ Day. The flowers today are given to the glory of God and to honor the memory of those Saints of the Church who have moved on to that “eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.” (2 Cor. 5:1) In our congregation, those who have died are: *Bill Duke, Doug Jones, Richard McCune, Helen Johnson, Martha Hanserd, Robert Elam, Jr., Wayne Monks, Bill Lawrence, Bill Hatch.*

The “ancient” Hamilton plaid is draped with the flowers in recognition of Patrick Hamilton (1503-1528). Hamilton was a Scottish churchman and early Protestant Reformer in Scotland. He was martyred in St. Andrews in 1528.

HISTORY OF THE KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS

The KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS is an American tradition which celebrates the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church.

The Protestant Movement began in 1517 after Reverend Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg. The first Reformation of the Protestant church followed the leadership of John Calvin in Switzerland in the sixteenth century. Known as the Reformed Church, it recognized the need for lay leadership. As a result, respected and wise laymen in the community were called to serve as church leaders known as “Elders” or “Presbyters” (from the Greek, *presbuteros*).

Meanwhile, John Knox from Scotland journeyed to Switzerland to work and study with Calvin. Upon his return to Scotland, he named the church in Scotland “Presbyterian.” Hence, the Presbyterian Church is Protestant (Luther), Reformed (Calvin) with Scottish refinement (Knox). Presbyterianism from Scotland and the Anglican tradition (Church of England) from England were the predominant religions in the New World during the establishment of the United States.

As a tribute to this heritage, Reverend Peter Marshall, Pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, and Chaplain of the United States Senate held the first service known as the KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS in 1941. “Kirk” is a Gaelic term for “church.” The KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS, therefore, can loosely be translated as a blessing for those things Scottish and specifically, the tartan plaids and bagpipes which are the symbols most associated with Scotland. Tartans are plaid textiles of Scottish origin patterned to represent different clans, families or individuals. The tartan of Patrick Hamilton, the first Protestant martyr who was burned at the stake in 1528, has been frequently unofficially adopted for use in some Kirkin' ceremonies.

The KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS worship service, therefore, asks the Blessing of God upon the Presbyterian Church. It is a service of rededication to the heritage and historical faith of the Church in God.

Cross of Saint Andrew



PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

Rev. John H. White
Rev. Courtney Bowen
Dr. James Harris
City of Memphis Pipe Band
Dr. Terry McRoberts
Helen Redding
Ann Y. Schmidt
Jody Pickens, Jeff Chambers
Jamie Richardson, Lane Bowen
Mona Campbell, Judy Herron
Charlie Thompson, Amelia Thompson
Luke Thompson
Paul Taylor, Lesa Barton, Samantha White, Nathan Smith
Paul Taylor, Lesa Barton, Samantha White, Nathan Smith
Paul Taylor
Dr. Stephen Carls

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Beadle
Guest Musicians
Organist
Director of Music
Bell ringer
Banner Bearers
Banner Bearers
Tartan Procession Leaders
Acolytes
Cross Bearer
Greeters
Ushers
Usher Chairperson
Kirkin' Photographer

