

# Everybody's Church

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, January 14, 2024, 8:30am, Second Sunday after Epiphany

## Vision Statement

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

## Inclusion Statement

As Everybody's Church we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other life circumstance.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Nyiri

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to worship God.

Many: **Who creates us and loves us;**

One: Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

Many: **Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;**

One: Who inspires children, youth, young adults,  
and people of all ages,

Many: **To seek justice, share power,  
and live together in love and equality;**

One: Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness  
and wellbeing for all,

Many: **And whose presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living.**

One: We gather to worship God.

Many: **To God be all glory, honor, and praise!**

All: Let us worship God!

†HYMN 372

"O For A World"

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. You sent Jesus among us to bid us be a light for others. Yet, too often, we hide our lamps, dimming the brightness of your Love. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, baptize us once again with your Spirit, that forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory, that shines for us in the face of Jesus Christ.

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or in spirit.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

The Call to Worship is from the PCUSA's 13th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration January 10, 2007 held at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

Hymntune: AZMON

Confession acknowledges the reality of sin in our personal and corporate lives. This practice relieves us from the burden of sin and reminds us of the promise of God's forgiveness and grace sealed in our baptism.

We are an intentionally inclusive congregation and value the richness of worshiping with all God's people. There are times in the sanctuary when shouts or other loud noises may occur. We accept these without judgment, unless they are signs of distress in need of attention.

†OUR RESPONSE 581      “Glory Be to the Father”

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ,  
the morning star that never fades.  
Many: By the light of your Holy Spirit reveal to us your saving Word  
and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love;  
All: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Micah 6:6-8

One: The word of the Lord.  
Many: Thanks be to God!

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

Acts 5:27-32

One: The word of the Lord.  
Many: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Letters from a Birmingham and Jerusalem Jail” Rev. Lou Nyiri

*“[W]hat does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?” - Micah 6:8*

MEDITATION

“Rivers of Delight”

Von Kampen

Beth Lackey, Soloist

*Members and guests, please sign the Fellowship Pads  
to let us know of your presence with us.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Leader: Lift up your hearts.  
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Please follow along with the  
reading on page 866 of the  
Old Testament in your Pew  
Bible.

Please follow along with the  
reading on page 123 of the  
New Testament in your Pew  
Bible.

All that we have is a gift from  
God. In gratitude, we return a  
portion of those blessings to  
the work of God in the church.

You are invited to contribute  
your loose change to the  
offering plate. This offering  
goes to the Deacons to help  
support their efforts to meet  
the immediate needs of food,  
clothing and shelter in our  
greater community. Those  
quarters (and dollars) really  
add up to help those in need!

**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Leader:** Why do we give thanks and praise before this Table?

**People:** We give thanks for God's work of creation, liberation, and salvation.

**Leader:** ... who forever sing to the glory of Your name..



“Holy, Holy” Land of Rest,  
Words and Music: Richard  
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*A prayer of thanksgiving for the ministry of Jesus, offered by the pastor.*

**Leader:** Why do we eat bread at this Table?

**People:** On the night before He died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks He broke it, gave it to His disciples, and said, “Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**Leader:** Why do we drink from the cup at this Table?

**People:** The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**Leader:** What do we remember at this Table?

**People:** We remember God's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us.

**Leader:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**People:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*A prayer calling on the Holy Spirit, followed by prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, and supplication.*

All: 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.

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*All persons are invited to come forward and partake first of the bread, and then the cup in order to be strengthened by Christ's presence and power in the sacrament. All the communion wafers are gluten-free.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†HYMN 749 "Come! Live in the Light!"

†BENEDICTION

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

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Andrew Herbruck, Director of Music Ministries, is playing the service.

The chancel flowers today are given by Shelly and Gary Amick in loving memory of Shelly's mother, Marilyn Stanick

Visitors, thank you for joining us today; please sign the Fellowship Pad or use this QR code to register your attendance:



## Many Ways to Give at FPC

To contribute online visit the giving tab (using the QR code) or go to [www.everybodyschurch.org](http://www.everybodyschurch.org).



Text "GIVE" to



248-600-4919

Hymntune: WE ARE CALLED

Welcome in Christ's name to First Presbyterian Church! You are welcome here just as you are at whatever place in your spiritual journey that you find yourself. If you have any questions about who we are, what we believe, or what we do, please ask one of our elders or pastors. They will be pleased to visit with you. Please know that you are invited to join us for coffee and goodies following the service in Calvin Hall.