



FOUNTAIN CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 15, 2026 | 10:30 A.M

PRELUDE

WORD OF WELCOME

The Rev. Janna Preston

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Sam. 16, John 9, Eph. 5

Jack Thomas

Liturgist: God does not see as mortals see. We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

All: **Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

Liturgist: Once we lived in darkness, but now as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.

All: **Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Jack Thomas

Liturgist: Let us pray:

All: **Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed, a “before” and “after,” a “now” and “then”; that we may also say, “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ’s light, we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN 32

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Glory to God Hymnal

1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
 And clouds a - rise, and tem - pests blow, by or - der from thy

skies. I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.
good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Please sign and pass the friendship register located on the center aisle under the pew in front.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ephesians 5

Jack Thomas

Liturgist: As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: **Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 23, Ephesians 5

The Rev. Janna Preston

Minister: The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

All: **We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.**

*GLORIA PATRI 581

Glory to God Hymnal

All: **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.**

PASSING THE PEACE

Jack Thomas

Liturgist: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

ANTHEM

“Great Is the Lord Almighty”

Jernigan

The Lord reigns, He is a mighty God, The Lord God reigns!

Chorus: Great is the Lord Almighty,

He is Lord He is God indeed!

Great is the Lord Almighty, He is God supreme!

Great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord He is God indeed!

Great is the Lord, Great is the Lord!

When the children of Israel, came to the brink,

He led them through, letting Pharaoh sink.

Then the children were dancin' as old Pharaoh sank down

Lifting up a mighty joyful sound, singing, [Chorus]

When the children of God came up to Jericho town,

The Lord said “Children let's walk around!”,

so for seven whole days

They walked around that great wall, 'til the Lord said,

“Shout and watch it fall, children!” [Chorus]

The Lord reigns, He is a mighty God, The Lord God reigns!

When His children were dying and lost in their sin,

my God died And He rose again!

And I've been rejoicing since he took my blame,

I thank You, Jesus, praise Your name! [Chorus]

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Children ages 5 through 8 are invited to children's worship.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ephesians 5

The Rev. Janna Preston

Minister: Let us pray:

All: **Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Minister: The Word of the Lord

Ephesians 5:8-14

All: **Thanks be to God**

John 9:1-41

SERMON

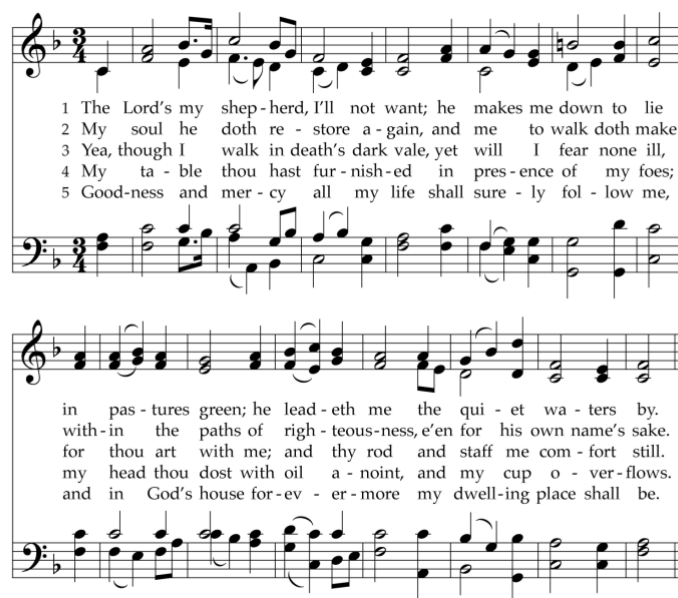
“Blind Trust”

The Rev. Janna Preston

*HYMN 801

“The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want”

Glory to God Hymnal



1 The Lord's my shep-herd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re-store a-gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill,
4 My ta-ble thou hast fur-nish-ed in pres-ence of my foes;
5 Good-ness and mer-cy all my life shall sure-ly fol-low me,
in pas-tures green; he lead-eth me the qui-et wa-ters by.
with-in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me com-fort still.
my head thou dost with oil a-noint, and my cup o-ver-flows.
and in God's house for-ev-er-more my dwell-ing place shall be.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Ecumenical Apostles Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended to the dead; the third day He rose again; he ascended into heaven, and he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Traditional Version

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Psalm 23

Jack Thomas

Liturgist: Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

OFFERTORY

"The Savior is Waiting"

Carmichael/Colvin

*DOXOLOGY 606

Glory to God Hymnal

All: 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

Ephesians 5

The Rev. Janna Preston

Minister: Let us pray:

All: In gratitude, O God, we come to your table, into your presence, into your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially, for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep, and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 314

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

Glory to God Hymnal

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

All: **Make us one, Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.**

POSTLUDE

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP

LiturgistJack Thomas
Ushers..... Dana & Mike Lamb, Denna & Don Grogan
Music..... The Fountain City Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir
Interim Accompanist..... Angela Bell
OrganistGeorge Hill
Tech TeamMac Holland, Thomas Rader, Brett Miller, Debbie Hawkins
Faithful Friends (Children’s Worship).....Susan Espiritu, April Lamb

OUR CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor The Rev. Susan Balfour
Church Administrator..... Ashton Hicks
Director of Music Bob Eubanks
Nursery StaffLaurismar Wrinkle, Brittany Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers this week are given to in thanksgiving for our pulpit supply, The Rev. Janna Preston.

Gift of the Month: This month our community outreach and engagement committee is seeking donations for Four Fountain City schools of snacks (not nuts) including small waters, granola bars, etc. Donations may be brought to the church office during regular business hours.

Family Promise: FCPC will provide a place of refuge and rest for families experiencing homelessness April 12-18th. Many opportunities are available to volunteer. Scan the QR code to sign up or speak with Tere McDonough.

Knox County Financial Offers Meet & Greet: Tuesday, March 17 6:00 PM. This non-partisan gathering will allow members of our community to meet and greet candidates on the ballot for the upcoming election. Candidates present represent all parties on the ballot. This event is sponsored by The League of Women Voters.

The Lunch Bunch will gather at Loco Burro in the West Town Mall. Transportation from FCPC will leave at 10:30 AM on March 19th. Please let Susan Espiritu know if you would like to attend.

Faithful Friends Training: April Lamb and Susan Espiritu are going to have a 10-minute training for Faithful Friends substitutes on March 22 immediately after church in the library.

Fountain City Egg Hunt: Members of the Community Outreach and Engagement Committee will be present at this year's community egg hunt! Come and hang out and represent FCPC at Ftn. City Park, March 28 from 10:00-12:00.

Fifth Sunday Breakfast: On Sunday, March 29th, during Sunday School hour, the CORE committee will host a breakfast for the congregation. Anyone who is able may add additional breakfast items to the meal. David Crocker from Operation InAsMuch will be speaking about the opportunities coming this Spring to help our neighbors.

Palm Sunday and Egg Hunt: Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, the most important time of the year for us as Christians. Join us for worship on Sunday, March 29 followed by our annual egg hunt. Invite your kids, grandkids and neighbors to experience the love of God at FCPC this Holy Week and Easter.

Maundy Thursday: On the night before our Lord Jesus was to be betrayed, he took bread and said "Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Join us this Maundy Thursday at 7:00 PM as we journey with Jesus from the table to the cross.

CHS Bobcat Bash: Fountain City Presbyterian Church will be present at this year's Central High School Bobcat Bash on April 2nd from 5:00-7:00 PM. Members of our Community Outreach and Engagement Committee (CORE) will be leading our presence. Come check out our new tent and get to know your neighbors.

F3 resumes on April 8 for a six-week study of the modern confessions in our Book of Confessions, which is Part I of the Constitution of the PC(USA). Copies of the Book of Confession are free, and all are welcome to attend. Stay tuned to sign up!

UKirk Dedication: On Saturday, April 11th from 10 AM to 12 PM, UT UKirk (1831 Melrose Ave.) will dedicate their new backyard, the Sullivan Space, named in honor of FCPC member and former UKirk student Miller Sullivan. Due to limited parking, Don Grogan will chauffeur anyone who wants to attend in the church van. Don will leave from the parking lot at 9:15am.

JARZHEIT

3/17/77 J. Clark Williamson, 3/19/77 Hannah Sienknecht, 3/21/78 Doc Weaver, 3/18/80 James Fort Jr, 3/21/81 Leva Brooks, 3/18/00 Dot Eldridge, 3/19/01 Joanna Wood, 3/21/01 Max Zuber, 3/18/03 John Willis, 3/16/04 Eula Puryear, 3/21/09 Lewis Lynn, 3/17/12 Evanne Elliott, 3/17/15 Marion Phifer

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3/16 Nancy Ferris, 3/17 Tom Bjorholm, 3/18 Mike Lamb, Beverly Holland, 3/19 Robin Rohwer