



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ELIZABETHTON

*Arms Open Wide*

April 15, 2018

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+ + + GATHERING + + +

SINGING OF THE HOUR

Tibetan singing bowl

PRELUDE

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Handbell Choir

GREETING

*In the name of the God who created us, the Christ who teaches us, and the Spirit who walks beside us, welcome home, children of God. The Lord be with you. **And also with you.***

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

CHORAL INTROIT

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

† INVITATION TO WORSHIP

*When God tripped over the stars this week and send great lightning sparks across the night*

**God's name was Power**

*When God stood in the morning dew a few weeks back and whispered Mary's name fresh from the tomb*

**God's name was Life**

*When God held out hands to Thomas and hold him to hold on and follow*

**God's name was Shepherd**

*When God pours water this morning and asks us to find heaven in every drop*

**God's name is Grace**

*When God shook us awake today and hollowed out an unused moment in front of us to step into*

**God's name is Creator**

*When God found us waiting here in the space between heaven and earth, now and not yet*

**God's name is Love**

*Friends, let us worship the God of many names. Amen.*

†HYMN 321

*The Church's One Foundation*

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

+ + + LISTENING + + +

MEDITATION

Bill Kirkwood

READINGS

*From Three Pauls*

**Philemon 15-17:** *I suppose you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, merely so that you could have him back for ever, no longer as a slave, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, both on the natural plane and in the Lord. So if you grant me any fellowship with yourself, welcome him as you would me;*

**Colossians 4:1:** *Masters, make sure that your slaves are given what is upright and fair, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.*

**1 Timothy 6:1-2:** *All those under the yoke of slavery must have unqualified respect for their masters, so that the name of God and our teaching are not brought into disrepute. Those whose masters are believers are not to respect them less because they are brothers; on the contrary, they should serve them all the better, since those who have the benefit of their services are believers and dear to God.*

ANTHEM

*Be Still My Soul*

SERMON

*One Book, Many Voices*

Rev. Dr. Brian Wyatt

+ + + RESPONDING + + +

†HYMN 771

*What Is the World Like*

OFFERING

*Shall We Gather at the River*

Handbell Choir

†DOXOLOGY

609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER

+ + + SENDING + + +

†HYMN 22

*God of the Sparrow*

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Threefold Amen*

POSTLUDE

†Please rise in body or in spirit

## A WORD ABOUT PAUL

Paul's name appears on 13 different letters in the New Testament, of which most critical scholars attribute roughly half to being authored by Paul himself (which we're calling the **first** Paul). Those letters are Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, and Philemon.

This Paul had a mystical experience of the risen Christ and his letters are characterized by challenging empire and proclaiming the radical inclusivity of all people. The remaining 6 letters were likely penned in Paul's name by 2 different (and later) authors.

The **second** Paul may have written Colossians, Ephesians, and 2 Thessalonians. This Paul was still progressive, but much more accommodating to empire.

The **third** Paul may have written 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus (the Pastoral epistles). His writing displays an acquiescence to empire and cultural standards of his day.

We may also speak of a **fourth** Paul as the one depicted by Luke in Acts. Luke is writing about the first Paul but writes a generation or two after Paul lived and wrote, and thus presents biographical information about the first Paul from his own perspective and with his own agenda.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## *Awakening the Dreamer*

In celebration of Earth Day 2018, you are invited to attend the Awakening the Dreamer; Changing the Dream Symposium on **Saturday, April 21, 1-5 PM at FPCe**. Through videos, presentations, and discussions, we aim to create an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and spiritually fulfilling human presence on Earth.

## *The Last Week*

Thursdays with Jesus (TWJ) group is reading "The Last Week" by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. We will discuss **Chapter 5 on April 19**. Join us Thursdays from 10:30 am to noon for fellowship and lively conversation!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Rebecca Hilton (Mom, Virginia Hilton passed)
- Sue Farthing
- Jennifer Gardner (sister passed)
- Carol & David Landis (his mother, Dottie Landis)
- Kathe Crossley (surgery)
- Amy Willingham
- Kathy & Frank Wing
- Dora and David Nelson
- Barbara Knisley
- Jeanne Kuerschner
- Betsy Thaxton
- Louise and Jim Pleasant

## STEWARDSHIP & SERVICE

### **Last Sunday (April 8)**

Attendance: 49  
Collections: \$2,628;  
Online: \$325  
EveryONE ARM: \$49

## Worship Leaders

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Brian Wyatt  
**Liturgist:** Jeff Wardeska  
**Choir Director:** Dr. Paul Gabinet  
**Musician:** Roddy Bird  
**Officer of the Month:** Mark Braswell

Please check the eWeekly for this week's upcoming events.

## WELCOME

*First Presbyterian Church invites you to become a part of our fellowship as we worship God and serve others in the spirit of Jesus Christ. With a commitment to achieving a just and peaceful world community - our congregation welcomes those of every age, gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnic identity.*