

*Note: An (asterisk) \* indicates the people stand for that element of the liturgy. If the next element doesn't have a \* beside it, the people sit down until the next time the \* appears.*

*Order of Worship for  
A Service of Worship for the 153<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting  
of the Presbytery of Middle TN  
August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

WELCOME

Ray Thomas

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. *And also, with you.*

Let us prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

Claire Cope

(Pause)

\*Call to Worship (responsively)

Vickie Rhea

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the convictions of things not seen.

**Like the faithful before us, let us follow God, even when we don't know where we are going.**

By faith, let us look forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

**Let us worship the God whose promises call and claim us.**

\*Please bow your heads for the PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Vickie Rhea

Lord, God, renew the presence of the Lord in each heart today. Let this service of worship be a time of peace and joy, renewal and rest, strength, and courage. By your power and glory God, fill

this day and fill our hearts with love that redeems all, renews all, rights all, heals all, and blesses all. Claim us and teach us and use us as your very own.  
Amen.

### Call to Confession

Vickie Rhea

Knowing our human imperfection, knowing our human way of blaming ourselves and one another, and knowing all that we do not know, Christ made the way for the forgiveness of all sin. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the light that brings us back home to the loving heart of God. Let us go together to God with the prayer of confession...

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all)

**Lord, forgive our wandering ways and bring us with laughter and humility back into the house of the Lord. Make us one body with Christ who holds this cosmos in love. You know the deep and terrible suffering that is sometimes part of human existence, and too often brought about by human hands. Cleanse us, Lord. Bring us back to wholeness in you. Bring us back to deep compassion for ourselves and others. Show us how to love, to forgive, and to accept forgiveness. Fill us with your love that we may overflow with your goodness, light, healing and love in this life, Amen.**

*(Pause for silent prayer)*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Vickie Rhea

God is ever claiming us and daily calling us by name.  
Indeed, the living of your days is meant for a simple, sweet joy, no matter how complex this life becomes.  
Embrace your life in Christ. Know you are loved and blessed.  
You are here for the reason of life and love.  
Believe the good news: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.***

### PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Vickie Rhea

Take a look at your fellow zoomers. Send your peace to one another by way of the chat feature or simply take a moment now to send the peace of Christ from your heart to the hearts of your brothers and sisters in Christ assembled today.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **(And also with you)**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Delilah Jane Phillips

Jesus came proclaiming the Good News of God. We claim this Good News even today, Lord, and we call upon your Holy Spirit to be our guide as we hear your holy word proclaimed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

Delilah Jane Phillips

SERMON "What About God?"

Delilah Jane Phillips

SPECIAL MUSIC

Claire Cope

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Ray Thomas

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Ray Thomas

(Excerpted from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve...With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

OFFERING

Bobby Harding

Designated today for the *Centsability Fund*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bobby Harding

Dear Lord, we give back to you in thankfulness of what you have given to us in your love. We acknowledge that the world and its resources are not ours but yours, and that you have put us here as trustees of your beloved creation. Let Jesus be the pattern of all our dealings with one another and all the world. Bless these gifts that they and we may be used in the work of your will to bring all to you in love and wholeness, in peace and love, in justice and goodness. In Jesus' powerful name we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Delilah Jane Phillips

POSTLUDE

Claire Cope

SERVING IN WORSHIP:

Rev. Ray Thomas

Vickie Rhea, Elder, Big Lick PC(USA)

Rev. Delilah Jane Phillips

Rev. Bobby Harding

Claire Cope, Musician, Emmanuel PC(USA)