

First Presbyterian Church

Serving Christ in Milledgeville

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061
478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgevilleorg
Like us on Facebook

Wandering Heart

"And I hope"



Easter Sunday

Followers of Christ, called to serve our community
and be an actively-engaging light to the world.

We live into our faith, inspired by our worship, encouraged by our fellowship,
empowered by our studies. As a Matthew 25 Congregation, we answer the call to
provide food and shelter to those in need. As a More Light Presbyterians
Congregation, we provide a safe and affirming worshipping community for
LGBTQIA+ persons, celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person as they
seek a home for their faith and confidence in the promises of God for them.

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

And I hope

PRELUDE

Allegro Maestoso from Water Music Suite

G.F. Handel

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are delighted that you have joined us this Lord's Day. If you'd like to learn more about our mission and ministry, we invite you to speak to Rev. Susan. Restrooms & changing table are at the end of the hall to the left. Thank you for being with us!

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sir Arthur Sullivan, arr. Richard Shephard

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Yesterday we thought death had won. Yesterday we thought all was lost. Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

Congregation: But not today. Today we know that love has won. Today we know that hope is real. Today we know that Christ is here.

Leader: We have a reason to hope.

Congregation: We have a reason to sing!

Leader: Alleluia!

Congregation: Alleluia! Christ is risen today.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Reverend Susan Balfour

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, every year we forget how much we need Easter. Every year we forget how much we need the flowers and the music and the promise of a new day. Once again, Easter has come. And once again, our hearts are overflowing. Sift through the emotions we hold and remind us that you are with us in all of them. Garden or tomb, you are there. Amen.

*HYMN 246

Christ Is Alive!

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the Gospel of Luke, the women come to the tomb, and to their surprise, instead of finding Jesus, they find angels. The angels tell the women, "Jesus is not here," and when that answer is met with confusion, the angels say, "Remember what he told you." *Remember.* It's one of the words Jesus used at his last supper, and it's one of the first words we hear at the empty tomb. *Remember.* We need the prayer of confession and these words of forgiveness every single week. It's not enough to hear of God's grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week. We need to be reminded that God's grace and mercy will never run out. So friends, let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb. Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can remember. Join me in the prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: The stone is rolled away!

Congregation: We assume it is a mistake.

Leader: The angels say, "He is not here!"

Congregation: We assume their news is fake.

Leader: The women tell the story,

Congregation: but we do not want to hear it.

Leader: Peter runs to the tomb,

Congregation: but we do not understand.

Leader: Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb is nothing more than a prank.

***Please stand as you are able.**

Congregation: Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death.

Leader: Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world.

Congregation: Teach us to see what you see.

Leader: Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

Congregation: Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHORAL RESPONSE

Christ is risen Sir Arthur Sullivan, arr. Richard Shephard

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The angels tell the women, "*Remember* what Jesus told you." So, church, remember this: You are seen. You are forgiven. You are held in God's grace. All of this is true. Grace and mercy abound for you. *Remember this.* Amen!

GLORIA PATRI

HYMN NO. 581

***Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end!
Amen, amen***

THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Mark Schweizer

*Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Sing ye heav'ns, and earth, reply,
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Lives again, our glorious King,
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise,
Angels sing, and earth replies,
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of new beginnings, on that first Easter morning, the disciples struggled to hear the good news. Doubt clouded their minds. Negativity took root and hope vanished with a simple shake of their heads. As we return to this familiar text, help us to hear differently this morning. Open our ears that we might hear the sound of Alleluias ringing through this text. Open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter might feel within reach. Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable. And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Pew Bible Page #

OT P 565

GOSPEL

Luke 24:1-12

NT P 90

SERMON

Reverend Susan Balfour

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Day of Resurrection

*HYMN 233

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING (see insert)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



Scan. Pay. Go.

Resurrecting God, Easter leaves us breathless. Easter leaves us speechless and hopeful, eager and awestruck. Easter tethers our wandering hearts to you, as only awe can. What a gift it is to be alive. Let us give thanks to God for God is good. Let us gratefully give of our offerings to the glory of God and in praise of Christ's resurrecting ministry. You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR Code in your bulletin or visit our website at fpcmilledgeville.org.



OFFERTORY

I Am the Resurrection

Gallus Dressler

*I am the resurrection and the true life.
All who believe in me, though they were dead,
yet shall they live:
And whosoever lives and believes in me,
they will nevermore perish,
but they shall have eternal life.*

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds us, your generosity fills us to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 245

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go in peace. AMEN

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Sir Arthur Sullivan, arr. Richard Shephard

*POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus

from Messiah G.F. Handel

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Our deepest condolences to Becky Henderson, on the death of her mother Julie Montemayor. Please be in prayer for Becky and her family as they grieve this deep loss.

LIMITED MOBILITY
Helen Danuser

CHURCH FAMILY:

Wesley Applebury, attending seminary in Atlanta
Beth Baarda, at home in hospice care in LaGrange, GA
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns
Greg Jones, congestive heart failure

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Joseph Bennett, Joe Bennett's father, in hospital
Judy Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's daughter, recovering from car accident
Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns
Heather Brooks, Susan Balfour's cousin, lung and brain cancer
Peggy Deschermeier, Jennifer Flory's aunt, stage 1 pancreatic cancer, recovering at home from Whipple procedure
Margret Ellen (Meg) Clark, Margaret Ivester's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery
Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer
Karen Hartmann, Susan Balfour's cousin, stage 4 cancer
Alonzo Kelly, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma
Velma Kelly, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Mildred Moore, Sundae Coleman's aunt, in hospice care
Janie Mullis, Bill Werts' son-in-law's mother, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon
Paul Orman, Barbra Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns
Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis
Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns,
Gloria Roberts, Bill Werts' cousin, recovering from a traumatic fall
Willy Sanders, Sunda Coleman's cousin, ongoing health concerns
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care

IN ASSISTED LIVING

George and Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549
Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Nancy Holbrook, The Dublin Place, 504 Fire Tower Rd, Dublin GA 31021
Eloise Lamb, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place, Milledgeville, GA 31061
Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Jackie Northington, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place, Ste 118
Suzy Smith, Savannah Court 1061 Willow Run Rd., Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: March 31- April 7

Today 9:30 Sunday School and Lounsbury Cross
(No Intergenerational/Confirmation Class)
11:00Easter Worship Service

Monday Office Closed
7:00 MSG

Tuesday 9:30 Food Pantry
12:00Kiwanis

Wednesday 6:30 Pot Luck and Bible Study

Thursday 10:30UMC Planning Meeting

Sunday 9:30 Sunday School
9:45 **Intergenerational/Confirmation Sunday School Class**
11:00 Worship Service
12:00Youth Group

Offerings in March	\$12,145.00
Anticipated March expenses:	\$24,456.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)	



Join us for worship in-person, online at Facebook Live or on the radio at 102.3 WKZR radio every week.

Sunday: 9:30AM **Zoom Sunday School Class**, we are studying *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*
www.Zoom.com, Meeting ID: 871 5078 2729
Passcode: 881336

Fellowship Sunday School Class, studying *Contrarians Guide to Knowing God: Spirituality for the Rest of Us* by Larry Osborne, Meeting in the Parlor Room

9:45 AM **Intergenerational/Confirmation Sunday School Class**, studying *Confessing Our Faith*, for new members and confirmands meeting in the Fellowship Hall

10:15AM **Children's Sunday School Class**, Wandering Hearts curriculum, singing, crafts and stories, meeting in the Craft Room Upstairs

Wednesday: 6:30PM **Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, *The Other Evangelicals, A Story of Liberal, Black Progressive, Feminist and Gay Christians and the Movement That Pushed Them Out*, Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

552

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
F C F B^b C F

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) (D/F#) (F#m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am B^b C Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: American folk melody; adapt. Marcia Pruner, 1980; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.


LAND OF REST

According to Christ's commandment: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory...

SERVICE MUSIC


553 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G)(A) (D) (A) (D/F#)(F#m)
F C F B^b C F C F/A Am



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A)(Bm) (G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A)(Dsus)(D)
B^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

LAND OF REST

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

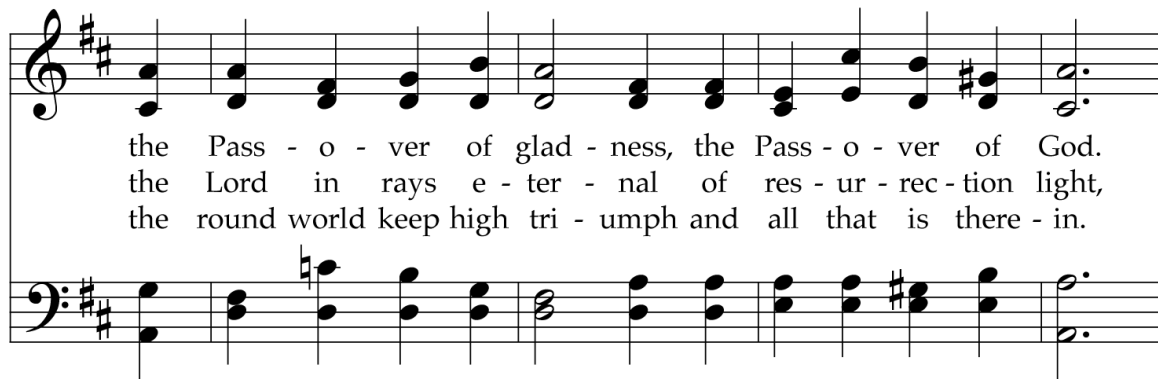
prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

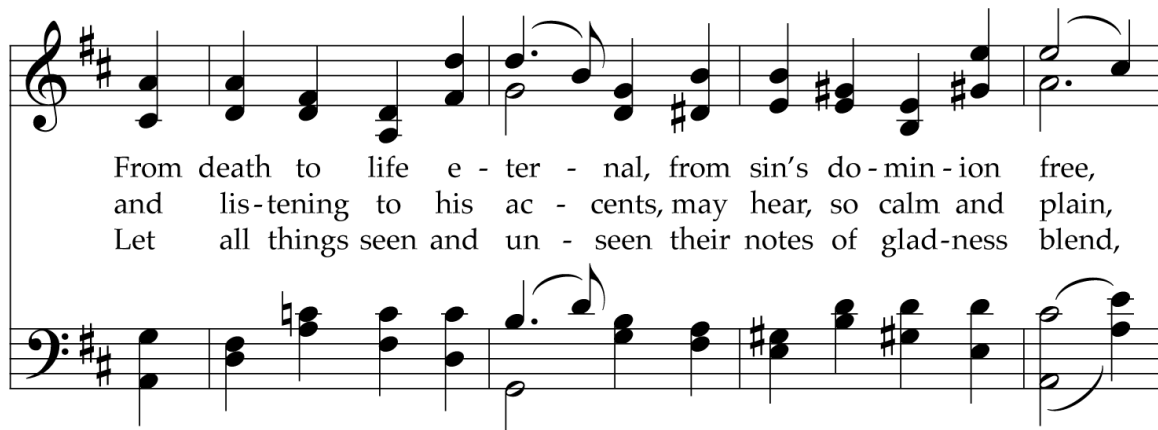
233 The Day of Resurrection!



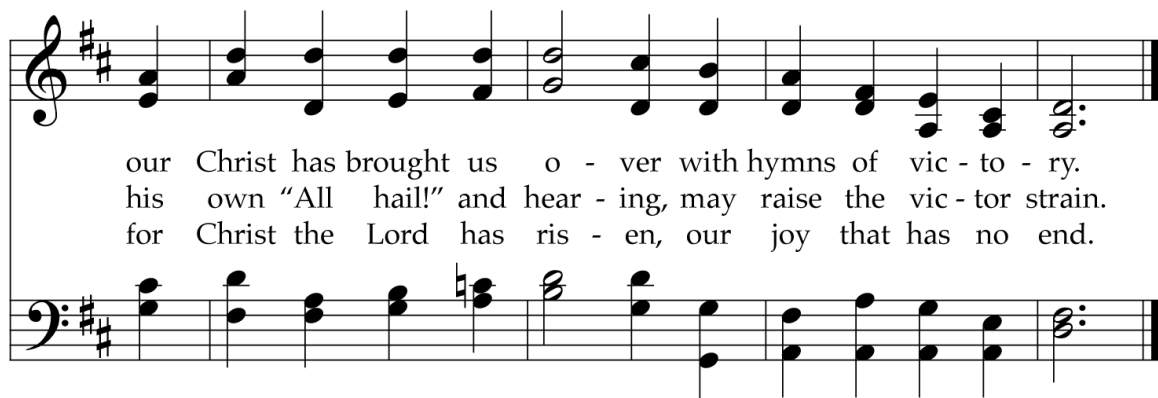
1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

245 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
 4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Where, O death, is now your sting?
 Praise to you by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise,
 Je - sus died, our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Originally printed as eleven four-line stanzas without alleluias, this Easter text was written during the first year following the author's life-changing conversion experience, yet it already shows his enduring emphasis on the theme of love. This lively Welsh tune sets it well.