

First Presbyterian Church

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fpcmilledgeville.org*

**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 worshiping 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.

September 21, 2025

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

He Who Will Suffer God to Guide Him

J.S. Bach

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 the Liturgist or Minister. 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

This Is My Song

GTG #340, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Turn us, O God,

Congregation: away from the world's temptations and distractions.

Leader: Return us, O God,

Congregation: to the quiet calm of your presence.

Leader: Restore us, O God,

Congregation: to the path you call us to follow.

Leader: Orient us, O God,

Congregation: to the hope of all that is possible through you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Gloria Burns

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator of all life, you have designed our world and everything in it, and you continue to recreate our world. You see and know all our frailties, weaknesses, limitations, and failures. May we continue to look for how your presence renews and adorns us, assuring us of your goodness and grace. Amen.

*HYMN 331

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our refuge, you lift up the lowly and hold out hope to the hopeless. Yet we who receive your grace so freely do not follow your example. We are quick to judge, eager to criticize, slow to show mercy. We gather and keep for ourselves what was meant to be shared. We diminish and dehumanize those around us. God of us all, hear this confession. Receive it. We ask for your forgiveness. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

My Country's Skies

GTG #340, vs. 2

HEARING GOD'S WORD

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (Isaiah 43:1)

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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**

PEACE

ANTHEM

Behold, a Sower!

Crawford R. Thoburn

*Behold a Sower! from afar Goes onward forth with might;
The rolling years the furrows are, the seed, the growing light; For all the just God's Word is sown, it springeth up alway; The tender blade is hope's young dawn,
The harvest, love's new day. O Lord of life, to you we lift our hearts in praise for those,
Your prophets, who have shown Your gift of grace that ever grows, of Truth that spreads from shore to shore, of wisdom's wid'ning ray, of light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Shine forth, O Light, that we may see, with hearts all unafraid, the meaning and the mystery of things that You have made;
Shine forth, and let the long dark past beneath the beam grow bright;
Shine forth, and touch the future vast with Your untroubled light.*

(cont.) *Light up Your Word; the ancient page from all past bondage free,
Light up our way; lead forth this age in love's large liberty. Oh, light of light!
within us dwell, through us Your radiance pour, that word of life all truth may tell,
and praise You evermore!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us, so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.

	SCRIPTURE READINGS	Pew Bible Page #
NEW TESTAMENT	1 Timothy 2:1-6	NT P. 208
NEW TESTAMENT	Luke 16:1-3	NT P. 79
SERMON	"An Extravagant Church"	Rev. Ron Gilreath
*HYMN 697	<i>Take My Life</i>	
INTENTIONAL PRAYER		
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		(A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

INVITATION TO OFFERING



God's abundance cannot be matched. Still, we are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings. 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.



FERTORY
*DOXOLOGY

When In the Hour of Utmost Need
**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!**

OF-
J.S. Bach

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Generous God, what we place before you is but a fraction of all you have entrusted to us. Receive these gifts, we ask, and multiply them for your purpose. Let our offerings become a source of blessing for the most vulnerable, for those in greatest need. May the act of giving, rooted in generosity, loosen our grip on what we possess, and kindle in us a deeper desire to share. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use me*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *This Is My Prayer*

POSTLUDE *All Praise to Jesus' Hallowed Name*

GTG #340, vs. 3
J.S. Bach



Lord, hear our prayers

CHURCH FAMILY:

We grieve the loss of our beloved Nancy Holbrook. Our prayers and loving thoughts extended to her family.

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns

Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns

Sunda Coleman, recovering from surgery after a fall

Frida Ituka, recovering from knee replacement surgery

Ellen Thompson, recovering from a broken hip at home

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues

Wesley Applebury, hospitalized after reconstructive neurosurgery on Sept. 10.

Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home

Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns

Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis

Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer

Kathy Hall, Gini Wilkerson's mother, stroke

Peter Hall, Gini Wilkerson's brother, ongoing health concerns

Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melanoma

Velma Kelley, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns

Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns

Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns

Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon

John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll's father, recovering from kidney operation

Paul Orman, Barbara Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns

Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis

Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, diagnosed with congestive heart failure, at home

Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns

Paul Schrage, Carrie Cook's father, 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

Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments

Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care

Wayne Woodard, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING

Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549

Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Runette Pounds, The Cottages, 1010 Fernwood Dr, Rm 206, Milledgeville, GA 31061

Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: September 21 – September 28

Today	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
Monday	7:00	Oconee Recovery Coalition
	7:00	Milledgeville Singers Guild
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	5:30	Kiwanis Board Meeting (Parlor)
Wednesday	7:30	NA Meeting
	6:30	Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Friday	9:00	Church Clean Up (til noon)
Saturday	9:00	Church Clean Up (til noon)
Sunday	7:30	NA Meeting
	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service
	1:30	Homeless Awareness Club

We welcome Rev. Ron Gilreath to the pulpit today.



***To the Glory of God, the flowers in the sanctuary are in memory of
our beloved Nancy Holbrook***

Nursery Schedule for September:

Sept.21 Anne Smart/Laurie Peebles
Sept.28 Margaret Ivester/Susan McGill

Liturgist:

Cecilia Odihe
Cecilia Odihe

Offerings in September	\$10,410.64
Anticipated September expenses:	\$21,424.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)	



Join us for worship in-person or online on Facebook Live every week.

Sunday: 9:30AM **Zoom Sunday School Class**, we are studying *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* by Amy Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, www.Zoom.com, Meeting ID: 852 8172 1781 Passcode: 085809

Fellowship Sunday School Class, studying *Jesus CEO: Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership* by Laurie Beth Jones

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

Wednesday: 6:30PM **Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, studying *The Righteous Mind, Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt, meeting in the Fellowship Hall

331 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

(optional)

1 God of the a - ges, whose al-might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil-some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star-ry band
 past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de-fense.
 way. Lead us from night to nev - er-end-ing day.

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay:
 Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease.
 Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 Thy boun-teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

This hymn was generated by 19th-century centennial celebrations: the words by the Declaration of Independence and the music by the adoption of the United States Constitution. Despite these origins, no

Take My Life


697




1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;




take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as

cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.



5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so)
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y -

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)
 (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.