

First Presbyterian Church



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Inspired by Scripture, guided by Spirit, and nourished by our life together, we seek to be a reflection of God's radical grace. We believe God's love models a world without walls; therefore, we provide a safe and affirming home where you are welcomed exactly as you are. No matter the color or your skin, who you love, your gender, or the unique ways your mind and body work, you have a place here. Following the way of Jesus and empowering one another to grow in faith, we commit to feeding the hungry, caring for those in need, and working for justice and peace in our community and the world—living out our confidence in the promises of God.

October 4, 2026
World Communion Sunday

PRELUDE

O God of Every Nation

Emma Lou Diemer

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

O day of peace

GTG #373, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us gather in the name of the Triune God, the holy Planter who calls all things into being.

Congregation: We gather to worship the One who tends the earth and provides for every living thing.

Leader: From east and west, from north and south, God summons us to this sacred space.

Congregation: We come to listen for God's Word and to bear the sweet fruits of justice and peace.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, sovereign Planter and Maker of all creation, we praise you for your boundless power and enduring glory. We rejoice in the living presence of Jesus Christ among us, the true Vine who anchors and sustains our lives. Pour out the rich gifts of your Holy Spirit upon this gathered community, that our hearts may overflow with thanksgiving and adoration. Cultivate our worship this day, that every word spoken, every song raised, and every prayer offered may magnify your holy name. Amen.

***HYMN 756**

O God of Every Nation

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we live with clenched fists, shouting "mine" when you call us to share. We build walls instead of bridges, and we exploit your good earth instead of tending it with care. Forgive our greed and pride. Prune away our selfishness, open our hands, and teach us to bear the fruit of justice and love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

O God, whose heart compassionate

GTG #344, vs. 4

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news: God did not send the beloved Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Congregation: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Leader: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are reconciled to God and one another.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

*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**

Leader: The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

**At this time young children may depart for the nursery.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ANTHEM

Grant Us Your Peace

Felix Mendelssohn

*Grant us your peace, O loving Lord,
our Rock and firm foundation.
Our faith is in your excellent word,
speaking to every nation.
Your promise of sure salvation.*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Isaiah 5:1–7

OT 634

GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 21:33–46

NT 24

SERMON

Whose Vineyard Is It, Anyway

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO OFFERING



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

Bread is Heaven, on Thee We Feed

Emma Lou Diemer

***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!*

SEALING THE WORD

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 769

For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table

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: Blessed are you, O Lord our God Therefore we praise you, joining the song
the universal church and the heavenly choir:

552

Holy, Holy, Holy

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

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

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

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

(G) B^b (D) F (A) C (Bm) Dm (Em7) Gm7 (A) C (Dsus) F#sus (D) 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 Pramer, 1980; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

LAND OF REST

Great is the mystery of faith....

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....

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Hymnal pg 35

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 320** *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb* GTG #373, vs. 2

***POSTLUDE** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* Rosalie Bonington

****At these times the congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.***

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Food pantry donations can be placed in the baskets during the first hymn.
- World Communion Offering is accepted today.
- Please share your ancestors' information with us ahead by October 20 for inclusion in the All Saints' Day remembrance.

769

For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

O God of Every Nation 756

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and

joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

jus-tice and joy!

320 The Church of Christ in Every Age

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

Prayer List



CHURCH FAMILY:

Harry Beck, recovering from surgery
Debbie Lamsma, dealing with Parkinson's
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ongoing health concerns
Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns
Ellen Thompson, waiting on two hip replacements

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Lindsey Jones, friend of Gini Wilkerson, awaiting medical diagnosis
Bob Bray, Ann Hotchkiss' friend with a heart blockage, and his care team at Emory
Jax Bastow, child cancer round 2, and parents Catherine & Jason Bastow, family friends of Pat & Sherry Henry
Don Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, in the hospital
Oscar Jude Hall, Gini Wilkerson's nephew, born prematurely
Ron Bracewell, Joy Bracewell's father, ongoing with health issues
Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Foster with serious health issues
Kathie Bishop, Mari Turner's mother, in memory care
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, health issues—at Carlyle House in Macon
John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll's father, recovering from kidney operation
Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, at home with 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 Woodward, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING:

Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Laura King, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Runette Pounds, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Louise Sallstrom, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

Greeters

Oct. 4: Margaret Ivester & Susan McGill
Oct. 11: Nancy Miller & Millie Murphy

Communion

Oct. 4: Andrew Allen, John Bradley,
Anne Smart, Charles Burrell

Nursery Volunteers

Oct. 4: Anne Smart/Melba Burrell
Oct. 11: Gloria Burns/Laurie Peebles

Liturgist

Oct. 4: Becky Humphrey
Oct. 11: Glory Nwankonta



Offerings in September \$ 14,099
Anticipated September expenses: \$ 18,242
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

This week at our church:

October 4-11

Today

9:45 Sunday School
10:40 Fellowship
11:00 Worship
12:00 Youth group
1:00 PFLAG Family Potluck

Monday

7:00 PATH/Oconee Recovery Coalition
7:00 Milledgeville Singers Guild

Tuesday

9:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis

Wednesday

7:30 NA Meeting
6:30 Potluck & Study

Thursday

7:30 NA Meeting

Saturday

7:30 NA Meeting

Sunday

9:45 Sunday School
10:40 Fellowship
11:00 Worship
12:00 Youth group





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

9:45 AM Engage Sunday School Class (meets in upstairs classroom), studying PC(USA) Engage Discipleship curriculum.

9:45 AM Bible Sunday School Class (meets in the Betty Newton Campbell parlor), doing an intensive study of the Book of Jeremiah. Please contact Joel Burns joelburns@gmail.com if you are interested in attending via Zoom.

9:45 AM Fellowship Sunday School Class (meets in the library) studying God In Pain by Barbara Brown Taylor.

9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Class, (meets in the Craft Room upstairs) singing, crafts and stories, & **Youth Sunday School Class** (meets in youth room upstairs)

12:00 PM Youth Group (Youth Room)

Wednesday: 6:30PM Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study, (meeting in the Fellowship Hall), reading *Liberating the Gospels: Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes* by John Shelby Spong . Potluck at 6:30 and study at 7:00.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Mari Turner (in office every Wednesday) revmariturner@gmail.com

Children & Youth, vacant

Administrative Assistant, Jessica McQuain

Music Director, Dr. Jennifer Flory, jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu

Organist, Kate Phillips

Treasurer, Joel Burns

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Email: milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.



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