

# *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



## LENT

**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 queer 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 26, 2023**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

PRELUDE

*Pie Jesu from 'Requiem'* Gabriel Fauré, arr. Noel Rawsthorne

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. Thank you for being with us!*

**GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

CHORAL INTROIT

*When the past is dead and buried*

John Goss

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

**Congregation: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?**

Leader: Have you ever felt hope was out of reach?

**Congregation: Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?**

Leader: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.

Hope lives here.

**Congregation: So come, Rest your weary bones.**

Leader: Let us worship Holy God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Gloria Burns

MORNING PRAYER

**Lord God, Great I Am, you are resurrection and life. As we worship you this day show us who we are: bearers of good news, messengers of resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

\*HYMN 53

*O God, Who Gives Us Life*

CALL TO CONFESSION

*Friends, there is nothing that we have to keep hidden from God- not our anger, our grief, or the ways in which we have fallen short. In confession, we speak honestly and are met with grace. So let us not hold back. Let us bring our full selves to this prayer, knowing that God is already running to meet us. Let us pray:*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Jesus of Nazareth, I confess: I forget that you know this feeling. I forget that you, too, have wept. I forget that you, too, have lost. I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity. Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you. Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could never feel what I feel. Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us. Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you. With gratitude I pray. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

*When our hearts are bowed in sorrow*

John Goss

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God, pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own, and God would still love you all the same. Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved. So hear and believe this good news.

**We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God. We are not alone.**

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

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

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

ANTHEM

*Wilt Thou Forgive?*

Arlen Clarke

*Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun,  
Which was my sin, though it were done before?  
Wilt Thou forgive that sin through which I run,  
And do run still, though still I do deplore?  
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done;  
For I have more.*

*Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I have won  
Others to sin, and made my sins their door?  
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun  
A year or two, but wallow'd in a score?  
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done;  
For I have more.*

*I have a sin of fear, that when I've spun  
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;  
But swear by Thyself that at my death Thy Son  
Shall shine as He shines now and heretofore:  
And having done that, Thou hast done;  
I fear no more.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Creator God, why is bad news so loud? In the midst of gun violence, hunger, melting ice caps, and anxiety, it often feels like suffering has a microphone. How do we hear you? How do we find you? How do we know that these bones can live? Today we bring our raw selves into this space asking that once more you would rush through this room like a mighty wind. Remind us that these bones can live. Speak to us in your still, small voice and let it be loud enough to speak to the sorrow of the day. We know that good news rests in you, and we know that you are here. So help us listen, not to the bad news of the day alone, but to the hope that you breathe into every word. With open hearts we pray, Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

OLD TESTAMENT	Ezekiel 37:1-14
PSALM	Psalm 130
NEW TESTAMENT	Romans 8:6-11
GOSPEL	John 11:1-45

Pew Bible Page #

OT P 806
OT P 573
NT P 157
NT P 104

SERMON

Reverend Susan Balfour

\*HYMN 429

*As a Chalice Cast of Gold*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Lois Callender

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*We bring before God gifts of gratitude in response to God's gift of breath, life and wholeness.*



OFFERTORY *Christ, Thou Lamb of God* J. S. Bach

\*DOXOLOGY ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.***

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION  
**Good and gracious God, may these gifts be one of the ways your life giving presence is experienced in our community. Use this money and use us to give hope to the hopeless, wholeness to the broken and fullness to the hungry. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

PEOPLE'S AND THE LORD'S PRAYERS

**BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN 250 *In the Bulb*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION  
Go in Peace. AMEN!

CHORAL BENEDICTION *When our spirits feel so broken* John Goss

\*POSTLUDE *Pavane* Maurice Ravel, arr. Alan Ridout

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



Pastor, Rev. Susan Balfour, revsebalfour@gmail.com  
Children & Youth, Gloria Burns, gloryb.ce@gmail.com  
Admin. Asst., Lois Callender, fpchurch@windstream.net  
Music Director, Dr. Jennifer Flory, jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu  
Organist, Kate Phillips  
Treasurer, Joel Burns

**OFFICE HOURS**  
9am ~ 1pm M-Fri.  
**PASTOR OFFICE HOURS**  
10am ~ 1pm, Tues.-Fri.

If you would like to schedule an appt. with Rev. Susan,  
please call the office  
(478) 452-9394.



**MORE LIGHT**  
PRESBYTERIANS

**RADIO MINISTRY**  
WKZR (102.3FM)

CHURCH STAFF



**CHURCH FAMILY:**

Nan Carpenter, recovering from a fall  
Helen Danuser, recovering from a fall  
Jenny Moore, recovering at home  
Joel Respass, recovering from knee surgery

**EXTENDED FAMILY:**

Julie Balfour, Susan Balfour's sister, recovering at home  
Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns  
Brittany Caruthers, Sunda Coleman's niece, chemo treatment  
Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery  
Dee Hartmann, Susan Balfour's aunt, health issues  
Alonzo Kelly, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma  
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, cancer stable  
Joanne Lambertson, family friend of Jennifer Flory, fighting cancer  
Julie Montemayor, Becky Henderson's mother, ongoing health concerns  
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, mass on her colon- at Carlyle House in Macon  
Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis  
Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns, recovering from a fall  
Willy Sanders, Sunda Coleman's cousin, ongoing health concerns  
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis  
Suzy Smith, Lois Callender's mother, knee replacement surgery  
Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns  
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns  
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, ongoing health concerns

**IN ASSISTED LIVING**

Bryan Dempster, Green Acres, 313 Allen Memorial Drive SW, Milledgeville, GA 31061  
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  
Gloria Smith, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place, Ste 1110  
Suzy Smith, Savannah Court 1061 Willow Run Rd., Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

**LIMITED MOBILITY**

Beth Baarda  
Martha Chappell  
Helen Danuser

**MILITARY SERVICE**

Will Deason  
Rebecca Elangwe

**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 *A Call to Die* by David Nasser, Meeting in the Parlor Room  
Wednesday: 6:30PM **Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, *Bullies and Saints* by John Dickson  
Thursday 5:30PM **Matthew 25 Book Study**, meeting at Metropolis for fellowship and learning about Matthew 25, studying *Covenant Economics*

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: March 26-April 2

Today: 9:30 Sunday School  
11:00Worship  
**12:00Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity**  
2:00 S.T.A.R.S.  
3:00 Sunday Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> )

Tuesday: 9:30 Food Pantry  
12:00Kiwanis

Wednesday: 6:30 Potluck and Bible Study

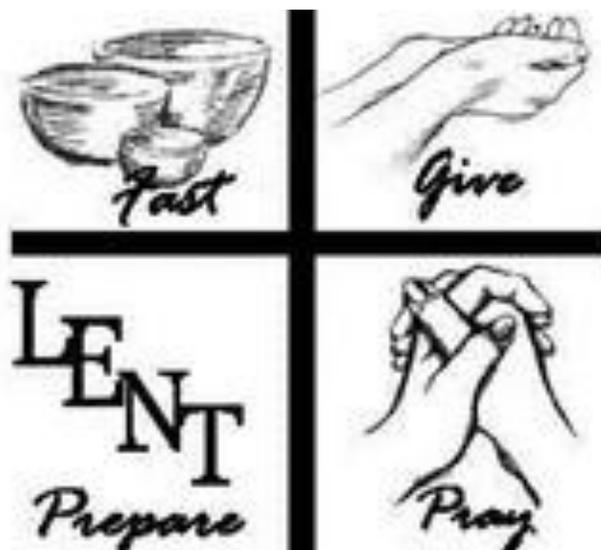
Thursday: 5:30 Matthew 25 Book Study at Metropolis

Saturday: **2:00-4:00 Easter Egg Hunt**

Sunday: **Palm Sunday**  
9:30Sunday School  
10:00Puppets  
11:00Worship with Communion  
2:00S.T.A.R.S.  
3:00Sunday Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> )



Offerings March to date:	\$10,152.06
Anticipated March expenses:	\$24,456.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)	





**seeking:**

*Can these  
bones live?*

***THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT***

**seeking:** *Can these bones live?*

**the answer is yes**

It's the question we ask at the end of our rope,  
when the storm is raging,  
when the monsters under the bed have introduced  
themselves.

When everything around us seems to be on fire.

It's the question we ask when hope slips through like sand in  
a bottle,

when the mockingbirds stop singing,  
when the news reporter leads with another mass shooting.

It's the question we ask when the depression moves in,  
making herself at home, making a mess of it all.

It's the question we ask  
when we're not sure if Easter will come.

Will it be Lent forever?

Will the sun ever rise?

Will this hope lead to something?

Can these bones ever live?

# 53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
 2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,  
 3 O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
 to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:  
 your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

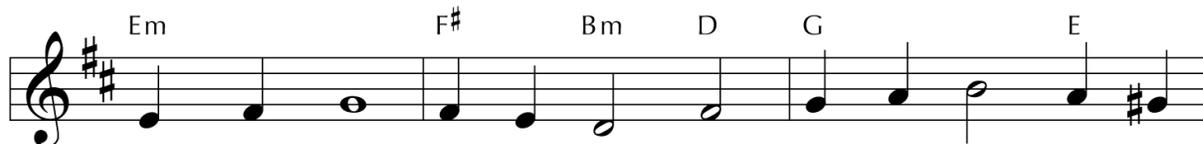
Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

# 429 As a Chalice Cast of Gold

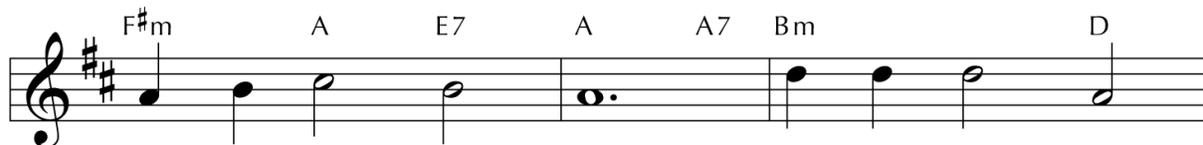


1 As a chal - ice cast of gold, bur - nished, bright and  
 2 Save me from the sooth - ing sin of the emp - ty  
 3 When I bend up - on my knees, clasp my hands, or  
 4 When I dance or chant your praise, when I sing a

## CONFESSION



brimmed with wine, make me, Lord, as fit to hold grace and  
 cul - tic deed and the pi - ous, bab - bling din of the  
 bow my head, let my spo - ken, pub - lic pleas be di -  
 psalm or hymn, when I preach your lov - ing ways, let my



truth and love di - vine. Let my praise and  
 claimed but un - lived creed. Let my ac - tions,  
 rect - ly, sim - ply said, free of tan - gled  
 heart add its A - men. Let each cher - ished



wor - ship start with the cleans - ing of my heart.  
 Lord, ex - press what my tongue and lips pro - fess.  
 words that mask what my soul would plain - ly ask.  
 out - ward rite thus re - flect your in - ward light.

# In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

## Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)  
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)  
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)  
F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)  
Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."  
Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.