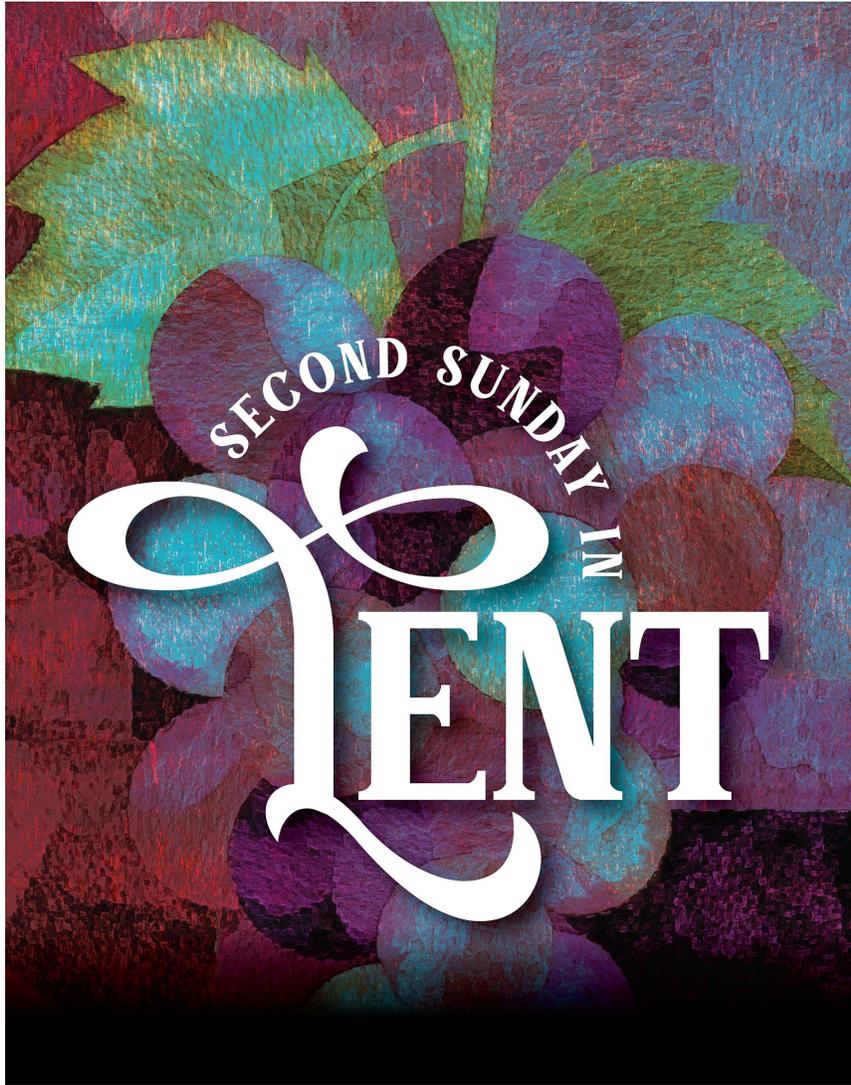


First Presbyterian Church



210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, GA 31061

(478) 452-9394

milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com

www.fpcmilledgeville.org

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.

March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

Oh Lamb of God Most Holy

Emma Lou Diemer

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The spirit of God leads us into this holy season.

Congregation: We come to find our strength in God's grace alone.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

As the Wind Song

GTG #292, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come this day, some of us seeking like Nicodemus in the night.

Congregation: We come to the light of the world, seeking a new beginning.

Leader: Some of us come with questions, some with deep feelings, and some ready to work.

Congregation: We come to the one who shows us the way to the Kingdom.

Leader: God so loved the world that God gave the Son, not to condemn us, but to save us.

Congregation: Let us worship the God of grace, who invites us to believe, to love, and to serve.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the night and the day, you meet us in our curiosity and in our commitment. We thank you that your love is not a distant reward, but a present reality that surrounds us. As we gather in this second week of Lent, open our hearts to the "Gospel in miniature." Whether we are learners, lovers, or doers, weave our lives into the tapestry of your grace. May we be born anew this hour by the power of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 30

O God, in a Mysterious Way

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we often complicate the simplicity of your love. We focus on "why" to believe as a matter of insurance rather than "how" to believe as a matter of transformation. We admit that we have sometimes stayed in the shadows like Nicodemus, afraid to let your light change our routines. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves and have neglected the work of your Kingdom. Forgive us,

God of grace. Renew our minds, stir our hearts, and strengthen our hands, so that we may be born of the Spirit and live as your faithful disciples. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Take, O Take Me as I Am

GTG #698

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

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

Congregation: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again. 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Ruby Werts

ANTHEM

Love the Lord

Mark Schweizer

*Alas! and did my Savior bleed
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?
O who is like Jesus? Christ, our Savior,
Praise ye the Lord!
There's none like Jesus, Christ, our Savior,
Love and serve the Lord!*

*Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker died,
For mortal creature's sin.
O who is like Jesus? Christ, our Savior,
Praise ye the Lord!
There's none like Jesus, Christ, our Savior,
Love and serve the Lord!*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT
GOSPEL

Hebrews 5:5-10
John 3:1-17

NT 220
NT 93-94

SERMON

How and Why to Believe

*HYMN 494

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR HISTORY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

When in the Hour of Utmost Need

J. S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, you nourish us with the Word that proceeds from your mouth and sustain us in every wilderness. We offer these gifts and our very lives not to earn your favor, but in grateful response to the grace that has already claimed us. Use what we bring to unmask the idolatries of our world and to feed those who are famished in body or spirit. May our giving be a testament that we do not live by bread alone, but by your sovereign and unchanging love. Amen.

SEALING THE WORD

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

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.

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

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
 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

LAND OF REST

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

Music Adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

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

LAND OF REST

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

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

...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

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 321** *The Church's One Foundation*

CHORAL BENEDICTION *As the Rainbow After Rain* GTG #292, vs. 2

POSTLUDE *Lord, Who Throughout these Forty Days* June Nixon

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

Acknowledgments: All liturgy is written by the Rev. Marianne B. Turner. All music used by permission. CCLI License # 2910879



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Mari Turner (in office every Wednesday) revmariturner@gmail.com
Children & Youth, vacant
Admin. Asst., Jessica McQuain
Music Director, Dr. Jennifer Flory, jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu
Organist, Kate Phillips
Treasurer, Joel Burns
Church Phone (478)452-9394, Cell (478) 443-5203
Email: milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.





Lord, hear our prayers

CONDOLENCES

Mary Lucik for the passing of her sister, Vona Hill Wohlenberg

CHURCH FAMILY:

Sherry Henry, recovering from surgery
Holley Cowan, recovering from surgery at home
Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns
Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Kandace Allen Bivins, friend of Margaret Ivester, heart attack
Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer
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
Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, medical complication requiring hospitalization
Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, diagnosed with congestive heart failure, at home
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
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

Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549
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
Frankie Holder, Pruitt Health-Marietta, 50 Saine Dr. SW-Room 215, Marietta, GA 30008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Food pantry offerings can be brought forward during the first hymn.
- Bicentennial Ornaments are available for sale before worship or in the Church Office. The cost is 1 for \$15 or 2 for \$25. All proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support the Bicentennial celebration in 2026.
- Are you interested in reading or sharing a moment in history about someone who was important in the life of this church? See Ruby Werts.
- Our Lenten Devotional is available online at <https://bit.ly/2026LentenDevotional> or can be picked up at the sanctuary entrances near the bulletins.
- Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 15th at 2:30. A Fraud Prevention Program will be presented by the Woman's Club of Milledgeville in cooperation with the Baldwin County Sherriff's office. Join us in Fellowship Hall for valuable information. Refreshments will be served.
- A flower calendar is located in the kitchen on the side of the fridge. Please consider honoring or remembering someone with the gift of flowers for the sanctuary. Contact Becky (478-457-5349) for more information.
- Registration for the 2026 Presbyterian Women Annual Gathering on March 21, 2026 is now open. It will take place at Monticello Presbyterian Church, 246 E. Washington St., Monticello, GA. The featured speaker is Safiyyah Abdulla, who has preached at First Presbyterian of Milledgeville in the past.

Schedule: Registration & Continental Breakfast 9:30-10:00 AM, Worship 10:00 AM

Breakfast and lunch are covered by the Beth Duncan Fund. Reservations must be made by March 18, 2026 and the registration fee is by donation via giftcards for Mission Haven from Walmart or Home Depot. Register by email to rawiebert@gmail.com (Rebecca Shapoori). Include your name, church, and YES or NO for lunch.

Greeters

Mar. 1: Margaret Ivester & Bill Werts
Mar. 8: John & Emily Bradley

Liturgists

Mar. 1: Becky Humphrey
Mar. 8: Becky Humphrey

Nursery Volunteers

Mar. 1: Charles Burrell/Nancy Miller
Mar. 8: Anne Smart/Gloria Burns

Communion Mar. 1

John Bradley, Donna Gautier,
Becky Humphrey



30 O God, in a Mysterious Way

1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.
 2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,
 3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread
 4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.

You plant your foot - steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.
 you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.
 are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
 You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.

This classic text gains renewed energy and focus from its recasting here: despite our fear and confusion, we can trust that God's providential purposes will eventually be revealed. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned to a specific hymn.

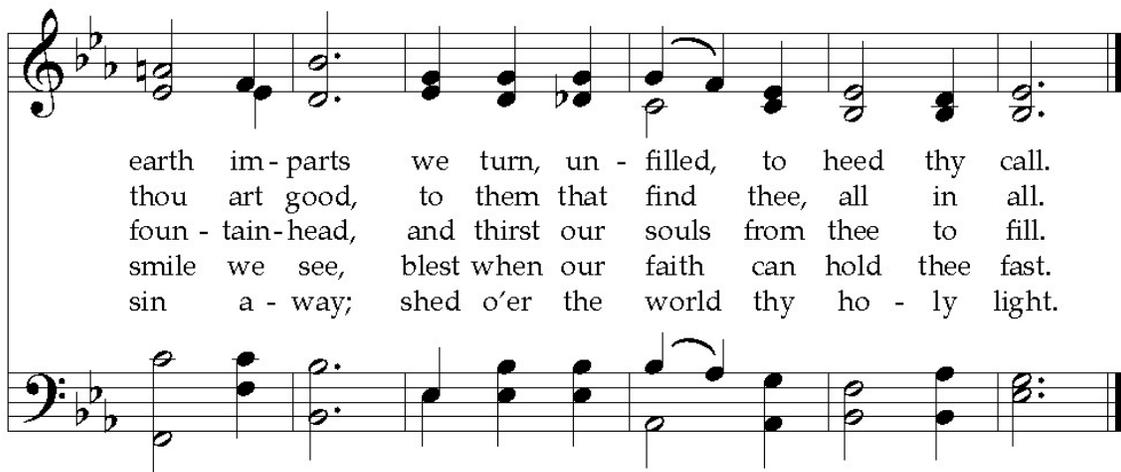
Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts 494



1 Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, thou fount of
 2 Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood; thou sav - est
 3 We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread, and long to
 4 Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, wher - e'er our
 5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; make all our



life, thou light of all, from the best bliss that
 those that on thee call; to them that seek thee
 feast up - on thee still; we drink of thee, the
 change - ful lot is cast, glad when thy gra - cious
 mo - ments calm and bright. O chase the night of



earth im - parts we turn, un - filled, to heed thy call.
 thou art good, to them that find thee, all in all.
 foun - tain - head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.
 smile we see, blest when our faith can hold thee fast.
 sin a - way; shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

This 19th-century American translation of stanzas from a longer Latin poem is so well shaped that it sounds like an original meditation on Christian experience centered on the Lord's Supper. The North American tune name seems not to have originated with the English composer.

The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The chur - ch's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.