

# *First Presbyterian Church*

Serving Christ in Milledgeville

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgevilleorg

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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.

**February 4, 2024  
First Sunday in Lent  
Jesus sought me**

PRELUDE

*Panis Angelicus*

César Franck, 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

*God of the sparrow*

(GTG #22, vs. 1)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come in. Feel your feet on the floor. Settle your worries. Take a deep breath. Dust the cobwebs from your ears. Relax the tension in your jaw,

**Congregation: for Christ is here. God never stops seeking us.**

Leader: We have been found.

**Congregation: Let us find God in return.**

Leader: Let us worship the God of deep waters.

**Congregation: Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Anne Smart

MORNING PRAYER

I believe in a God of abundance—

**a God who sees possibilities where I cannot, and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.**

Leader: I believe in a God who comforts—

**a God who says, "Do not be afraid;" a God who joins me in life's deep waters.**

I believe in a God who invites—

**a God who says, "Follow me," and, "You will be fishers of people."**

I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—

**a God of second chances and boundless mercy; a God who calls us by name. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN 475

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, You call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter. Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to find you in our midst. Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.**

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

CHORAL RESPONSE

*God of the rainbow*

(GTG #22, vs. 2)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

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

*My Song is Love Unknown*

Mark Schweizer  
Laurie Peebles, flute

*My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown,  
That they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
My Lord should take, frail flesh and die?*

*Christ came from heaven's throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But people scorned, and none  
the longed for Christ would know:  
But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
Who at my need His life did spend.*

*Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King!  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend, in Whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Creator God, You hear everything. You hear the rush of the wind through the trees. You hear a baby's first cry. You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter around tables. You hear it all! We don't need that same capacity, but we do need to hear your Word, O God, for we cannot live on bread alone. So today we pray: give us the ability to truly listen. Give us the ability to listen with our hearts, and may the truths revealed in your scripture today change us. With hearts full of gratitude we pray, amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

OLD TESTAMENT	Genesis 9:8-17	Pew Bible Page #
PSALM	Psalms 25:1-10	OT P 7
NEW TESTAMENT	1 Peter 3:18-22	OT P 502
GOSPEL	Luke 5:1-11	NT P 234
		NT P 62

SERMON  
\*HYMN 170

*Preparatory Sin  
You Walk Along Our Shore*

Reverend Susan Balfour

**ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27  
STATEMENT ON ORDINATION  
PROFESSION OF FAITH  
APOSTLE'S CREED  
PRAYER  
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS  
PRAYER OF ORDINATION/INSTALLATION & LORD'S PRAYER  
WELCOME  
\*HYMN 697 vs 1 *Take My Life*



MINUTE FOR MISSION  
INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Donna Gautier



*We are called by Jesus whether we consider ourselves worthy or not. Let us honor that call by sharing the bounty of what God has first given us. 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](http://fpcmilledgeville.org).*



OFFERTORY

*Buß und Reu from St. Matthew Passion*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Jennifer Flory, mezzo-soprano  
Laurie Peebles and Elise Allen, flute  
Kate Phillips, organ

*Repentance and regret, repentance and regret  
rips the sinful heart in two./ Thus the drops of my tears,  
desirable spices,/ are brought to you, loving Jesus.*

\*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

**O God, maker and provider, you have blessed us with many gifts. Use us, and what we have gathered, to feed the world through your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

\*HYMN 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING Go in Peace. AMEN!

CHORAL BLESSING *God of the hungry* (GTG #22, vs. 3)

\*POSTLUDE

*Siciliana from Concerto No. 5*

G. F. Handel, arr. Noel Rawsthorne

**Wandering Heart**  
Figuring out faith with Peter

**Lenten Midweek Prayer Service**

**Wednesdays at 12:15 PM**

## SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.** God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished. **To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.** Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

As God calls some to particular forms of ministry, God calls us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ given in the covenant of Baptism. Let us, therefore, reaffirm our baptismal vows, renouncing all that opposes God and God's rule and affirming the faith of the holy catholic church.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? **I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise. ...Amen.**

## CLERK OF SESSION:

Do we, the members of the church, accept Charles, Jennifer, Pat, Laurie, and Anne as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

## PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



# Lord, hear our prayers

## **CHURCH FAMILY:**

Wesley Applebury, attending seminary in Atlanta  
Beth Baarda, ongoing health concerns, at home in hospice care in  
LaGrange, GA  
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns  
Lee Gillis, recovering from surgery  
Mandie Respass, recovering from car accident

## **LIMITED MOBILITY**

Martha Chappell  
Helen Danuser

## **EXTENDED FAMILY:**

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues  
Etta Bentley, Jennifer Flory's father's wife, ongoing health concerns  
Judy Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's daughter, recovering from car accident  
Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns  
Heather Brooks, Susan Balfour's aunt, lung and brain cancer  
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  
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  
PJ Malagisi, former elementary student of Jennifer Flory, traumatic brain injury  
Julie Montemayor, Becky Henderson's mother, ongoing health concerns  
Mildred Moore, Sunda Coleman's aunt, in hospice care  
Ben Morgan, Jenifer Flory's brother, ongoing health concerns  
Janie Mullis, Bill Wert's 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, undergoing prostrate cancer treatment  
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  
Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, in rehab  
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns  
Addie VanOrsdale, family friend of Cissy Lane, kidney failure  
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, ongoing health concerns  
Johnny Wynne, friend of Sue Bennett's, bone marrow transplant

## **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 3303  
Suzy Smith, Savannah Court 1061 Willow Run Rd., Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: February 18- February 25

Today 9:30 Sunday School  
10:15 Children's Sunday School  
10:15 Crochet Sunday School  
11:00 Worship  
12:00 Youth Group  
**1:30 Homeless Awareness Club**

Monday 7:00 MSG

Tuesday 9:30 Food Pantry and **Samaritan Ministry**  
12:00 Kiwanis

Wednesday **12:15 Midweek Prayer Service**  
6:30 Potluck and Bible Study

Thursday 6:00 IOBI

Sunday 9:30 Sunday School  
10:15 Children's Sunday School  
10:15 Crochet Sunday School  
11:00 Worship  
12:00 Youth Group  
**12:00 Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity**

Offerings in February	\$6,770.00
Anticipated February expenses:	\$19,736.00
(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

10:15AM **Children's Sunday School Class**, Wandering Heart curriculum by Sanctified Art, singing, crafts and stories, meeting in the Fellowship Hall

**Crochet Sunday School Class**, learn to crochet while exploring your faith. A unique take on Sunday School, Meeting in the library

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



## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;  
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!  
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.



# You Walk along Our Shoreline 170

1 You walk a - long our shore-line where land meets un-known sea.  
 2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.  
 3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we cry the king-dom's name;

We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me.  
 We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth.  
 we work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain.

And if you still will fol-low through storm and wave and shoal,  
 We spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,  
 You call us, Lord, to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,

then I will make you fish - ers but of the hu - man soul."  
 our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.  
 to let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

Based on Jesus' calling of the disciples (Matthew 4:18-22/Mark 1:16-20/Luke 5:4-11), this hymn notes that their mode of fishing involved nets requiring the participation of more than one person. Likewise, in our work of love and justice we are called to bear witness in community.

## 726 Will You Come and Follow Me

## The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)  
 Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> Am7 B<sup>b</sup> Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.