

First Presbyterian Church



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(478) 452-9394, milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com

**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.

January 25, 2026
Third Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

Ancient of Days

Paul Taylor

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.

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 Pastor or an Elder.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

You walk along our shoreline

GTG #170, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The voice of the Lord calls to us: "Follow me."

Congregation: We come, leaving our distractions behind to seek the prize of God's calling.

Leader: We are not here to build our own kingdoms or honor our own names.

Congregation: We are here as God's servants, working together in God's field.

Leader: For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid.

Congregation: That foundation is Jesus Christ! Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all grace, you have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light. As we gather this morning, clear the fog of our own agendas and the noise of our own divisions. Help us to see the "prize" of your kingdom with fresh eyes. By your Spirit, knit us together in a unity of concern, that our worship today may be a witness to the peace you offer the world. Amen.

*HYMN 321 *The Church's One Foundation*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Patient God, we admit that we often prefer being right to being in relationship. We confess that we take pride in our labels as Americans, as partisans, even as Presbyterians and forget that we belong first and always to you. We confess that we get entangled in control battles and petty arguments, losing sight of the prize of your calling. We have built with wood, hay, and straw rather than the gold of your grace. Forgive us for the ways we divide Christ. Refocus our eyes, soften our hearts, and remind us that in essentials we find unity, and in all things, we owe one another charity. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

You call us, Christ, to gather

GTG #170, vs. 2

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

Congregation: Even when we build with "wood, hay, and straw," God remains faithful to the foundation of Christ.

Leader: Hear the good news: God does not cast us off for our divisions but calls us back into the unity of God's love.

Congregation: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, refocused, and restored to one another. Thanks be to God!

*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

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

Congregation: And also with you.

Please greet those near to you with the peace of Christ.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES
ANTHEM

How Lovely is They Dwelling Place

Ruby Werts
Don Michael Dicie

*How lovely is thy dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts, to me!
My thirsty soul desires and longs
within thy courts to be;
my very heart and flesh cry out,
O living God, for thee.*

*Beside thine altars, gracious Lord,
the swallows find a nest;
how happy they who dwell with thee
and praise thee without rest,
and happy they whose hearts are set
upon the pilgrim's quest.*

*Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me.
And in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be;
and in God's house forevermore,
my dwelling place shall be.*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT: Ezra 3:10-13

OT pg. 423

NEW TESTAMENT: I Corinthians 3:10-17

NT pg. 167

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

NT pg. 3

SERMON

Eyes on the Prize

Rev. Mari Turner

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

*HYMN 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR HISTORY

Linda Bradley

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING



*There is only one Lord and God, from whom all things come and for whom we live.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord. 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.*



Scan. Pay. Go.

OFFERTORY

O for the Wings of a Dove

Felix Mendelssohn

*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!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we return to you a portion of what you have given us. Use these gifts to build your kingdom, not our own monuments. May our resources be used to make disciples, to feed the hungry, and to share the good news that in Jesus Christ there is new life for all. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 306 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

We cast our net, O Jesus

GTG #170, vs. 3

POSTLUDE

Siciliana from Concerto No. 5

G.F. Handel

Acknowledgments: All liturgy written by Rev. Marianne B. Turner .

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



CHURCH FAMILY:

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, recovering at home; dialysis
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
Judy Turner, Brett Turner's aunt, stroke
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

Greeters

January 25: Nancy Miller/Millie Murphy

Nursery Volunteers

January 25: Margaret Ivester/Gloria Burns

Liturgist

January 25: Melba Burrell



THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: January 25-Feb 1

Today	9:45	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Youth
	12:00	Milly Free Fridge
Monday	7:00	Oconee Recovery Coalition
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	6:30	Called Session Meeting
Wednesday	7:30	NA Meeting
	10:00	Have a Mug with Mari
	6:30	Potluck and Bible Study
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:45	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship—Food Pantry Offering
	12:00	Youth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Sunday is our food pantry offering—canned goods and cash donations are welcome!
- Looking Ahead: The Session has called a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, February 15th immediately following worship. The Care and Fellowship Committee will host a lunch during the meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for this important event in the life of our church.
- Bicentennial Christmas 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.

Offerings in January \$17,438.07
Anticipated January expenses: \$ 17,114.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

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



9:45 AM Sunday School Class (meets in the Betty Newton Campbell parlor), 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. Please contact Joel Burns at joelburns@gmail.com if you are interested in attending via Zoom.

Sunday: 9:45 AM Fellowship Sunday School Class (meets in small room next to office at end of hall), studying *Being a Presbyterian in the Bible Belt* by Ted V. Foote Jr. & P. Alex Thornburg.

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

Sunday: 12:00PM Youth Group (Youth Room)

Wednesday: 6:30PM Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study, studying *Uppity Women of the Bible* by Hebrew Bible professor Dr. Lisa Wolfe, (meeting in the Fellowship Hall).

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,

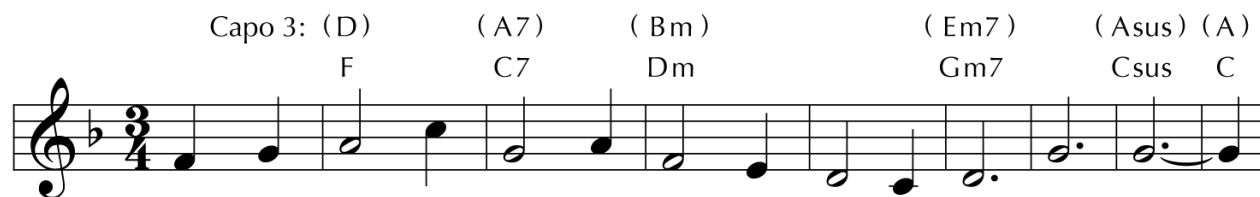
She is his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the word.
 her char-ter of sal-va-tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schis-ms rent a-sun-der, by her-e-sies dis-tressed,
 she waits the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more:
 and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won:

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,

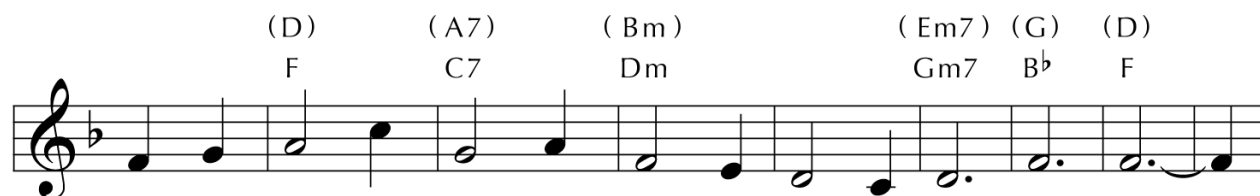
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press-es, with ev-ery grace en-dued.
 And soon the night of weep-ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic-to-rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low-ly, may live e-ter-nal-ly.

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

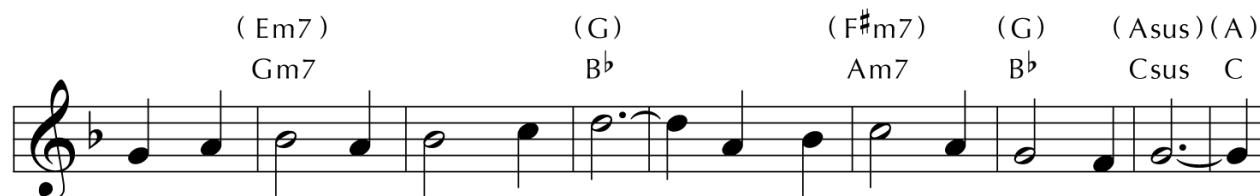
The Summons



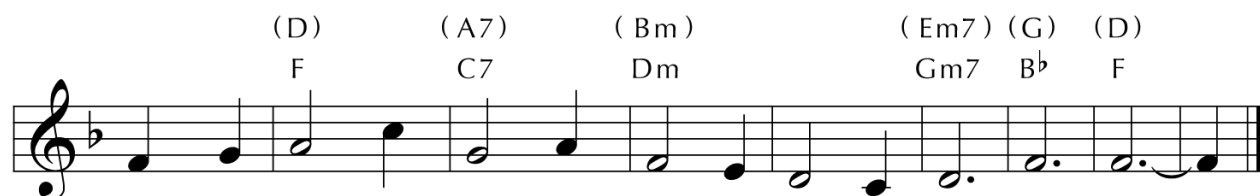
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my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



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.

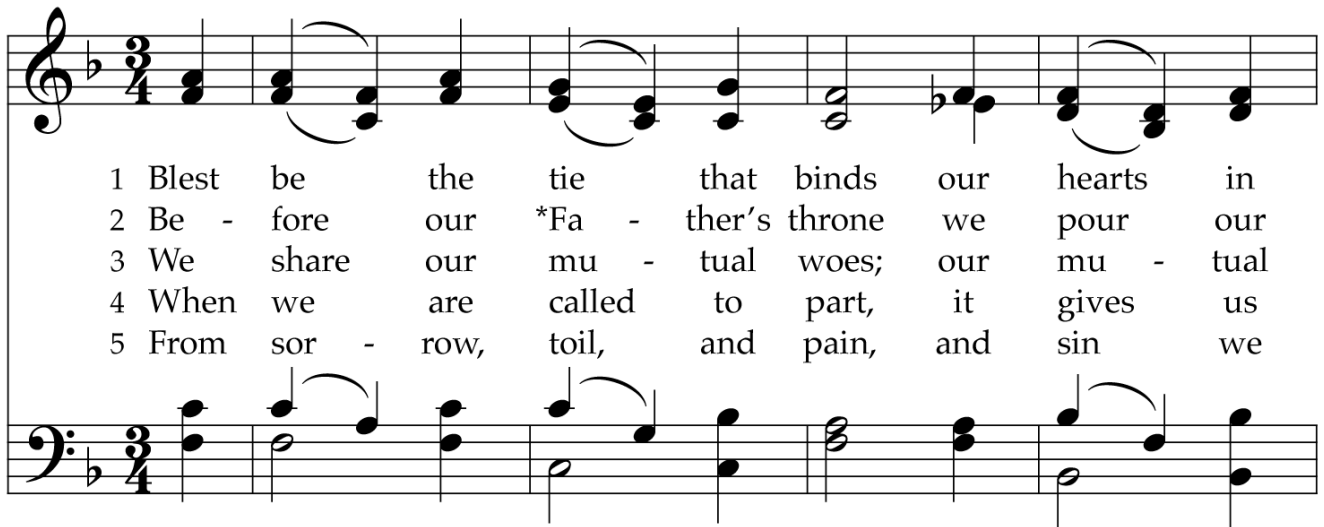


Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go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

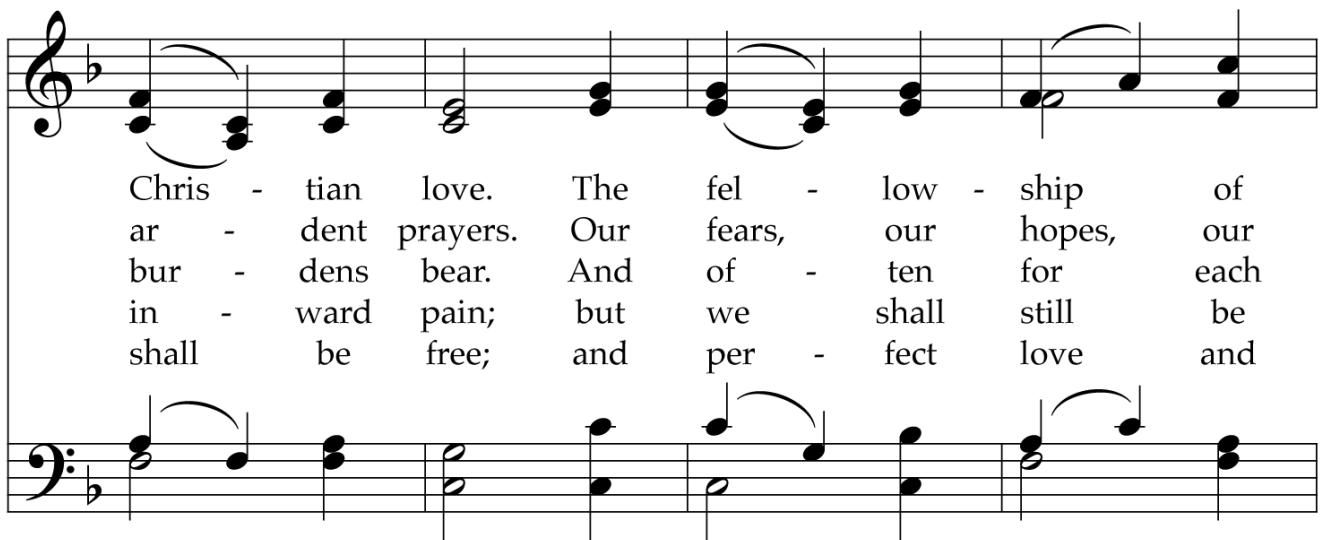


will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

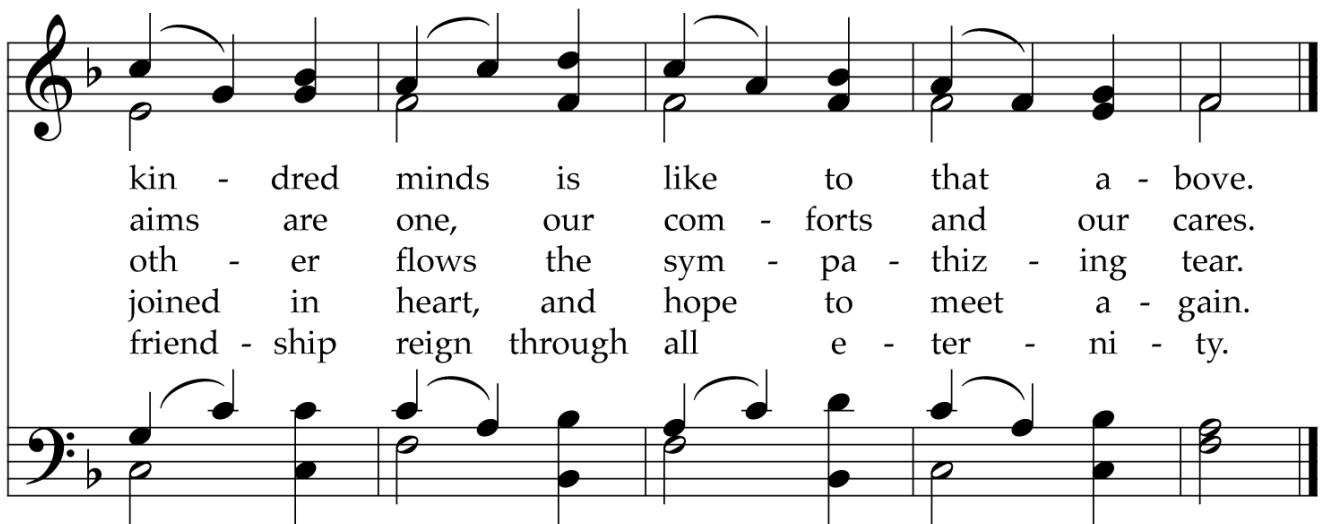
Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we



Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and



kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Or "Maker's"