First Presbyterian Church



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Milledgeville, GA 31061
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www.fpcmilledgeville.com

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 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J. S. Bach

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 *What is the world like when God's will is done?* GTG #771, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Sovereign God invites us to gather in praise and wonder.
Congregation:The Living God is our dwelling place in all generations.
Leader: In Jesus Christ, the old has passed away and all things are made new.
Congregation: We come to worship our Creator, who re-forms us in love and reconciles the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of grace, you desire for us to know you, showing us what is true and beautiful. You reveal yourself in Scripture and silence, in words spoken and sung, in the world around us, and in the lives of your people. May our minds be open to receive your truth; may our lives be conformed to your will; may our hearts be shaped by your love, all to the glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN 275** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator and Reconciling God, you made us in your own likeness for goodness, love, and communion, yet we confess that we have fallen from our intended purpose. We turn inward, loving ourselves above all else, while withholding love from our neighbors and exploiting the earth entrusted to our care. In our fear and self-centeredness, we fracture the harmony of your creation and resist the work of reconciliation. Forgive our willful wandering, re-form our hearts in your love, and restore us as bearers of your image, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE *What is the world like when God's will is done?* GTG #771, vs. 3

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: In Christ, God was reconciling the world to Godself, not counting our trespasses against us.
Congregation: The old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
Leader: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and reconciled to God.
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 *If Ye Love Me* Thomas Tallis, arr. Thoburn

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I wil pray the Father
And he shall give you another comforter,
That he may abide with you forever,
That he may abide with you forever,
Ev'n the spir't of truth.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

NEW TESTAMENT	2 Corinthians 5:16–20	NT 181
GOSPEL	Matthew 22:34–40	NT 25

SERMON Reforming Creation

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A Litany for Reformation Sunday**

Leader (The Nicene Creed; The Apostles' Creed, 2.3):
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

All (The Scots Confession, 3.01.):
We confess and acknowledge one God alone, distinct in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to whom alone we must cleave, and in whom alone we put our trust.

Choir (The Heidelberg Catechism, 4.001.):
We believe that, we belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to ourselves but to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Adults (The Second Helvetic Confession, 5.029.):
We believe that, all things are governed by the Providence of God.

Children and Youth (The Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.039.):

We believe that, the Lord our God was pleased to make a second covenant of grace, wherein God freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ.

Leader (The Shorter Catechism, 7.001.):

We believe that, the chief end of humankind is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

All (The Larger Catechism, 7.117.):

We believe that there is but one only, the living and true God. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness and perfection, all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

Choir (The Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.26.):

The church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

Adults (The Confession of 1967, 9.32.):

We believe that, the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

Leader:

We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. Through the work of God's Spirit, unity is a binding force. At the same time, unity must be earnestly pursued and sought. Our unity must become visible to the world.

Children and Youth (The Confession of Belhar, 10.3.):

We believe that separation and hatred between people and groups is sin, already conquered by Christ. Anything threatening our unity has no place in the church.

All (A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.5, 11.6.):

We believe that separation and hatred between people and groups is sin, already conquered by Christ. Anything threatening our unity has no place in the church.

***HYMN** *We Do Confess One God Alone*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR CHURCH LIFE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (pg 35 in hymnal)

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 *Sing a New Song to the Lord* Clyde Tipton

***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**

Creator God, you have satisfied us with your steadfast love and made all things new in Jesus Christ. Bless and prosper the work of our hands and receive these gifts, that they may bring healing to the broken, relief to the weary, and reconciliation to your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 361** *O Christ, the Great Foundation*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *What is the world like when God's will is done?* GTG #771, vs. 4

***POSTLUDE** *God Be in My Head* Henry Walford Davies arr. Noel Rawsthorne

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

Liturgy written by the Reverend Marianne B. Turner. Litany compiled by Susan Carter Wiggins. Reprinted with permission of the Presbyterian Outlook (pres-outlook.org). All music used by permission. CCLI License # 2910879 and streaming license # 23024105.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sandwich squad is today after church in the fellowship hall.
- Next Sunday is food pantry collection day.
- Join us Nov. 1 after church for a soup and sandwich lunch in honor of All Saints' Day. Grab a bite to eat before going on cemetery visits.

Flowers on the communion table this week are from the Cook family dedicated to the glory of God and in appreciation of our church family.

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, ongoing medical issues
Laura King, recovering from a fall

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
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, Room 2208, 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

OCTOBER 25: REFORMATION SUNDAY

The Barmen Declaration

The Theological Declaration of Barmen, drafted by theologians Karl Barth and Hans Asmussen, is in the Book of Confessions—one of only three additions to the book made in the 20th century.



In 1934, representatives of Germany's Protestant churches gathered in Wupperthal, Barmen, and wrote a letter to the German people on the unity of the church and its freedom in Jesus Christ. We remember this modest text because of its situation—it accused the official church of Nazi Germany, the Reichskirche, of error.

Antisemitic and nationalistic sentiments inside German Christendom had been stoked during the period of celebration in 1917 of the 400th anniversary of Luther's Theses. By 1933, a movement of Protestants called *Deutsche Christen*, which sought to further align the churches with Nazi ideology, had taken control of Germany's pan-church assembly.

The Theological Declaration Concerning the Present Situation of the German Church, without naming the Nazis, holds that the *Fuhrerprinzip* is incompatible with Christianity (Book of Confessions, 8.12), it avers that the Church does not orient itself based on "prevailing ideologies and political convictions" (8.18), and, at its most forceful, it says: "We reject the false doctrine, as though the State, over and beyond its special commission, should and could become the single and totalitarian order of human life, thus fulfilling the Church's vocation as well" (8.23).

In preparing a new Book of Confessions for the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. in 1965 and 1966, the General Assembly's Committee of Fifteen selected Barmen to represent modern Christendom.

Few German Protestants opposed the Nazis. Only about 10 percent of German ministers were members of the Confessing Church. And the drafters made clear that Barmen was a theological document, not a political one. Wilhelm Niemöller—brother of Martin Niemöller, a Barmen drafter known for his text "First They Came"—wrote in 1956: "The confessing Church has never, neither during Hitler's reign nor afterwards, made a point of being understood as a 'resistance movement,' or as an 'opposition,' or as a 'front.' It wanted to witness the one Word in our world and time."
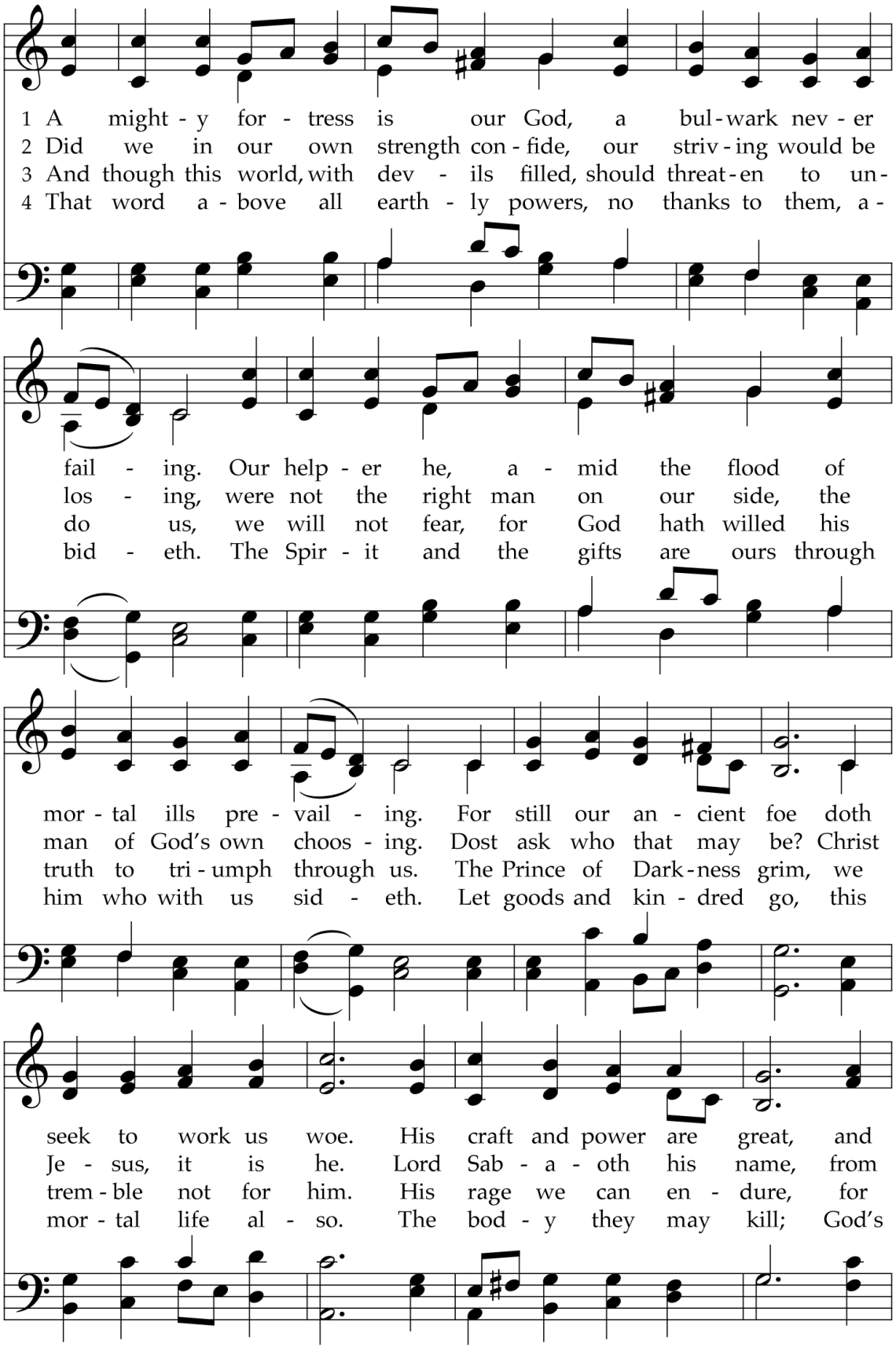


The banner representing Barmen was designed by the duo Avery and Marsh, better known for their musical theater and hymns. It shows the swastika struck through and the cross rising.

PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The National Archives of the PC(USA)

For more Reformation Sunday resources, visit
www.pcusa.org/rf

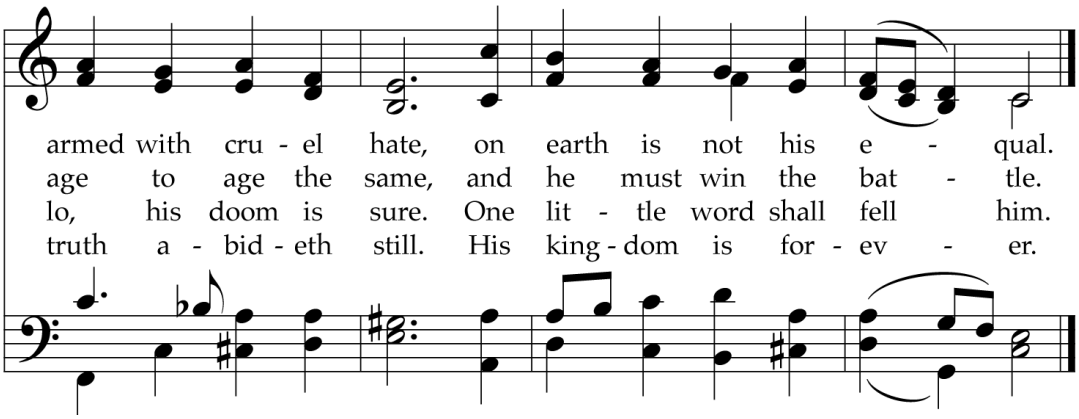
275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.
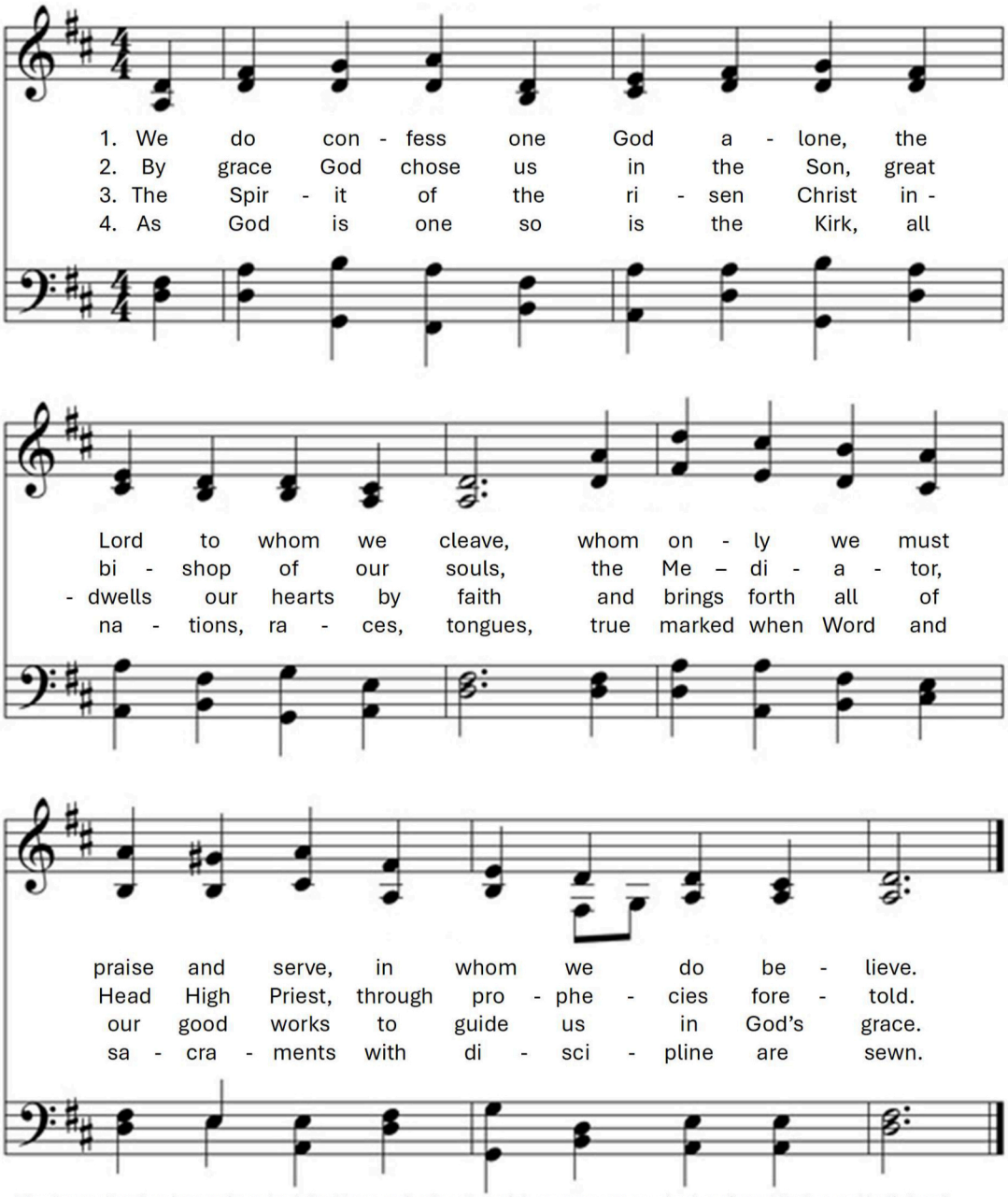
TEXT: Martin Luther, 1529; trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852
MUSIC: Martin Luther, 1529, alt.

EIN' FESTE BURG
8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7



"We Do Confess One God Alone"

A hymn setting of important portions of the Scots Confession to a Scottish Psalter tune
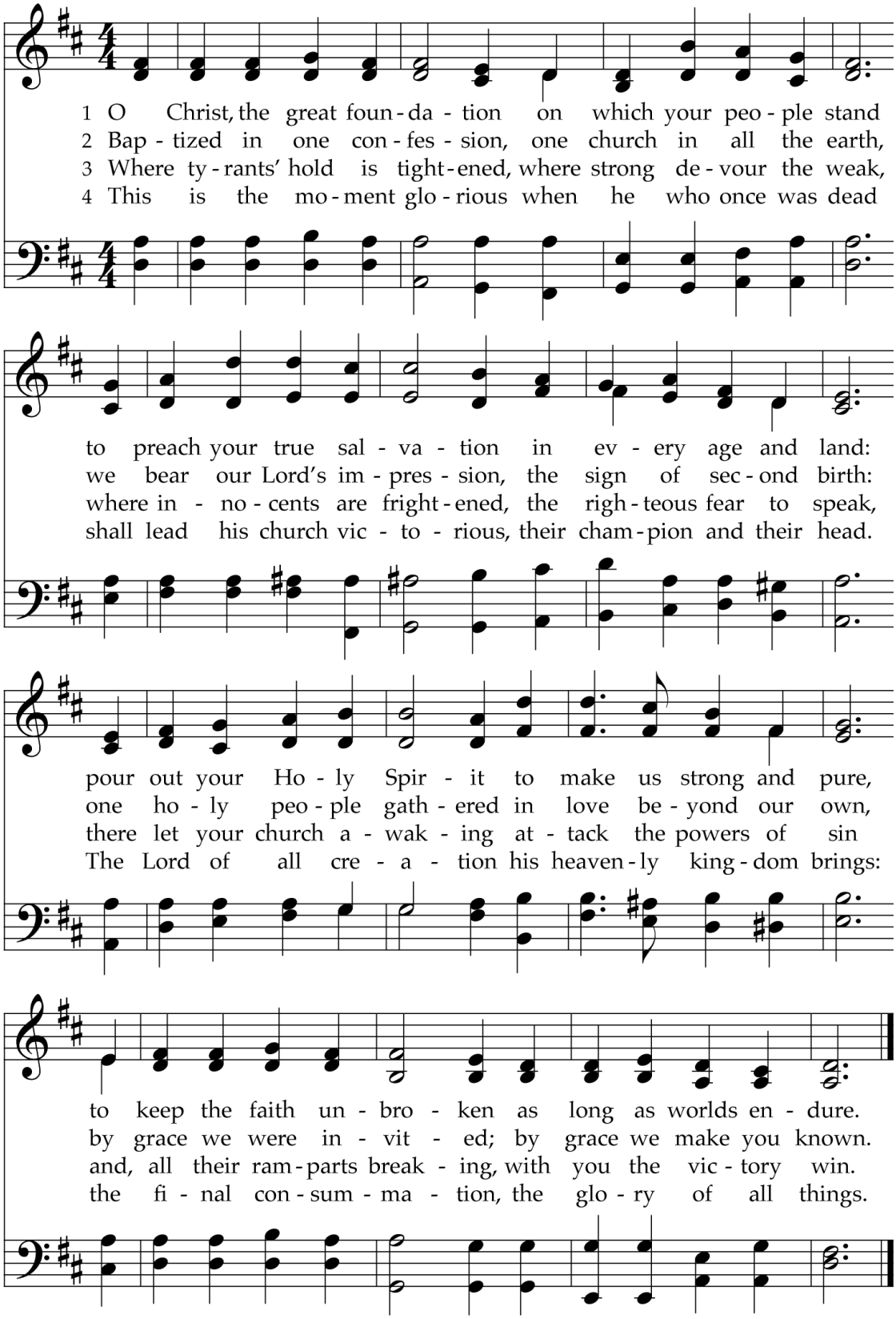


The Scots Confession, written by John Knox and other Scottish pastors, was a declaration of Reformed belief and independence from the Roman Catholic rulers of Scotland. It is based on the order of the Apostles Creed and is heavily influenced by the teachings of John Calvin. It is included in the PC(USA) Book of Confessions.

TEXT: Buz Wilcoxon, 2020
MUSIC: Scottish Psalter, 1615

DUNDEE
CM

O Christ, the Great Foundation 361



The text was written by a leading Chinese educator, author, and editor who chaired the commission that prepared an important ecumenical Chinese hymnal, *Hymns of Universal Praise* (1936). This familiar tune invites comparison of these words with its usual text (see no. 321).

TEXT: Timothy T'ingfang Lew, 1933, alt.; trans. Mildred A. Wiant, 1966
MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864
Text © 1977 Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd.

AURELIA
7.6.7.6.D

Greeters
Oct. 25: Charles Burrell & Anne Smart
Nov. 1: Susan McGill & Becky Humphrey

Nursery Volunteers
Oct. 25: Joel Burns/Laurie Peebles
Nov. 1:

Liturgist
Oct. 25: Cecelia Odihe
Nov. 1: Cecelia Odihe

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offerings in October	$ 11,422
Anticipated October expenses:	$ 18,242

(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

This week at our church:

October 25-November 1

Today	9:45	Sunday School
	10:40	Fellowship
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Sandwich Squad + Youth group
	5:00	Elder Training
Monday	7:00	PATH/Oconee Recovery Coalition
	7:00	Milledgeville Singers Guild
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	7:30	NA Meeting
Wednesday	10:00	Mug with Mari
	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	All Saints' Day Lunch
	5:00	Elder Training



WORSHIP with us

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 joeldburns@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) exploring *Faith Questions*.

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

We're a Matthew 25 church pcusa.org/matthew25

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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OFFICE HOURS
9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.

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First Presbyterian Church of Milledgeville, GA