

First Presbyterian Church



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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.

September 6, 2026
15th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Soliloquy

Sylvia K. Riggs

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 *I long for your commandments*

GTG #64, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who have known the mercy of God, and all who still seek it.

Congregation: We come, trusting that Christ's welcome is wider than our fear.

Leader: Let every boundary that divides and every wall that separates be brought before God.

Congregation: We come to worship the One whose grace makes strangers into family.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, gather us from the many places our hearts have wandered and make us present to you. Open our minds to your truth and our spirits to your renewing grace. Stretch our faith beyond what is comfortable and familiar. Now prepare us to worship you with joy, gratitude, and open hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 25

O Lord, Our God, How Excellent

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have too often trusted our own wisdom rather than your ways. We have been slow to listen, quick to judge, and reluctant to admit when we have been wrong. We have allowed fear, pride, and resentment to shape our words and our actions. Forgive us, Lord, and turn our hearts again toward your grace, your truth, and your love. Renew us by your Spirit, that we may live with humility, courage, and compassion as followers of Christ.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Without your lamp to guide me

GTG #64, vs. 2

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, hear the good news: Christ has come not to condemn the world, but to save it.

Congregation: In Christ, we are met with mercy, forgiven, and made new.

Leader: No failure is beyond God's grace, and no repentant heart is beyond Christ's welcome.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free! Amen.

*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

Not Unto Us, O Lord

Thomas Attwood Walmisley,
arr. Crawford Thoburn

*Not unto us, O Lord,
but unto thy name give the praise,
for thy loving mercy,
and for thy truth's sake.
Hallelujah!*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 56:1-2, 6-8

OT 686

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 15: 21-28

NT 17

SERMON

Crumbs and Border Crossings

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal pg. 35)

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

Air

George Blake

***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!***

SEALING THE WORD

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

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.

Leader: 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

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

Music Adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

LAND OF REST

Great is the mystery of faith....

553 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G)(A) (D) (A) (D/F#)(F#m)
 F C F B $\flat$ 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 $\flat$ C Dm B $\flat$ 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 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

O God, I love your knowledge

GTG #64, vs. 3

POSTLUDE

Passacaglia in F Minor

Andre Raison

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The office will be closed on Monday, September 6 for Labor Day.
- Session has called a Congregational Meeting after worship in the Sanctuary for Sunday, September 13 to approve changes to the By-Laws to reflect that the Treasurer for the Corporation and the Treasurer for the Church should be the same person; and to approve the following list of officer candidates for the Class of 2030: Carrie Cook, Holley Cowan, and Laurie Peebles, and Youth Elders (Class of 2028): Teri Anne Bradley and Nathan Tchamna. Thank you to the candidates for their willingness to serve and to the Nominating Committee for their time and effort.
- Save the date for our fall Sunday School Kickoff! Join us at 9:45 on Sunday, September 13 to celebrate the new year and new class offerings.

Greeters

Sept. 6: Susan McGill & Becky Humphrey

Nursery Volunteers

Sept. 6: Anne Smart/Susan McGill
Sept. 13: Gloria Burns/Laurie Peebles

Communion Servers

Sept. 6: Andrew Allen, Becky Humphrey, Gloria Burns, Frida Ituka

Liturgists

Sept. 6: Andrew Allen
Sept. 13: Frida Ituka

Offerings in September \$ 0
Anticipated September expenses: \$ 18,242
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: September 6-13

Today	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	1:00	PFLAG Family Potluck
Monday	OFFICE CLOSED– Happy Labor Day!	
	7:00	PATH/Oconee Recovery Coalition
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	7:30	NA Meeting
Wednesday	6:30	Potluck & Study
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:40	Fellowship
	11:00	Worship <i>(Congregational Meeting to follow)</i>
	12:00	Youth Group

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, waiting on two hip replacements

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Jay Bastow, dealing with child cancer round 2, and parents Catherine & Jason Bastow, family friends of Pat & Sherry Henry
Don Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, in the hospital
Oscar Jude Hall, Gini Wilkerson's nephew, born prematurely
Ron Bracewell, Joy Bracewell's father, dealing 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, 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

WORSHIP *with us*

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), doing an intensive study of the Book of Jeremiah. Please contact Joel Burns 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 *God In Pain* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

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, we just wrapped up our study of *Poverty in the Promised Land* by Walter Bruggemann (meeting in the Fellowship Hall).



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

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.



O Lord, Our God, How Excellent 25

(Psalm 8)

1 O Lord, our God, how ex - cel - lent, how glo - rious is your name.
2 The heav - ens shout your hand - i - work; we stand be - neath in awe,
3 Yet you have made us less than gods, sur - pass - ing all but you,
4 In - to our hands you've placed all things: the earth, the sea; each place
5 O Lord, our God, how ex - cel - lent, how glo - rious is your name,

Your maj - es - ty sur - rounds the earth, and chil - dren sing your fame.
to think the One who made all things should care for us at all.
with heart and mind, with strength and will, to search for what is true.
we're called to probe for se - cret gifts and ven - ture in - to space.
ma - jes - tic in your ho - li - ness. We sing and praise your fame.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with some lines numbered 1 through 5. The score includes a repeat sign at the end of the first system and a final double bar line at the end of the second system.

The middle stanzas of this paraphrase of Psalm 8 probe the ancient but enduring paradox of declaring the grandeur of God's creation while realizing how small mortals are in the midst of it all. These words are set to one of the most durable 18th-century English psalm tunes.

TEXT: Fred R. Anderson, 1986
MUSIC: Este's *Psalmes*, 1592; harm. George Kirbye, 1592
Text © 1986 Fred R. Anderson

WINCHESTER OLD
CM

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

317 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet

south or north, but one great fel - low -
 mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 race may be. All chil - dren of the
 south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This setting expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.



Sunday School Kick-Off!

All are invited to join us on Sunday, September 13th at 9:45 AM in Fellowship Hall as we launch a brand-new year of learning, fellowship, and discipleship!

As Presbyterians, we value lifelong learning. Engaging our minds and spirits deepens our faith, helps us discern God's call in our lives, and equips us to serve our community with compassion and wisdom. Whether you are continuing a long-standing routine or trying something entirely new, there is a place for you to grow.

Our Sunday Morning Rhythm

- **9:45 AM:** Brief gathering in Fellowship Hall for morning prayer, community announcements, and sending to classes.
- **9:55 – 10:40 AM:** Sunday School class time.
- **10:40 – 11:00 AM:** Light refreshments and fellowship time in Fellowship Hall.
- **11:00 AM:** Worship in the Sanctuary.

