

First Presbyterian Church



210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, GA 31061
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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.

May 17, 2026
Seventh Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE *The Whole Earth is Full of Thy Glory* Clyde Tipton

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: Christ is risen.

Congregation: Christ is risen indeed.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT *Will you come and follow me* arr. John L. Bell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the city and the neighborhood, by the river and in the home:

Congregation: God calls us to put faith into action.

Leader: Not with fleeting feelings, but with enduring promises:

Congregation: Christ calls us to love through commitment.

Leader: In the legacy of those who built before us, and the hope of those yet to come:

Congregation: The Spirit moves us to be the hands and feet of Christ.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you are the foundation of our lives and the architect of our future. We thank you for two centuries of grace in this place. Open our hearts this morning to hear your call, that our love might move beyond words and into quiet, consistent service to our neighbors. Grant us the courage of Lydia and the persistence of the cathedral builders, that we may be truly committed to your reign on earth. Amen.

***HYMN 401** *Here in This Place*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we are often more involved than we are committed. We offer you our "maybes" instead of our "yes." We participate when it is convenient, but we draw back when sacrifice is required. Forgive us for the times we have spoken of love but failed to act on it. Forgive us for keeping our faith within these walls instead of carrying it into the world. Renew our spirits and strengthen our resolve to be your faithful people. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE *Will you let the blinded see* arr. John L. Bell

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news: God's love is a promise that never fails.

Congregation: God's mercy is new every morning.

Leader: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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

Have You Heard God's Voice?

Frederick Chatfield

*Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?
Are you still prepared to follow?
Have you made a choice to remain and serve,
though the way be rough and narrow?
Will you use your voice; will you not sit down
when the multitudes are silent?
Will you make a choice to stand your ground
when the crowds are turning violent?
Will you walk the path that will cost you much
and embrace God's love and sorrow?
Will you trust in One who entrusts to you
the disciples of tomorrow?
Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith
and believe it could be different?
Will you share your views using words of grace?
Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?
In your city streets will you be God's heart?
Will you listen to the voiceless?
Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start,
will you share your faith with the faithless?
We will walk the path that will cost us much
and embrace God's love and sorrow?
Will you trust in One who entrusts to you
the disciples of tomorrow.*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 16:9-15

NT 136

GOSPEL

John 14:23-29

NT 109

SERMON

Love and Commitment

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Belhar Confession, 10.5

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right.

*HYMN 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

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

Go Forth and Tell!

David Ogden

*Go forth and tell!
God's love embraces all;
He will in grace respond to all who call.
How shall they call if they have never heard
The gracious invitation of his word?*

*Go forth and tell!
The doors are open wide:
Share God's good gifts -- let no one be denied.
Live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose;
Your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.*

*Go forth and tell!
O Church of God arise!
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies.
Go till all the nations his great name adore
And serve him, Lord and King, for ever more.*

*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

God of every good gift, take these offerings and take our very selves. Use our resources, our time, and our lives to turn intentions into impact. May all we give today support your work here in Milledgeville and beyond, proving that our love for you is active, enduring, and true. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 298 *Lord, You Give the Great Commission (v 1, 2, 5)*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Will you love the "you" you hide* arr. John L. Bell

*POSTLUDE *That They All May Be One* Clyde Tipton

As the postlude begins, you are invited to depart for fellowship or remain seated in prayerful reflection as the music sends us forth into the world.

The flowers on the communion table are given by Brett & Mari Turner to the glory of God and in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Acknowledgments: All liturgy written by the Rev. Marianne B. Turner. All music used by permission. CCLI License # 2910879 and streaming license # 23024105.

WORSHIP with us

Join us 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 *Questions of Faith: A Practical Guide to Christian Faith* by Nicky Gumbel.

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 are studying *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America* by Ted V. Foote and P. Alex Thornburg, (meeting in the Fellowship Hall).



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.



Greeters

May 17: Nancy Miller & Anne Smart

May 24: Susan McGill & Millie
Murphy

Nursery Volunteers

May 17: Susan McGill/Joel Burns

May 24: Nancy Miller/Anne Smart

Liturgists

May 17: Cecelia Odihe

May 24: Laurie Peebles

Bell Ringer

Jakob Freeman



Lord, hear our prayers

CHURCH FAMILY:

Min Lindsay, recovering from surgery
Sherry Henry, recovering in Atlanta
Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns
Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns
Ellen Thompson, waiting on two hip replacements

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Ron Bracewell, Joy Bracewell's father, dealing with a cancer diagnosis
Judy Tufts, Susan McGill's stepmother, tibial head fracture
Murray Nelson, homelessness, financial struggles, better relationship with Jesus
Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Kathie Bishop, Mari Turner's mother, in memory care
Bob Bishop, Mari Turner's father, in rehab hospital
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, 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
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:

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-Rm 215, Marietta, GA 30008

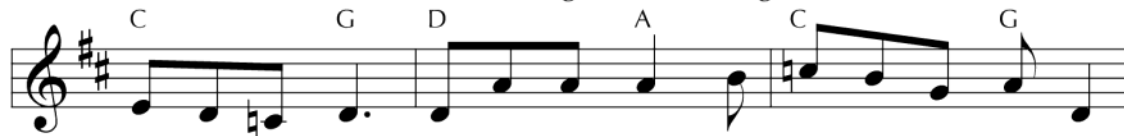
Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
 Words of com - fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and fair.
 mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

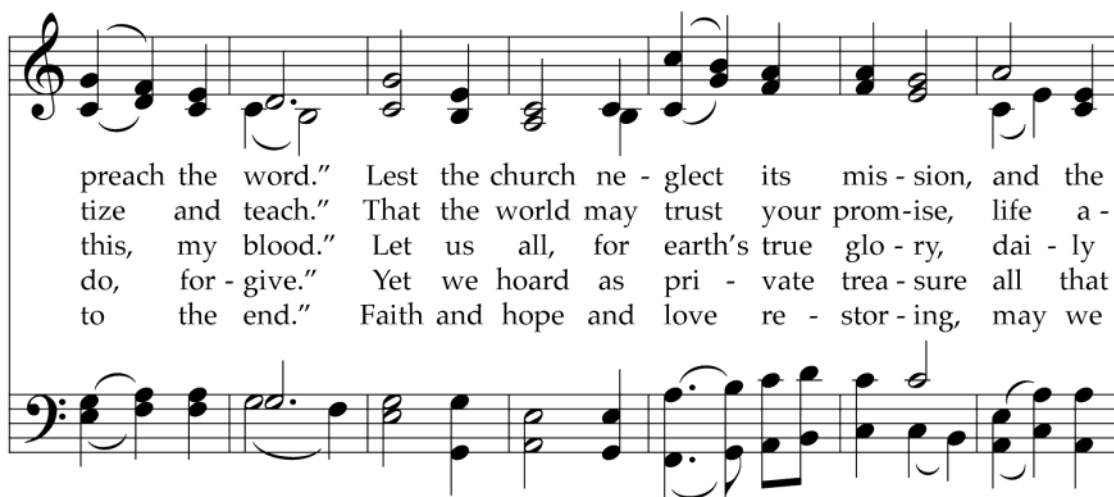


This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This, my bod - y;
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion, and the
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise, life a -
 this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry, dai - ly
 do, for - give." Yet we heard as pri - vate trea - sure all that
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing, may we



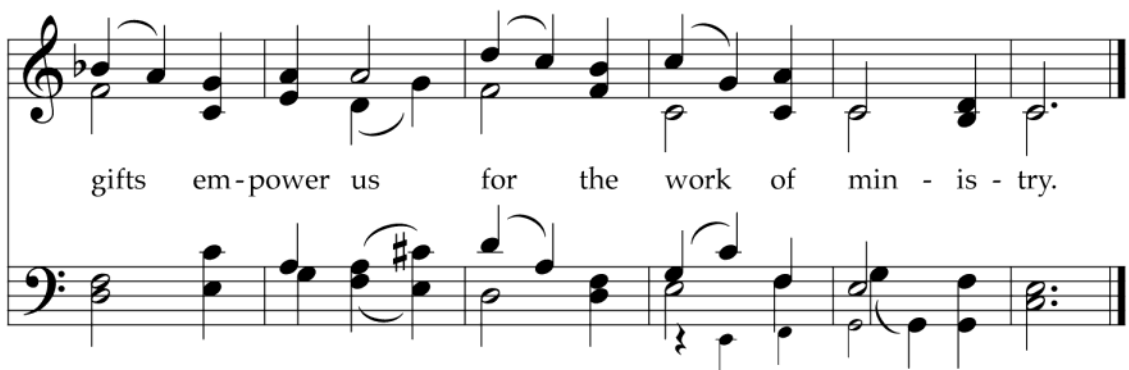
gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness to your
 bun - dant meant for each, give us all new fer - vor,
 lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the world a -
 you so free - ly give. May your care and mer - cy
 serve as you in - tend, and, a - mid the cares that

United by the refrain after each stanza, this text relies on passages from Matthew and Luke to highlight various dimensions of the church's mission and ministry in the world. It was written for use with this tune, composed in the village near Bristol, England, for which it is named.

THE CHURCH



pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty: with the Spir - it's
lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



gifts em-power us for the work of min - is - try.