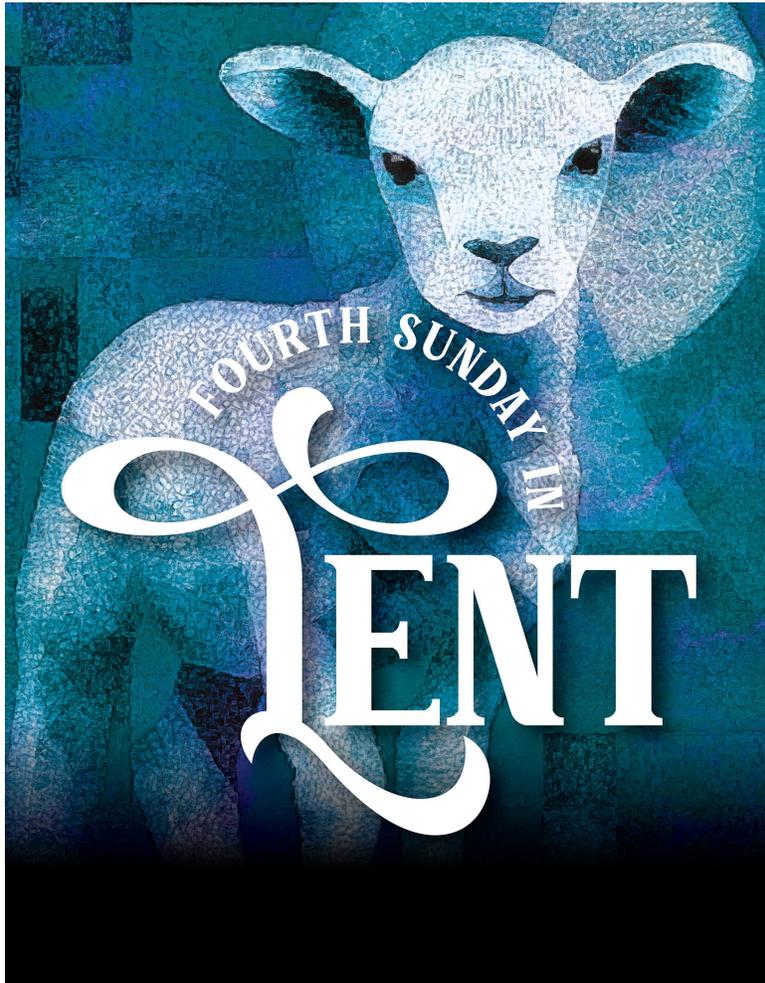


First Presbyterian Church



210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, GA 31061

(478) 452-9394

milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com

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.

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *O My Soul Rejoice With Gladness* Siegfried Karl-Elert

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The spirit of God leads us into this holy season.

Congregation: We come to find our strength in God's grace alone.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT *I want to walk as a child of the light* GTG #377, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

Congregation: The Lord is the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid?

Leader: God is doing a new thing; even now it begins to spring forth.

Congregation: We come to see what God is doing, even when it challenges what we have known.

Leader: Let us leave the darkness of the past and step into the light of Christ.

Congregation: Let us worship God with open eyes and willing hearts.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the turning world, you are the still point in the midst of our transitions. We thank you for this season of Lent—a "springtime" for the soul—where the dormant parts of our faith begin to stir. As we gather this day, open our hearts to the movement of your Spirit. When we are tempted to cling to the comfortable and the familiar, give us the courage to be transformed by your grace. Guide us by your Light, that we may see your activity in the world and respond with the vision of faith. Amen.

***HYMN 39** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Grace, we confess that we are often like the Pharisees, preferring the rules we know to the revelation we do not. We cling to the familiar, even when it no longer gives life. We confess our blindness to your presence in the unexpected and our resistance to the changes you require of us. We have judged others to avoid looking at ourselves; we have stayed in the shadows to avoid the challenge of your light. Forgive us, O God. Anoint our eyes that we may see; wash us in the waters of your Spirit that we may be born from above and walk as children of light. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE *I want to see the brightness of God* GTG #377, vs. 2

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news: God's bias is for change and for life.

Congregation: In Jesus Christ, the light of the world, our sight is

restored and our sins are washed away.

Leader: By the grace of God, we are forgiven and made new.

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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ANTHEM

Loving Shepherd

J.S. Bach

*Loving shepherd, comfort and guide us,
Keep us in thy tender care.
And in thy mercy stay beside us,
Safely thy lambs now gather,
Bring us in faith together,
And thy pastures now prepare.*

*And when I walk with darkness around me,
Thou art near and I will fear no ill.
So with thy love and kindness surround me,
Goodness and mercy bringing,
From living water springing,
Lord of Love grant me thy comfort still.*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT

I Samuel 15:34-16:13

OT 258

NEW TESTAMENT

Ephesians 5:8-14

NT 194

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

NT 102

SERMON

The Changing Gospel

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony

(Christian Reformed Church) Preamble, sections 1, 4, and 6

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—which some seek to control, but which others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God! From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until the Kin-dom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever: Our world belongs to God!

Our world, fallen into sin, has lost its first goodness, but God has not abandoned the work of the divine hands: our Maker preserves this world, sending seasons, sun, and rain, upholding all creatures, renewing the earth, promising a Savior, guiding all things to their

purpose.

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living. As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in this world. Amen.

***HYMN 450**

Be Thou My Vision

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

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Johann G. Walther

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, we offer these gifts as a sign of our gratitude for the acceptance and love you have shown us. Use them to break cycles of despair in our community and to provide for those who thirst for justice, peace, and friendship. Bless these offerings and our lives to your service, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 314**

*Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness
(Congregation sings the refrain)*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BENEDICTION *I'm looking for the coming of Christ* GTG #377, vs. 3

POSTLUDE *Jesus, Lead Thou On* J.S. Bach

Acknowledgments: All liturgy is written by the Rev. Marianne B. Turner. All music used by permission. CCLI License # 2910879

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No youth group today!
- Audition for the bicentennial play! Actors, narrators, and crew members are needed. Contact Ruby Werts and Susan McGill for more info.
- Bicentennial 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.
- Don't miss the Fraud Prevention Program will be presented by the Woman's Club of Milledgeville in cooperation with the Baldwin County Sherriff's office. Join us in Fellowship Hall TODAY, March 15 at 2:30pm. Refreshments will be served.
- A flower calendar is located in the kitchen on the side of the fridge. Please consider honoring or remembering someone with the gift of flowers for the sanctuary. Contact Becky (478-457-5349) for more information.
- Registration for the 2026 Presbyterian Women Annual Gathering on March 21, 2026 is now open. It will take place at Monticello Presbyterian Church, 246 E. Washington St., Monticello, GA. The featured speaker is Safiyah Abdulla, who has preached at First Presbyterian of Milledgeville in the past. Talk to Nancy Miller or see the March newsletter for more information.

Offerings in March	\$ 14,379.41
Anticipated March expenses:	\$ 23,484.00
<i>(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)</i>	

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: Mar 8-15

Today	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
Monday	7:00	Oconee Recovery Coalition
Tuesday	9:00	Samaritan Ministry
	9:30	Food Pantry
	7:30	NA Meeting
Wednesday	10:00	Have a Mug with Mari
	6:30	Potluck & Study
Thursday	6:30	In Our Best Interest
	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Youth Group



CHURCH FAMILY:

Elise Naber Allen, recovering at Emory; newborn daughter Eleanor; Andrew Allen, caregiver to both
Sherry Henry, recovering in Atlanta
Holley Cowan, recovering from surgery at home
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
Tamika Gilmore, health concerns
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, medical complication requiring hospitalization
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
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
Frankie Holder, Pruitt Health-Marietta, 50 Saine Dr. SW-Room 215, Marietta, GA 30008

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), 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 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- beginning March 18 we will be 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

Mar. 15: Charles Burrell, John & Emily Bradley

Mar. 22: Nancy Miller & Millie Murphy

Liturgists

Mar. 15: Frida Ituka

Mar. 22: Frida Ituka

Nursery Volunteers

Mar. 15: Joel Burns/Susan McGill

Mar. 22: Margaret Ivester/Susan McGill



39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 날 마 다 자 비 를 배 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.

TEXT and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966
 Text and Music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

HOUSTON
 10.7.10.8 with refrain

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F#) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.