

First Presbyterian Church

Serving Christ in Milledgeville

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgevilleorg

Like us on Facebook



Creation Care

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.

April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Creation Care Sunday

PRELUDE

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

Robert J. Hughes

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Rev. Susan. Restrooms & changing table are at the end of the hall to the left. Thank you for being with us!

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

God of the sparrow

(GTG #22, vs. 1-2)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Scripture tells us that "creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed."

Congregation: Creation is waiting for us;

Leader: To open our eyes to the devastation in our world.

Congregation: Creation is waiting for us;

Leader: To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful.

Congregation: Creation is waiting for us;

Leader: To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right.

Congregation: Creation is waiting for us;

Leader: To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self.

Congregation: Creation is waiting for us;

Leader: To remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.

Congregation: Creation is waiting for us.

Leader: In all these things and more, creation waits for us to assume our roles as its servants and protectors.

Congregation: With God's help, we will answer creation's call. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Anne Smart

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, Creator of heaven and earth, how blessed we are to be surrounded by the beauty of your creation. We lift our prayer of gratitude as we see the stars of heaven, and the beauty of the sunset. We are amazed by the seas and waterways and all that are in them. We are enchanted by the flowers and trees which are clothed by you. We are awed by all the animals you created. For the beauty of the earth, the mountains and valleys, the sun and the moon – we give you praise. Amen.

*HYMN 715

The Earth Belongs to God Alone

CALL TO CONFESSION

Beloved, we are made in the divine image, and God called us good. Yet we go our own way, causing harm to ourselves, to one another, and to the planet. Confident in the mercy of the One who made us and saved us, let us confess our sin to God and to one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we remember that you gave our faith father and mother instruction to work, to cultivate, to care, for this earth. But too often, we forget that our work is a holy task. We remember wrongly, thinking that work is a curse, and forget how you, our Triune God, have constantly worked through your acts of creation, redemption, and nurture. Together, we confess our bad attitudes, our complaints, and our mediocre efforts in the work you have called us to do. We praise you for your forgiveness, offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the servant of God, the greatest physician, the wisest teacher, and the most wonderful counselor. Amen.

***Please stand as you are able.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHORAL RESPONSE *God of the rainbow* (GTG #22, vs. 3)
DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the water of baptism, God pours out mercy and blessing. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace as you share that blessing with others and care for this good earth, that all creation may declare God's glory. Amen.

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
ANTHEM

Awake, O Wintry Earth! J.S. Bach
Elise Allen and Laurie Peebles, flute

*Awake, o wintry earth, fling off your frozen sadness.
With sweetness, flowers bring mirth, bright springtime's ancient gladness.
Once more, we sing the tale, through darkness sunlight spread,
To warm the winter's pale, and tell that Death is dead.*

*Descended to the grave, three days the Son lay sleeping,
Yet Christ returned to save our hearts from woe and weeping.
O earth, break forth and sing, renew your bright array.
To celebrate this Spring and mark the Savior's way.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to recognize your gracious hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of the One through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

		Pew Bible Page #
OLD TESTAMENT	Genesis 1:26-31	OT P 1
OLD TESTAMENT	Joel 2:21-22	OT P 847
NEW TESTAMENT	Revelation 22:1-4	NT P 260
GOSPEL	John 1:1-5	NT P 91

SERMON

*HYMN 664

Morning Has Broken

Reverend Susan Balfour

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Lois Callender

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and Christ's church. 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.

 PayPal



Scan. Pay. Go.

OFFERTORY
*DOXOLOGY

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
***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!***

Rudolf Moser

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Creator God, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the gospel in the center of this Sacred Circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your Spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 20

All Things Bright And Beautiful

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go in Peace. AMEN!

CHORAL BENEDICTION

God of the hungry

(GTG #22, vs. 4)

*POSTLUDE

Christ is Our Corner-Stone

George TH. Miles

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy."
~Psalm 96:11-12



Pastor, Rev. Susan Balfour, revsebalfour@gmail.com
Children & Youth, vacant
Admin. Asst., Lois Callender, fpchurch@windstream.net
Music Director, Dr. Jennifer Flory, jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu
Organist, Kate Phillips
Treasurer, Joel Burns

OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm M-Fri.

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

10am ~ 1pm Tues-Fri.

If you would like to schedule an appt.
with Rev. Susan, please call the office
(478) 452-9394.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



RADIO MINISTRY
WKZR (102.3FM)



Under the Palm
Podcast: [https://
anchor.fm/susan-balfour0](https://anchor.fm/susan-balfour0)



Our deepest condolences to Gloria Burns and family on the sudden death of her sister, Martha Shapard. Please be in prayer as they grieve this loss.

LIMITED MOBILITY
Helen Danuser

CHURCH FAMILY:

Wesley Applebury, attending seminary in Atlanta
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns
Donna Gautier, recovering from knee replacement surgery
Greg Jones, congestive heart failure

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Joseph Bennett, Joe Bennett's father, ongoing health concerns
Judy Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's daughter, recovering from car accident
Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns
Heather Brooks, Susan Balfour's cousin, lung and brain cancer
Peggy Deschermeier, Jennifer Flory's aunt, stage 1 pancreatic cancer, recovering at home from Whipple procedure
Margret Ellen (Meg) Clark, Margaret Ivester's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery
Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer
Karen Hartmann, Susan Balfour's cousin, stage 4 cancer
Judy Hunter-Hill, sister of Cissy Lane, in the hospital with severe atrial fibrillation
Alonzo Kelly, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma
Velma Kelly, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Mildred Moore, Sundae Coleman's aunt, in hospice care
Janie Mullis, Bill Werts' son-in-law's mother, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon
Paul Orman, Barbra Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns
Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis
Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns,
Gloria Roberts, Bill Werts' cousin, recovering from a traumatic fall
Charles Sallstrom, John Sallstrom's brother, ongoing health concerns
Willy Sanders, Sunda Coleman's cousin, ongoing health concerns
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, in rehab
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care
Wayne Woodard, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING

George and Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549
Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Nancy Holbrook, The Dublin Place, 504 Fire Tower Rd, Dublin GA 31021
Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Jackie Northington, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place, Ste 118
Suzy Smith, Savannah Court 1061 Willow Run Rd., Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: April 21- April 28

Today 9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Intergenerational/Confirmation Class
10:15 Children's Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:00 Youth Group
1:00 The Bridge UMC Worship
1:30 Homeless Awareness Club

Monday Office Closed
7:00 MSG

Tuesday Office Closed
9:30 Food Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis

Wednesday 6:30 Potluck and Bible Study

Thursday 10:30 UMC Planning Committee
6:00 IOBI

Sunday 9:30 Sunday School
9:45 Intergenerational/Confirmation Class
10:15 Children's Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:00 Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity
12:00 Youth Group
1:00 The Bridge UMC Worship

Offerings in April	\$7,550.00
Anticipated April expenses:	\$20,100.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)	



Join us for worship in-person, online at Facebook Live or on the radio at 102.3 WKZR radio every week.

Sunday: 9:30AM **Zoom Sunday School Class**, we are studying *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*
www.Zoom.com, Meeting ID: 852 8172 1781
Passcode: 085809

Fellowship Sunday School Class, studying *Contrarians Guide to Knowing God: Spirituality for the Rest of Us* by Larry Osborne, meeting in the Parlor Room

9:45 AM **Intergenerational/Confirmation Sunday School Class**, studying *Confessing Our Faith*, for new members and confirmands meeting in the Fellowship Hall

10:15AM **Children's Sunday School Class**, Wandering Heart curriculum by Sanctified Art, singing, crafts and stories, meeting in the Craft Room Upstairs

Wednesday: 6:30PM **Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, *The Other Evangelicals, A Story of Liberal, Black Progressive, Feminist and Gay Christians and the Movement That Pushed Them Out*, meeting in the Fellowship Hall

715 The Earth Belongs to God Alone

1 The earth be - longs to God a - lone; hard
 2 The fer - tile ground through years of toil has
 3 All life be - longs to God a - lone, in
 4 Till God en - dows the earth once more with

clay, rich soil, fine sand. Give thanks wher - ev - er
 cried for Sab - bath rest— a time of peace for
 wil - der - ness and fields. From fal - low land, or
 E - den's state of grace, may we en - deav - or

food is grown on bor - rowed ho - ly land.
 worn - out soil so land can be re - freshed.
 plowed and sown, God gives the good it yields.
 to re - store all land as sa - cred space.

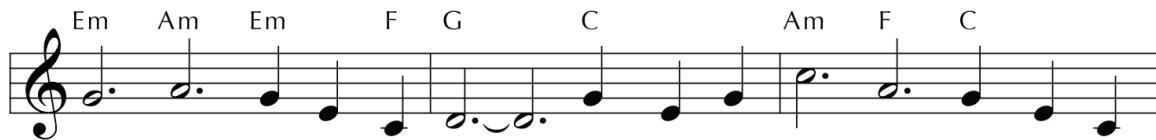
This text emerged from a study of the attention in Levitical laws to the well-being of the land, especially by calling for fallow periods, or "land sabbaths," to preserve the soil. 2 Chronicles 36:21 even suggests that the Babylonian exile may have resulted from abusing the land.

Morning Has Broken

664



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

This 20th-century text was created to provide words for this traditional tune named for a small village on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. Through repeated use of "new" and "first," each morning is treated as a re-creation of the promise of the original day.

20 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all. *Fine*

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
 2 The pur - ple-head-ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glow-ing col - ors; God made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky:
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well. *to Refrain*

One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.