

# First Presbyterian Church



210 S. Wayne Street Milledgeville, GA 31061  
(478) 452-9394, [milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com](mailto:milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com)

**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.

**December 14, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

PRELUDE

*Ave Maria*

Charles Gounod, arr. Anthea Smith

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: This is the time the Savior draws near.

**Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in his presence.**

*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 the Pastor or an Elder.*

**GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

CHORAL INTROIT

*To a maid whose name was Mary*

GTG#98, vs. 1-2

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Kim Booth, Jennifer King, Jakob Freeman

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O Giver of life, you turn mourning into dancing. You surprise us with beauty in unlikely places. Joy is your gift and an invitation to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, to give thanks in all things. May we carry this joy like a lantern, shining steadily through the waiting. Amen.**

\*HYMN 83 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom and the hungry being filled with good things. We may not want the powerful to be brought down or the rich to be sent away empty. We know that sometimes, we are the powerful. Sometimes, we are the rich. Sometimes we are the ones with privilege, ignoring and harming those you would lift up. Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us, that we may follow your way of life and truth. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

*But Mary was most troubled*

GTG #98, vs. 3-4

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: There is nothing and no one that is too far gone for God to redeem. There is no land too parched that God cannot make streams of living water flow. Beloved, we are forgiven!

**Congregation: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

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

Leader: The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Please greet those near to you with the peace of Christ.

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

*Maria Walks Amid the Thorn*  
*Laurie Peebles, flute*

Mark Schweizer

*Maria walks amid the thorn,  
Kyrie eleison,  
Maria walks amid the thorn,  
Which seven years no leaf has born.  
Jesus and Maria.*

*What 'neath her heart doth  
Mary bear?  
Kyrie eleison,  
The little Child doth Mary bear,  
Beneath her heart He nestles there.  
Jesus and Maria.*

*And as the two are passing near,  
Kyrie eleison,  
As the two are passing near,  
Lo! roses on the thorns appear!  
Jesus and Maria.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 35:1–10

NEW TESTAMENT: James 5:7–10

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39–55

OT p. 663

NT p. 231

NT p. 57

SERMON

*Mary, Blessed Model of God*

*Rev. Mari Turner*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Confession of Belhar, 10.7*

### **We believe**

- that God has revealed God's self as the One who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that in a world full of injustice and enmity God 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;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
- That the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that is following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

\*HYMN 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING



*All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord. 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](http://fpcmilledgeville.org).*



Scan. Pay. Go.

OFFERTORY

*A Maiden Most Gentle*

arr. Andrew Carter

\*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

**Eternal God, as we wait for the fulfillment of your reign, use these gifts and the gifts of our lives to bring justice to those who are oppressed, to set free those who are in prison, to lift up those who are bowed down, and to uphold those who are vulnerable. Amen.**

## BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN 104 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*"How shall this be?" said Mary*

GTG #98, vs. 5-6

POSTLUDE

*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

Johann G. Walther

*Liturgy provided by Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts, and the Advent Candle Lighting Service provided by The Outlook, authors Shardaé Henry and Shea Watts. All are used with permission.*

# Lord, hear our prayers

## **CHURCH FAMILY:**

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns  
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns  
Sunda Coleman, recovering from surgery after a fall  
Louise Sallstrom, recovering at Lynn Haven Health and Rehabilitation in Gray, Georgia  
Ellen Thompson, recovering from a broken hip at home

## **EXTENDED FAMILY:**

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns  
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues  
Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home  
Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns  
Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis  
Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer  
Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melanoma  
Velma Kelley, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns  
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  
Paul Orman, Barbara Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns  
Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis  
Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, diagnosed with congestive heart failure, at home  
Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns  
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis  
Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing 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 Woodard, 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, in hospital, moving soon to Fellowship Home  
Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

## **Nursery Volunteers**

December 14 ~ Anne Smart/Joel Burns  
December 21 ~ Charles Burrell/Gloria Burns  
December 28 ~ Susan McGill/ Margaret Ivester

## **Liturgist**

December 14 ~ Andrew Allen  
December 21 & 28 ~ Ruby Werts  
December 24 ~ Andrew Allen



## THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 14-21

Today	9:45	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Youth Christmas Party</b>
	<b>5:00</b>	<b>PW Bible Study</b>
Monday	7:00	Oconee Recovery Coalition
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	7:30	NA Meeting
Wednesday	<b>2:00</b>	<b>Laurie Peebles Wedding</b>
	6:30	Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study
Thursday	<b>4:30</b>	<b>Bicentennial Planning Committee</b>
	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:45	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our new member Emily Carson who joined the church by profession of faith.

Christmas Eve service will be at 5:30 p.m. on December 24th. Please join us for our traditional service of lessons and carols, candlelight and communion.

A printed Advent Devotional is available in the narthex as well as online at [https://bit.ly/Advent\\_Devotional\\_2025](https://bit.ly/Advent_Devotional_2025).

Bicentennial Christmas 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.

Offerings in December                      \$ 6,640.00  
Anticipated December expenses:        \$21,014.00  
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

**Join us for worship in-person or online  
on Facebook Live every week.**



**9:45 AM Sunday School Class** (meets in 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](mailto: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 *Being a Presbyterian in the Bible Belt* by Ted V. Foote Jr. & P. Alex Thornburg.

**Sunday: 10:15AM Children's Sunday School Class**, singing, crafts and stories, (meeting in the Craft Room upstairs)

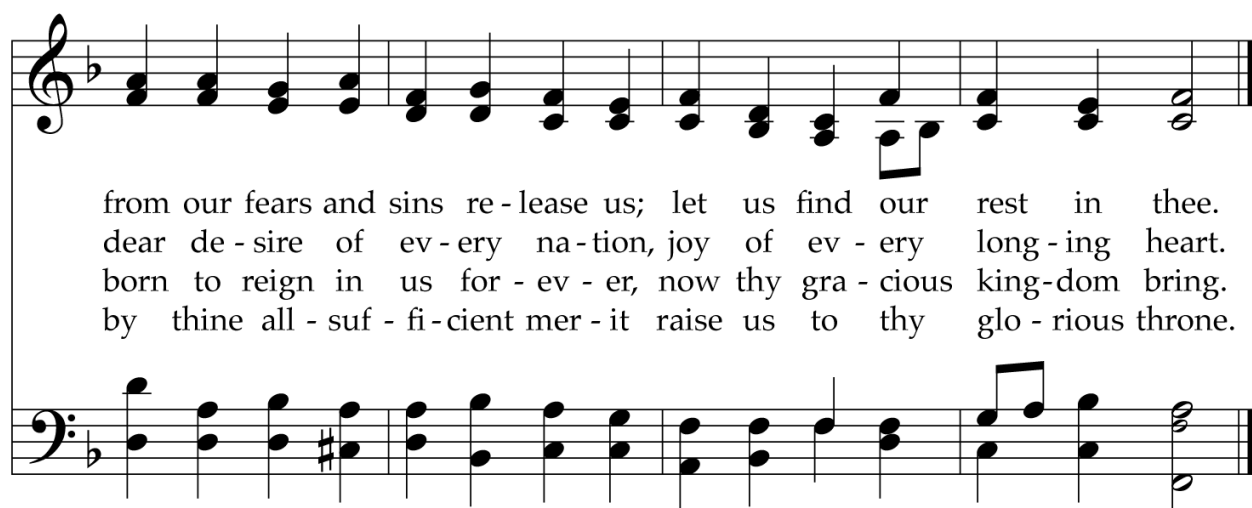
**Sunday: 12:00PM Youth Group** (Youth Room)

**Wednesday: 6:30PM Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, studying *Uppity Women of the Bible* by Hebrew Bible professor Dr. Lisa Wolfe, (meeting in the Fellowship Hall).

# 83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



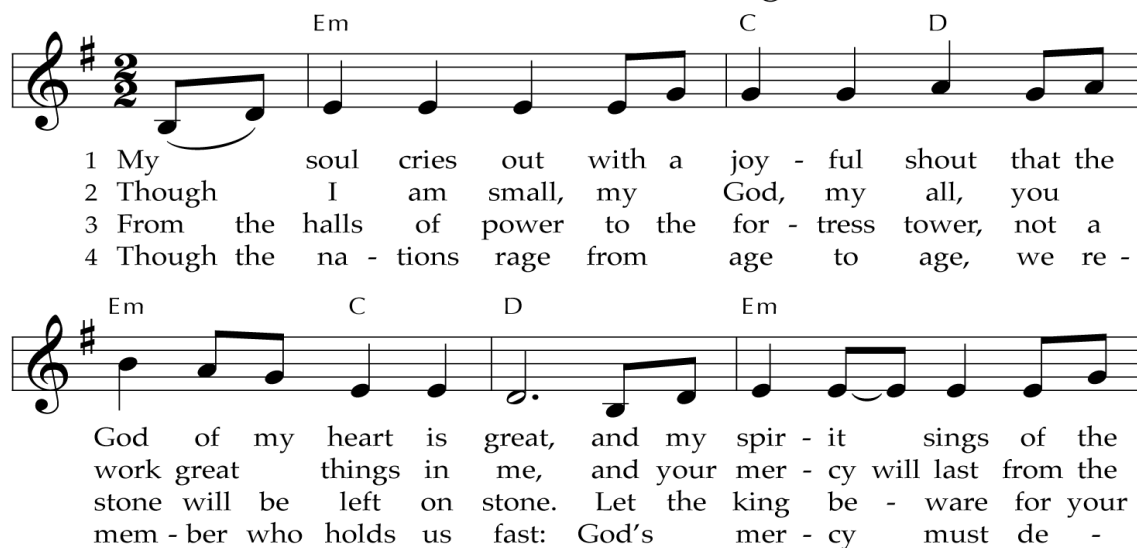
1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

# 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

Em C D Em

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
prom - ise which holds us bound. till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

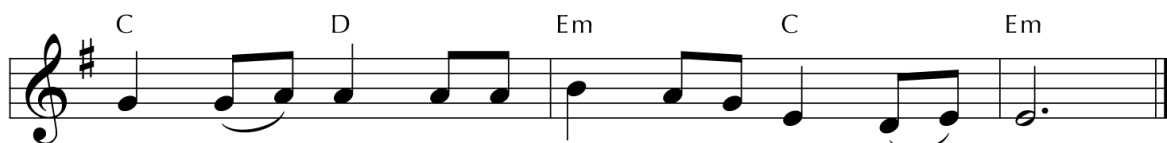
*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;  
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.  
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.  
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.