

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.

July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Song of Peace* arr. Robert Hughes

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Word of God is like rain that falls from heaven, watering the earth to make it bring forth life.

Congregation: We gather to receive the living Word, trusting it will not return empty.

Leader: The Sower has gone out to sow, scattering seeds of grace, hope, and love upon us all.

Congregation: We come with open hearts, ready to be the good soil where the Kin-dom takes root.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Unison: Gracious God, you cultivate our lives with patient love, planting seeds of righteousness and truth within us. By your Holy Spirit, open our hearts today to receive your Word with joy. Break up the hard ground within us, clear away the choking thorns of worry, and root us deeply in your grace, so that our lives may bear an abundant harvest for your glory. Amen.

***HYMN 14** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we are often poor soil for your Word. Sometimes our hearts are hardened by cynicism, and your truth cannot take root. Sometimes we receive your joy quickly but wither under the first sign of testing or hardship. Too often, the anxieties of daily living and the lure of material wealth choke out your voice. Forgive us, Patient Cultivator. Loosen the soil of our hearts, pull out the weeds of selfishness, and tend to us so that we may grow into faithful servants of your Kin-dom. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news: God's Word does not return empty, but accomplishes that which God purposes. In Christ Jesus, the seed of new life is planted within you, and your sins are completely wiped away.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! We are forgiven, renewed, and called to grow in grace.

***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.***

**At this time young children may depart for the nursery.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 55:10-13	OT 685
NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: I Corinthians 3:6-9	NT 167
GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	NT 13

SERMON *The Parable of the Sower*

***HYMN 531** *Seed, Scattered and Sown*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation

Profession of Faith *Apostles' Creed* (p. 35 of Hymnal)

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Baptism

Welcome

MOMENT FOR CHURCH LIFE *The Synod*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

arr. R. Kowry

*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

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....

SERVICE MUSIC

553 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G)(A) (D) (A) (D/F#)(F#m)

F C F B^b 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^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

LAND OF REST

...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 714**

God of the Fertile Fields

POSTLUDE

Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven

arr. J. Goss

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

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



Lord, hear our prayers

CONDOLENCES:

To the family and friends of Frankie Holder, who passed on Sunday, July 5

CHURCH FAMILY:

Runette Pounds, recovering at Fellowship Home
Gini Wilkerson, recovering from surgery
Kym Thomas, recovering from surgery
Min Lindsay, recovering from surgery
Sherry Henry, recovering from surgery
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
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
Kandace Allen Bivins, friend of Margaret Foster, heart attack
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

Greeters

July 12: Nancy Miller & Millie
Murphy
July 19: Susan McGill & Becky
Humphrey

Communion

Susan McGill, Bill Werts, Ruby
Werts, John Bradley

Bell Ringer

Jakob Freeman

Nursery Volunteers

July 12: Anne Smart/Gloria Burns
July 19: Susan McGill/Laurie
Peebles

♥ Thank you ♥
VOLUNTEERS!

Liturgists

July 12: Andrew Allen
July 19: Melba Burrell

Offerings in July \$ 7,016
Anticipated July expenses: \$ 13,423
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: July 12-19

Today	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
Monday	7:00	PATH/Oconee Recovery Coalition
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	6:30	Session Meeting
	7:30	NA Meeting
Wednesday	10:00	Have a Mug with Mari
	6:30	Potluck & Study
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This morning Jakob Freeman will receive the sacrament of Baptism and make his public profession of faith.
- We need more nursery volunteers! Speak with Anne Smart if you're interested in serving in this role on Sundays.

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 joeldburns@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 are studying *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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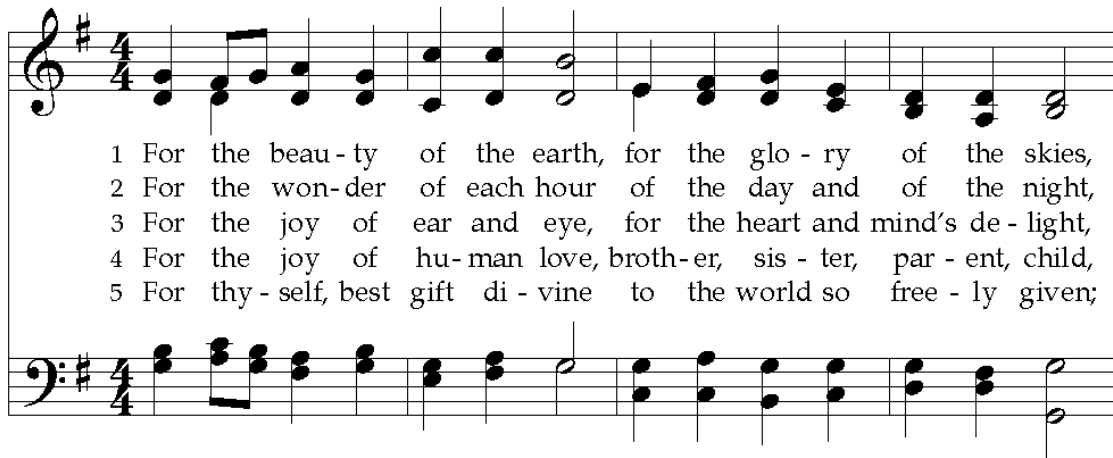
OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.

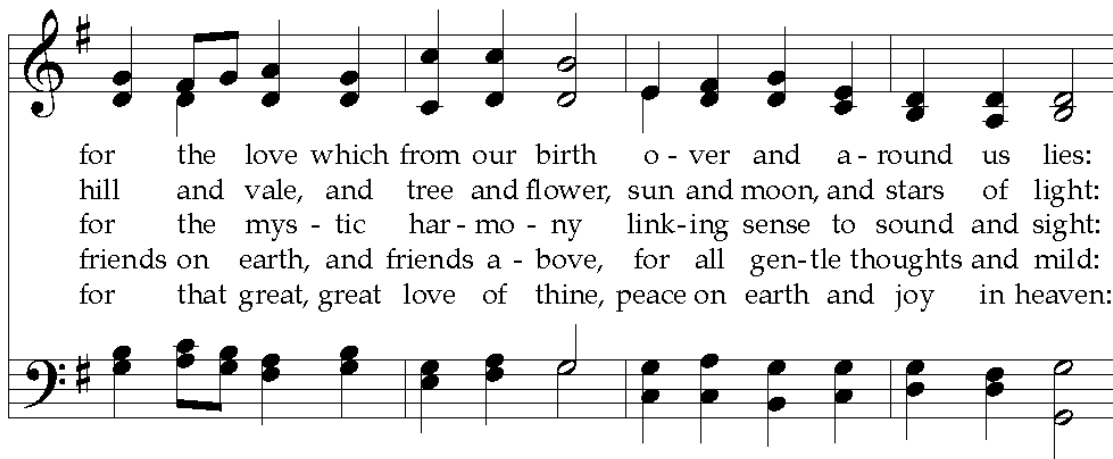


For the Beauty of the Earth

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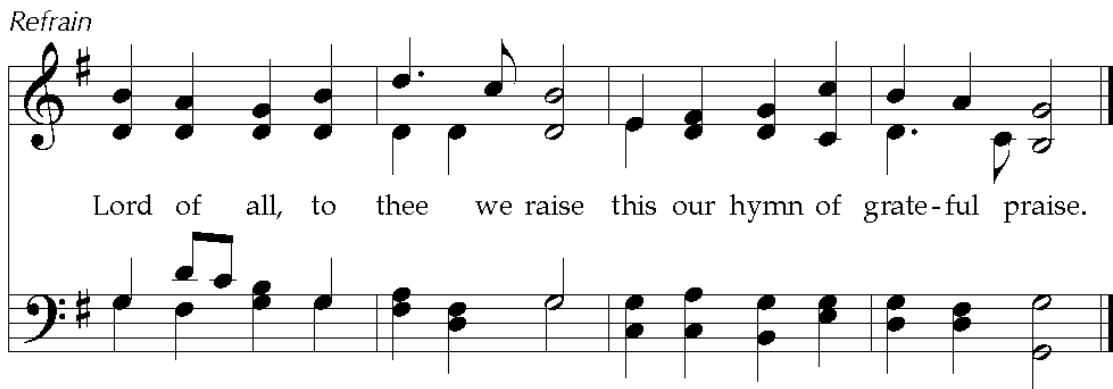


1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;



for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

Seed, Scattered and Sown 531

Refrain C All G Am F G C C7

Seed, scat-tered and sown; wheat, gath-ered and grown;

F G C Am Dm7 G G7

bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the liv-ing bread of God.

C G Am F G C C7 F G

Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands; one cup that is

C Am Dm7 C Dm7 G C *Fine*

shared by all, the liv-ing cup, the liv-ing bread of God.

Am Leader or All G F C Dm G C

1 Is not the bread we break a shar-ing in our Lord?
 2 The seed which falls on rock will with-er and will die.
 3 As wheat up-on the hills was gath-ered and was grown,

E Am F G G7 *to Refrain*

Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ out-poured?
 The seed with-in good ground will flow-er and have life.
 so may the church of God be gath-ered in-to one.

This hymn draws on very old Christian materials, the earliest being Jesus' parables about sowers and seed (Matthew 13/Mark 4/Luke 8). Stanza one paraphrases 1 Corinthians 10:16, and stanza three uses imagery from the *Didache*, a major Christian document from the early 2nd century.

God of the Fertile Fields 714

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.