

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 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness* Johannes Brahms

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 *In the bulb there is a flower* GTG #250, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord!

Congregation: **Lord, hear our voices!**

Leader: You open our graves and bring us into the light.

Congregation: **Your Spirit breathes life into our dry bones.**

Leader: You call us by name to be unbound and free.

Congregation: **Let us worship the God of resurrection and life!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you are the resurrection and the life. Even in the shadow of the tomb, you meet us with power and with tears. By your Word, call us from the dark places and unbind us from our fears. Grant that we may hear the voice of Jesus calling our names today, that we might rise to serve you in the world you love. Amen.

*HYMN 53 *O God, Who Gives Us Life*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Grace, we confess that we are often like Lazarus, bound by the things that keep us from full life. We are wrapped in the shrouds of our own making—**anxiety, greed, and indifference.** We admit that like Martha and Mary, we sometimes doubt your timing and your power, looking only at what has been lost instead of what you are doing now. Forgive us when we choose the security of the tomb over the risk of the resurrection. By your Spirit, breathe life into our dry bones. Unbind us from our sin and release us to live as your people, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE *There's a song in every silence* GTG #250, vs. 2

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news: To set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Congregation: **Because the Spirit of Christ dwells in us, we are no longer captive to death.**

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Congregation: **Thanks be to God! We are unbound and invited into a second chance for life.**

***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

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Raymond Weidner

*Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of life, and light of all,
Amid what bliss the earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to heed your call.*

*Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
Wherever our wayward lot is cast;
Glad when your gracious smile we see,
Blessed when our faith can hold thee fast.*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT

Ezekiel 37:1-14

OT 806

GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

NT 104

SERMON

Lazarus Unbound

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *A Brief Statement of Faith (11.2)*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

***HYMN 286**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

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

Largo

Eric Sköld

Teri Anne Bradley, oboe and Will Humphrey, trumpet

*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

God of resurrection, you have called us out of the shadows and into your light. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude, and use them to unbind the oppressed, feed the hungry, and bring hope to the weary. By your Spirit, may our lives and our offerings serve the flourishing of all your people. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

In the end is our beginning

GTG #250, vs. 3

POSTLUDE

Lamb of God, We Fall Before Thee Henry Markworth

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



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.



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Service	March 29 at 11:00 AM
Maundy Thursday Service	April 2 at 6:30 PM
Good Friday Open House	April 3 from 12:00-1:00 PM
Easter Sunday Service	April 5 at 11:00 AM

Greeters

Mar. 22: Nancy Miller & Millie Murphy
 Mar. 29: Margaret Ivester & Bill Werts

Nursery Volunteers

Mar. 22: Margaret Ivester/Susan McGill
 Mar. 29: Laurie Peebles/Gloria Burns

Liturgists

Mar. 22: Frida Ituka
 Mar. 29: Jan Hoffmann



Offerings in March	\$ 15,963.00
Anticipated March expenses:	\$ 23,484.00
<i>(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)</i>	

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: Mar 22-29

Today	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
Monday	7:00	Oconee Recovery Coalition
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	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	Palm Sunday Worship
	12:00	Youth Group
	12:00	Milly Free Fridge Sandwich Squad

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next week is Sandwich Squad week! Bring sandwich supplies, waters, and/or snacks to donate to the community fridge at Midway Hills Primary School.
- 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.
- The flower calendar is now on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Please consider honoring or remembering someone with the gift of flowers for the sanctuary. Contact Becky (478-457-5349) for more information.

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



Lord, hear our prayers

CHURCH FAMILY:

Elise Naber Allen, recovering at home; newborn Eleanor; Andrew Allen, caregiver

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

Kathie Bishop, Mari Turner's mother, recovering from a stroke

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, 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, awaiting an available bed in post-surgical rehab

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

53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
 3 O God of covenant and law, re-vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
 your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

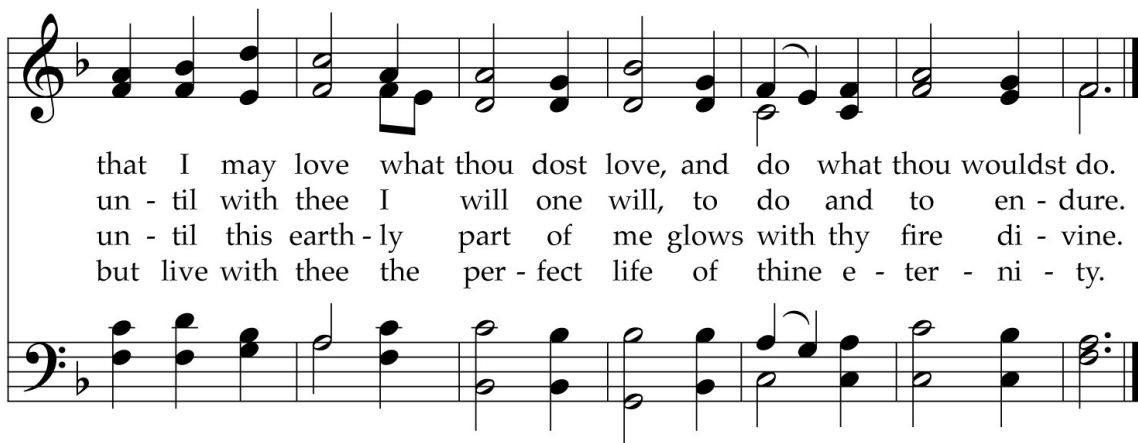
Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

Breathe on Me, Breath of God 286



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,



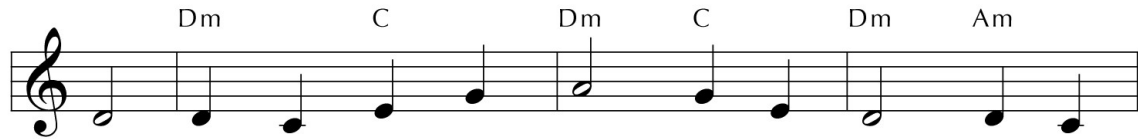
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
SM

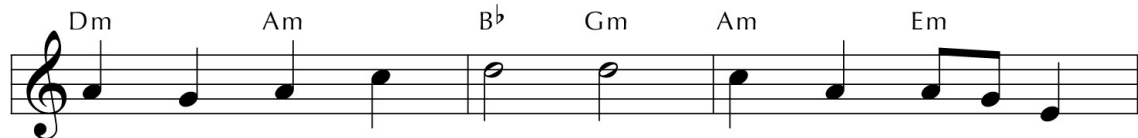
What Wondrous Love Is This 215



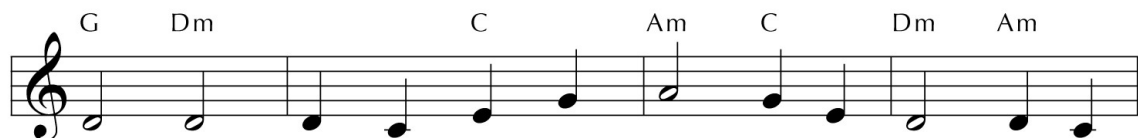
1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."