

First Presbyterian Church

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fpcmilledgeville.org*

**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.

September 14, 2025
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Emma Lou Diemer

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 the Liturgist or Minister. 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

Heaven is Singing for Joy

GTG #382, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us affirm God's wondrous presence with us.

Leader: As we relish this day with gladness, let us worship.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Anne Smart

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator of all life, you have designed our world and everything in it, and you continue to recreate our world. You see and know all our frailties, weaknesses, limitations, and failures. May we continue to look for how your presence renews and adorns us, assuring us of your goodness and grace. Amen.

*HYMN 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth.

If we confess our sins, God is just and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong. Let us admit our sin before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called us to be a servant people, but we do not do what you command. We are often silent when we should speak, and useless when we should be useful. We are lazy servants, timid and heartless, who turn neighbors away from your love. Have mercy on us, O God, and though we do not deserve your care, forgive us, and free us from sin. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Heaven is Singing for Joy

GTG #382, vs. 2

HEARING GOD'S WORD

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Sisters and brothers, let us proclaim the good news:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Leader: And now we are freed to go out to love and serve.

People: 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***

PEACE

*We welcome Rev. Dr. Emily R. Cheney, H.R.,
a member of our presbytery, who has served churches, supplied pulpits, and taught
in colleges and universities in Oklahoma, Kansas, North Carolina, Tennessee, and
Georgia, as well as having worked as an inhouse and freelance editor.*

ANTHEM

O For A Closer Walk

Charles Villiers Stanford

*O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!*

*Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn and drove Thee from my breast.*

*So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of courage, be in our speaking. Be also in our listening. Speak to our souls' deep understanding. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 22:19-23

Pew Bible Page #

OT P. 650

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 11:2-6; 16:13-20

NT P. 11; 18

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 11:33-36

NT P 161

SERMON

"How Did Peter Know?"

Rev. Dr. Emily R.Cheney

*HYMN 442

Just as I Am, without One Plea

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontious Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into the realm of the dead; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy universal church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Let us rejoice and give thanks as we present our tithes and offerings. 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

Prelude in C Minor

Frederic Chopin arr. Colin Hand

*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 THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

The Giver of all we have, the Creator of all who move and breathe, and so of our very lives, we give you thanks. May we never stop thanking you for your love displayed to us through your Son Jesus Christ and may the gifts we present express this love in our church, in our communities, and throughout the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 634

To God Be the Glory

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Heaven is Singing for Joy

GTG #382, vs. 3

POSTLUDE

Now Praise We God Almighty

Johann Pachelbel



Lord, hear our prayers

CHURCH FAMILY:

We grieve the loss of our beloved Nancy Holbrook. Our prayers and loving thoughts extended to her family.

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns

Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns

Sunda Coleman, recovering from surgery after a fall

Frida Ituka, recovering from knee replacement surgery

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

Wesley Applebury, hospitalized after reconstructive neurosurgery on Sept. 10.

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

Kathy Hall, Gini Wilkerson's mother, stroke

Peter Hall, Gini Wilkerson's brother, ongoing health concerns

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

Paul Schrage, Carrie Cook's father, 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

Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Runette Pounds, The Cottages, 1010 Fernwood Dr, Rm 206, Milledgeville, GA 31061

Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: September 14 – September 21

Today	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
Monday	7:00	Oconee Recovery Coalition
	7:00	Milledgeville Singers Guild
Tuesday	9:15	Samaritan Ministry
	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
Wednesday	7:30	NA Meeting
	6:30	Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship Service

Nursery Schedule for September:

Sept.14 Gloria Burns/Sherry Henry
Sept.21 Anne Smart/Laurie Peebles
Sept.28 Margaret Ivester/Susan McGill

*Please contact Anne Smart if you are
unavailable on the date you are listed to serve.*

Liturgist:

Glory Nwankonta
Cecilia Odihe
Cecilia Odihe

Offerings in September	\$ 9,067.64
Anticipated September expenses:	\$21,424.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)	



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

Sunday: 9:30AM **Zoom Sunday School Class**, 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, www.Zoom.com, Meeting ID: 852 8172 1781 Passcode: 085809

Fellowship Sunday School Class, studying *Jesus CEO: Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership* by Laurie Beth Jones

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

Wednesday: 6:30PM **Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, studying *The Righteous Mind, Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt, meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is

442 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come,
 4 Just as I am, thy love un-known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

come to thee,
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
 I be - lieve,
 thine a - lone,

SPANISH

1 *Tal como soy de pecador,
 sin más confianza que tu amor;
 a tu llamada vengo a ti,
 ¡Cordero de Dios, heme aquí!*

KOREAN

1 큰-죄에 빠-진 날 위해
 주보-혈 흘려주시고
 또-나를 오-라하시니-
 주께로 거-저 갑니다

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To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
 2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
 but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

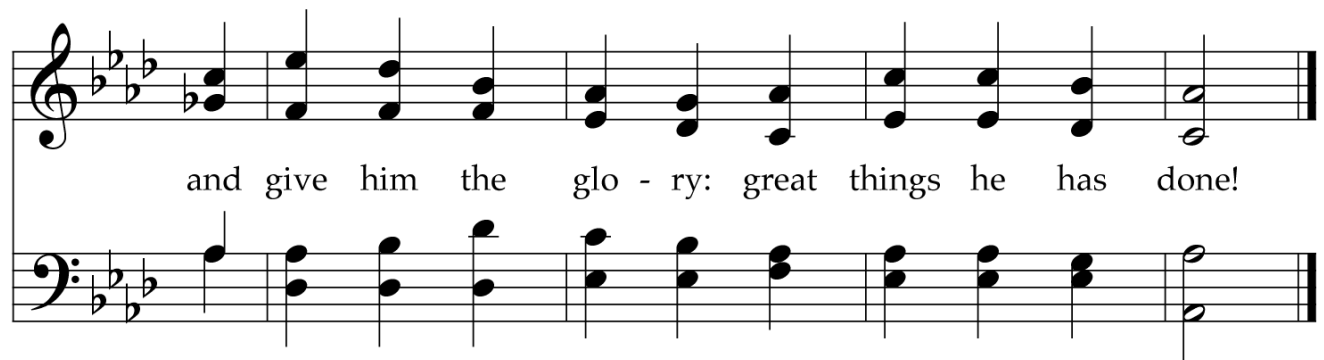
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!



O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,



and give him the glory: great things he has done!