



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

Third Sunday after Epiphany

JANUARY 22, 2023



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Brethren We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA

Sing of God Made Manifest

Robert J. Powell

The Lord's My Shepherd

Kevin Norris

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Irish Melody

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

As we behold the beauty of God's temple, we see God's face.

God is our shelter and our shade.

We will sing to the God of our salvation!

✦ Hymn of Praise 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Community Confession

Christ, our Messiah, you call us to fish for people, but we are hesitant to leave our boats. We are afraid to let go of the things we hoard, believing they make us secure. We are afraid to put our trust in you, afraid to follow, afraid we will fail. Forgive us. Transform our fear into faithfulness, and enable us to walk with you, that we may be part of your work in the world. Amen.

✦ Response 835

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

CLOSER WALK

*I am weak, but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk,
let me walk close to thee.*

*Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee:
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

✦ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Just as Jesus called the disciples, so Christ calls us.
Forgiven of our sin and freed to serve, let us answer Christ's call.

Christ calls us, forgives us, heals us, and teaches us.

Thanks be to God!

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✦ Passing of the Peace



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Here I Am, Lord

Daniel L. Schutte

Choral Setting by Jack Schrader

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Pew Bible page 166

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-23

Pew Bible page 3

Message

Follow Me

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 726**

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

The Summons

Installation and Ordination of Officers

Charles Ardis (Christian Education)

Doug Bolton (Welcome)

Tom Crews (Deacon - Pastoral Care)

Dana Hall (Deacon - Faith & Fellowship)

Nichole Howell (Worship)

Jim Stillerman (Strategic Planning)

Mary Catherine Whisnant (Christian Education)

Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth
on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall
come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of
sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

✠ **Hymn of Response 733**

We All Are One in Mission

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

H. Percy Smith

Arr. by Ted Smith and Don Hustad

✠ Response 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDRETH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Gratitude

All are invited to join in our community Prayer of Gratitude by lifting up a one-word prayer of thanksgiving.



Being the Church in the World

✠ Sending Hymn 742

We Will Walk with God

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

Joyful Noise and Hallelujah Kids!, children's rhythm band

First and second time - Soloist in Swahili then in English

Third time - Soloist and Choirs in English

Fourth time - Soloist, Choirs, and Congregation in English

Congregational Meeting

✠ Charge and Benediction

First Presbyterian Church Covington is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Jerry Westenkuehler



Worship Notes

Musical offerings are an act of worship. If you wish to express thanks to God at the conclusion of a musical offering, feel free to offer a hearty "Amen," a Biblical way of saying "so be it!" and affirming spiritual gifts. Music printed in our bulletin and streamed online is covered by One License #A-728738 authorizing their use.

Children in Worship

Good news! Beginning in the new year during worship, Neeley or Erin will begin taking your children downstairs to the nursery after Wondering with God's Children (only if your children are planning to go to the nursery). This is to help you stay in worship and us get them to the nursery safely. We will sign in your children in the nursery so you can sign them out when you pick them up! As always, children are always welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pews! There are Worship Bags for children on the rack outside the Sanctuary.

Contact Cards

There are Contact Cards in each pew. Visitors are invited to connect with us by filling out a Contact Card and placing it in the offering plate. Members may also choose to fill out a contact card if their contact information has changed.

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Pat Harper

Acolyte | Amelia Evans



Worship Music Notes

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

After their marriage, Charles and Sally Wesley set up housekeeping in Bristol, England, heading up the Methodist activities there. Later they moved to London so Charles could work more closely with his brother, John. All the while, however, he was writing hymns. There are few stories behind specific hymns because Charles was just always writing them. He didn't need events to inspire him or quiet stretches of meditative time in which to develop his thoughts. He was just always writing hymns, and afterward he had few if any dramatic stories to tell about the occasions for writing hymns.

For most of his life, Charles was a traveling preacher, traveling on horseback. In his pocket he carried little cards on which he scribbled hymns in shorthand as he rode. When a horse threw him, he wrote in his journal: "My companion thought I had broken my neck, but my leg only was bruised, my hand sprained, and my head stunned, which spoiled my making hymns till the next day."

Although Charles Wesley had been a classical scholar at Oxford, few of his hymns reveal allusions to the classics; however, this one follows the meter of John Dryden's "King Arthur," referring to Camelot: "Fairest Isle, all Isles excelling, Seats of pleasure and of love." King Arthur may have dreamed of Camelot, but as Charles Wesley rode horseback from village to village, his thoughts were on Jesus, the divine love, the joy of heaven.

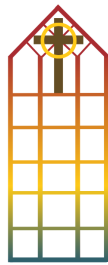
Biographer Arnold Dallimore says about Charles' poetry: "He had inherited his gift from his father, and although it had undoubtedly been resident in him since childhood, his conversion unlocked it and set it free. During his early ministry, he says little in his journal about his composing hymns and, indeed, this is true throughout his life. But he had within him virtually a treasury of poetry. He constantly experienced the emotions of the true poet, his mind instinctively invested words with harmony, and hymn after hymn flowed from his pen."

Henry Moore, one of Charles' friends, later described him like this: "When he was nearly 80, he rode a little horse, gray with age.... Even in the height of summer he was dressed in winter clothes. As he jogged leisurely along, he jotted down any thought that struck him. Not infrequently he had come to our house in City Road, and, having left the pony in the garden in front, he would enter, crying out, "Pen and ink! Pen and ink!" These being supplied he wrote the hymn he had been composing in his head."

How many hymns did Wesley compose? No one has been able to count them. In all, Charles wrote over 9,000 literary texts of one kind or another, but not all of them should be classified as hymns. Experts put the number somewhere between 3,000 and 6,000 hymns. Among all of them, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" is the favorite of many.

Charles' last hymn was dictated to his beloved Sally as he was on his deathbed in 1788. It was short, simple, and picturesque. Predictably, it, too, became a popular one-verse song among the Methodists:

*In age and feebleness extreme,/ Who shall a helpless worm redeem?
Jesus, my only hope Thou art,/ Strength of my failing flesh and heart.
Oh, could I catch a smile from Thee,/ And drop into eternity!*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COVINGTON, GA

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014
fpccov.org | 770.786.7321

Want to Get Involved?

Reach out to become a more involved member of the church! We always have something happening that we would love for you to be a part of. You could be an integrated member of our church by volunteering with witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or many other activities. Contact the office and we'll point you in the right direction!
 Email: catherine@fpccov.org or call: 770-786-7321

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>
Alicia Taylor	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist/ Ambassador Choir</i>
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>

Nursery Staff
 Danielle Schubert
 Hattie Bellinger
 Samantha Boozer
 Laina Lalane
 Kennedy Lynn
 Amanda Sotolongo
 Kyla White

Officers

Curtis Watson	Reaching Out	<i>Witness (2024)</i>
Charles Ardis	Engaging	<i>Christian Ed (2025)</i>
Pat Harper		<i>Worship (2024)</i>
Nichole Howell		<i>Worship (2025)</i>
Mary Catherine Whisnant		<i>Christian Ed (2024)</i>
Doug Bolton	Belonging	<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Louly Hay Kapp		<i>Marketing (2023)</i>
Bob Tabb		<i>Finance (2023)</i>
Tom Crews	Connecting (Deacons)	<i>Pastoral Care (2025)</i>
Dana Hall		<i>Faith & Fellowship (2025)</i>
Eleanor Scarborough		<i>Pastoral Care (2023)</i>
Darcel Tabb		<i>Faith & Fellowship (2024)</i>
Billy Fortson	More	<i>Personnel (2024)</i>
Stan Hall		<i>Facilities (2023)</i>
John McCarthy		<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Ed Perkerson		<i>Strategic Planning (2023)</i>
Jim Stillerman		<i>Strategic Planning (2025)</i>

We get to host Presbytery!!!

What an honor to host the February Presbytery meeting for Greater Atlanta on February 11th!

What is Presbytery? Presbytery is a ruling body in Presbyterian churches consisting of the ministers and representative elders from congregations.

How can you help? We need volunteers for greeters, parking assistance, general set up, etc! If you are willing and able to help at anytime on Feb. 11 from 8am - 2pm please email Catherine and we will have a spot for you! Childcare is available! We ask that you sign up by January 23!

Presbyterianism 101

Wednesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm | Feb. 1, Feb. 15, Mar. 1

Have you been "visiting" for a while?

Come learn what it means to be Presbyterian on a spiritual level **and** a functional one! Find out what it means to be a



member vs. a regular visitor, and learn about the practices and beliefs held by the Presbyterian Church of the United States (PCUSA) in this class taught by Neeley and Erin. You will not be required to join FPC after taking the class but know that the offer is given. Childcare provided.

Sunday, January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Congregational Meeting

Monday, January 23

Presbytery Volunteer Deadline

- 12:00pm, Office Closes Early
- 12:00pm Staff Retreat

Tuesday, January 24

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 1:00pm A Novel Bunch Book Club

Wednesday, January 25

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 4:30pm Joyful Noise
- 4:30pm Bless this Mess
- 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!
- 6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 26

- 2:00pm Presbytery Planning Meeting
- 2:00pm Ambassador Choir

Sunday, January 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship

"and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love."

Ephesians 3:17

This is Our Story

F P C DAY CHURCH RETREAT

with keynote speaker at Hard Labor Creek | March 11th | 10:00am-4:00pm

Alisa Castilla

Former FPC
Seminary Intern

Cost includes lunch: \$15 Adults | \$5 Kids

Talk to Erin Morgan to signup: erin@fpccov.org



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Richard, friend of Miriam and Jack Wheeler - Emory Hope House
- ✦ E.W. Sims, great Uncle of Robert Lane
- ✦ Violet Martin, granddaughter of Chris and Barbara Martin - health issues
- ✦ Ellen Clary, ex-wife of Bill Clary - ovarian cancer
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems

- ✦ Jody Harris, friend of Chris and Barbara Martin
- ✦ Hulda, friend of Judy Davis, breast cancer
- ✦ Linea Lott, niece of Tricia Hinton - leukemia treatment
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ Julia Brubaker - Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Gene Wallace - Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to: catherine@fpccov.org
Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

Neeley and Erin are leading



Sundays at 9:45am
in the Gathering Room

Practice applying the
Word to everyday life.

You are invited to **"Text to Give"**
your offering.



Text FPCCOV followed by
your donation amount to:
73256

*Or point your camera at
the QR code and follow
the link to give online.*

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are at 9:45am
on Sunday mornings.
Children's class (PreK-4th)
Tween Class (5th and up)
Traditional adult class
The Wired WORD class
Interested in teaching?
Email erin@fpccov.org

Giving to FPC through Realm in 2023

It's a new year and we want to remind you that **if you have signed a covenant card** for the year 2023 and use our text to give or give on-line through Realm, you need to **use "2023 pledge" for the fund**. *If you do not pledge, then please use the "non-pledge" fund.* This is the way we track our funds in our yearly budget. It is very helpful when you use these directions. Otherwise our Finance Administrator, Peni Kehoe, must go in and change the fund to match whether or not you are a pledge or are a non-pledge giver. If you give towards other funds then they should be listed on the drop down menu. *If you can't find the fund you need then choose "other-specify"* and then put what your donation is for in the memo space provided. We thank you for your generosity no matter how you give!