



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA



**Fifth Sunday
after Epiphany
FEBRUARY 5, 2023**



Gathering As God's Beloved People.

Gathering Music

Prelude in C Minor

J.S. Bach

Simple Gifts

Traditional Melody

Come, Let Us Lift Our Loftiest Song

Arr. by Joel Raney

Prelude

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Ghanian Folk Song

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

Let your light shine!

We are the salt of the earth.

Let your light shine!

We are the light of the world.

Let your light shine!

Praise the Lord for the gifts that God has given us!

Let your light shine!

✦ Hymn of Praise 37

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Community Confession

Patient God, it is so easy for us to miss the point. We know how to perform righteousness; we go to church, we donate, we volunteer, but we care more about how we are seen than our faithfulness to you. We show off our piousness, instead of actually sharing our food, our homes, our resources with those in the most need. Have mercy on us for the ways we serve ourselves, and teach us your way, that leads to justice and peace.

✠ Hymn of Response 767

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

***We seek to become a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.***

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!
We are free to try again.

✠ Passing of the Peace



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

This Little Light of Mine
Hallelujah Kids! and Chancel Choir

African-American Spiritual
Arr. By Joel Raney

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Hymn 458

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

THY WORD

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.***

***When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.***

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end.

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.***



Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn of Response 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

✦ Affirmation of Faith

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.

Prayers of the People and the 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.

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

Let Your Light Shine

Mary McDonald

Jodi Atkins, soprano; Perri Walden, alto

✦ **Response 606**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNREDTH

***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 450**

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

✦ **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

Toccata on "To God Be the Glory"

Arr. by Joel Raney



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.

Friendship Registers

Friendship Registers are back! In each pew there is a pad with a black cover that we invite everyone to fill out. If the Friendship Register is nearest to you, please fill it out and pass it down the pew so it can reach everyone. When you pass it on, we invite you to introduce yourself to your pew friends! We encourage visitors and newcomers to connect with us by filling out the Friendship Register so we can be sure to send you a message to thank you for joining us.

Children in Worship

Children are always welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pews at FPC! There are Worship Bags for children on the rack outside the Sanctuary to help keep them entertained. During worship children are invited to join us at the front of the Sanctuary for a time of Wondering with God's Children. Afterwards, children planning to go to the nursery will be escorted downstairs by Pastor Neeley or Pastor Erin. They will sign in your children in the nursery so you can sign them out when you pick them up! This is to help you stay in worship and us get them to the nursery safely. If you need help finding the nursery, you are invited to ask an usher to point the way.

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Stan Hall

Acolyte | Paisley Lane



Worship Music Notes

Be Thou My Vision

Between A.D. 500 and 700 the Irish church was synonymous with missionary fervor. Only one missionary is honored with a global holiday, and only one is known by his own distinct color of green -- St. Patrick, of course, missionary to Ireland. Patrick was born in

A.D. 373, along the banks of the River Clyde in what is now called Scotland. His father was a deacon, and his grandfather a priest. When Patrick was about 16, raiders descended on his little town and torched his home. When one of the pirates spotted him in the bushes, he was seized, hauled aboard ship, and taken to Ireland as a slave. There he gave his life to the Lord Jesus. "The Lord opened my mind to an awareness of my unbelief," he later wrote, "In order that I might remember my transgressions and turn with all my heart to the Lord my God."

Patrick eventually escaped and returned home. His overjoyed family begged him to never leave again. But one night, in a dream, Patrick saw an Irishman pleading with him to come and evangelize Ireland. It wasn't an easy decision, but Patrick, about 30, returned to his former captors with only one book, the Latin Bible, in his hand. As he evangelized the countryside, multitudes came to listen. The superstitious Druids opposed him and sought his death. But his preaching was powerful, and Patrick became one of the most fruitful evangelists of all time, planting about 200 churches and baptizing 100,000 converts.

One historian commented that missionary effort was "the one all-absorbing national thought and passion." Irish missionaries labored from Scotland to Switzerland. One of these missionaries was Columba of County Donegal. His biographer says, "Certain spiritual songs, which had never been heard before, he was heard to sing." He was known as one of the poets of the Irish church. "Be Thou My Vision" comes from the seventh or eighth century, shortly after the time of Columba of Donegal. The word "vision" is used to indicate not only what we focus on but also what we strive for. As we strive for a goal, we gain a long-range perspective that helps us see today's disappointments as trivial when compared to the heavenly vision.

This anonymous hymn text expresses, in the quaint Celtic style, the ageless need of man to have a heavenly vision and to experience God's care and personal presence throughout this earthly pilgrimage. The author's high regard for God is evident in the various titles ascribed to Him: Vision, Lord, Best Thought, Wisdom, Word, Great Father, High King, Inheritance, Treasure, Sun, Ruler, and Heart.

Mary Byrne's translation of this ancient Irish poem into English prose was first published in 1905. The tune, SLANE, is a traditional Irish air published in 1909. The tune was originally used with a secular text, "With My Love on the Road." Its first association with this hymn text was in the Irish Church Hymnal of 1919. The tune is named for a hill, ten miles from Tara, in County Meath, where St. Patrick is said to have challenged King

Loegaire and the Druid priests by lighting the Paschal fire on Easter eve. Although the melody has been harmonized by various musicians, it is generally recommended that this tune is most effective when sung in unison.

May we as believers be characterized as people of vision -- "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." An anonymous writer penned these significant thoughts about the importance of having a vision for one's life:

*A vision without a task is a dream;
A task without a vision is drudgery;
A vision with a task is the hope of the world.*



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>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	Danielle Schubert
Alicia Taylor	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organizer/ Ambassador Choir</i>	Laina Lalane
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Kennedy Lynn
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Amanda Sotolongo
		Kyla White

Officers

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

Saturday, February 18th at 8:00am
Town House Café
RSVP to Neeley by Feb. 16th



Men's Prayer Breakfast

February's lesson from "Celebrating Sabbath" is Lesson Six: Sabbath and Hospitality

Elizabeth Ann Circle will meet on February 7 at 10:00am on Zoom and in the Fellowship Hall!

Martha Circle will meet on February 7 at 10:30am at Rachel Mason's home. Please let Rachel know that you plan to attend so she can prepare enough places at the table. Rachel's menu will be Chicken and Dumplings, and she asks that you let her know if you plan to bring sides, or desserts to complete the meal.



Blossoms & Beans



The Ambassador Gardening Club

Contact
Jeff MacKenzie
with questions
404.897.3815
Leave a message
and he'll call back!

Meeting on Thursday,
February 9th from 6:00pm
to 7:30pm in the FPC
Fellowship Hall

Kids Pizza & Cardmaking

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15
AT 5:00PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

WE'LL MAKE CARDS TO
SHARE WITH FIRST
RESPONDERS

Sunday, February 5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Youth Ice Skating
- 7:00pm Jammies and Jesus

Monday, February 6

- 5:00pm Strategic Planning Meeting

Tuesday, February 7

- 10:00am Elizabeth Ann Circle
- 10:30am Martha Circle
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 2:15pm Staff Meeting
- 5:00pm Faith Formation Meeting

Wednesday, February 8

- 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, February 9

- 10:00am Presbytery Setup
- 6:00pm Blossoms & Beans

Saturday, February 11

- 7:00am—2:00pm Presbytery Hosted at FPC

Sunday, February 12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 4:00pm Souper Bowl of Caring Delivery
- 7:00pm Jammies and Jesus

BLESS THIS MESS

FAITHFUL PARENTING CLASS

Final Class Wednesday, Feb. 8
4:30-5:30pm in the FPC Library
Childcare provided.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Dionne Young, friend of Alice Walker - recovering from concussion
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Ellen Clary, ex-wife of Bill Clary - ovarian cancer
- ✦ 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

Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with Alice Walker and her family as they mourn the passing of her Aunt Hazel Howard.

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.



JAMMIES AND JESUS

Join Neeley and Erin on Zoom

for a 10-minute bedtime prayer.

SUNDAYS 7 PM Invite a Friend!

Sunday School

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

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.



TACKLE HUNGER

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat"



The Souper Bowl of Caring is on Sunday, February 12th! You are

invited to bring canned goods or monetary donations to support the Community Food Pantry. We will gather canned donations and deliver them to the food pantry that Sunday at 4:00pm. Contact Neeley for more info!

Friendship Registers are back!

In each pew there is a pad with a black cover that we invite everyone to fill out. If the Friendship Register is nearest to you, please fill it out and pass it down the pew so it can reach everyone. When you pass it on, we invite you to introduce yourself to your pew friends!

"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 RETREAT



at Hard Labor Creek

March 11th | 10:00am-4:00pm

Cost includes lunch

\$15 Adults | \$5 Kids

with keynote speaker

Alisa Castilla

Former FPC
Seminary Intern

Visit fpccov.org to register by March 1st