

YOU'VE
CHANGED.



I'D
HOPE SO.



TRANSFIGURATION of the LORD

February 19, 2023



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

❖ *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

Gathering Music *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Johann Gottfried Walther
 Holy, Holy, Holy/Holy Is the Lord Anna Laura Page
 Rejoice, the Lord Is King Franklin Ritter
 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above John Ferguson

Prelude *Light Divine* Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship** written by Bruce Prewer

Today we are celebrating the holy light that illuminated Jesus.

We celebrate his transfiguration on the mountain.

Light of light: transfusing & transforming light.

Divine light flooding out the shadows.

Light of love, light of delight.

Light that turns doubters into followers.

It is the same God who at the beginning said:

"Let there be light,"

**who has shone in our hearts with an understanding
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

The mightiest One of all, God the Eternal,

speaks and summons the whole earth

from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**From God's holy mountain, God's light,
the perfection of beauty, shines out.**

✠ **Hymn of Praise 246** *Christ is Alive!*

TRURO

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

When we think we have no light to bear

Have mercy, O God.

When we encounter darkness and do not shine our light

Have mercy, O God.

When we forget from whom our light comes

Have mercy, O God.

When our actions and words dim the light in others

Have mercy, O God.

Light of the world, step into our darkness and help us see

Amen.

✦ **Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

On mountaintops and in valleys, in moments when our lives are shrouded and as well as when we reflect Christ's light, God is with us, declaring we are the beloved!

In this moment, in every moment, may we glimpse the grace of God which comes and transfigures our lives.

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✦ **Response 192**

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.

Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.

Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

✦ **Passing of the Peace**



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Chancel Choir

Jamaican folk tune

Arr. by Austin C. Lovelace

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Matthew 17:1-9

Pew Bible page 18

Message

Becoming

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

❖
Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn of Response 630**

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

excerpt from *PCUSA Brief Statement of Faith*

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.

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

As We Gather at Your Table

Words by Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Jennifer Fogarty, soprano; Adriane Ivey, alto

Music by Lloyd Larson

✦ **Response 192**

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❖
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

*Church, you are invited to partake with bread and cup upon hearing the words "The gifts of God for the people of God." We recognize Christ is present with us as the Body of Christ in our sanctuary and in our homes this day. May the Holy Spirit dwell with you as we participate in the sacrament of communion together. One bread, one body!
See our Worship Practices section for more details.*

Prayer After Communion



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 853**

We Are Marching in the Light of God

SIYAHAMBA

✦ **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

Carillon de Westminster from "Pieces de Fantaisie"

Louis Vierne



Worship Practices

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.

Communion

All are invited to come forward to take communion. The ushers will guide you to two stations on either side of the Lord's table to receive the bread and the cup. You may choose to receive

prepackaged communion elements or a gluten-free option which are available at the Lord's table. If you are not physically able to come forward and would still like to receive communion, please let an usher know and it will be brought to you. Communion elements are taken to the nursery for children to participate in the sacrament. If you would not like to receive communion, you are welcome to stay in your seat for a time of prayerful reflection.

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. 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 | Alexander Whisnant



Sermon Notes

The Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus' ministry in which he "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), where he would die.

In Jesus' transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. In celebrating this event, we rejoice in the divine majesty of Christ, whose glory shone even when confronted with the cross. It is given to us for our journey through Lent toward the agony of the cross and the victory of the empty tomb. We celebrate this mystery in order that our faith may be renewed. We are transformed into the new being in Christ as we join Christ in his death and resurrection in Lent and Easter.

An excerpt from *the Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 148-149)

❖ *Worship Music Notes*

Fairest Lord Jesus

For more than 300 years, Christians have sung and cherished "Fairest Lord Jesus." How did this multigenerational hymn of devotion arrive in the present day? This hymn has a long and complex past. As Carl Daw, Jr., notes, "This hymn provides a classic example of the persistence of erroneous information.

The hymn was copied from a Jesuit manuscript (1662) produced in Münster, Westphalia (Germany), where it consisted of six verses. The first printed iteration of "Fairest Lord Jesus" appeared in *Münster Gesangbuch*, a Catholic hymnbook. The German text in five verses was paired with a tune of the same name. There is no record of authors for either text or tune. Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben paired the German text with a tune he claimed to have heard sung by haymakers in the Glaz region, which he named ASCALON (though it is known by multiple names now).

The hymn was published again but with a few changes. American composer and hymn publisher Richard Storrs Willis renamed the tune CRUSADERS' HYMN due to a false assumption that soldiers sang it on their way to Jerusalem. Perhaps he assumed this because of the tune's original name, ASCALON, referring to the location of the First Crusade's last battle. Five years later, the influential Congregational Churches' hymnal included three verses of "Fairest Lord Jesus" but did not list a translator; however, the editor, Henry Ward Beecher, a New York clergyman and brother to Harriet Beecher Stowe, may have had a hand in the text's translation.

Hungarian composer Franz List famously employed the CRUSADERS' HYMN tune in his 1864 oratorio, *The Legend of St. Elizabeth*.

The English Hymnal, paired the translation "Fairest Lord Jesus" with the old tune SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, freshly harmonized by one of the eminent composers of the day, Ralph Vaughan Williams. F. Melius Christiansen, founder of the St. Olaf College Chorus, composed an anthem setting in 1919 called *Beautiful Saviour* that is still the ensemble's signature piece today.

The Episcopal Hymnal 1982 published "Fairest Lord Jesus" to the tune CRUSADERS' HYMN, renaming the tune as ST. ELIZABETH. The new name harkens back to Liszt's oratorio about St. Elizabeth of Thuringia, wife of German King Louis IV. Many hymnals published in the 1980s transitioned to the tune name ST. ELIZABETH or alternate names such as FAIREST LORD JESUS and BEAUTIFUL SAVIOUR. These are all titles for the exact same tune, traditionally known as CRUSADERS' HYMN, and originally known as ASCALON.

Verse 1 establishes Jesus' supremacy over the natural created order. Jesus is identified as both from God and the Son of Man, a reference commonly understood as indicating Christ's two natures, divine and human. Christ often refers to himself as the Son of Man. The remainder of the verse makes the Son of God and Son of Man the object of our adoration, "my soul's glory, joy, and crown."

Verse 2, extolling the beauty of the natural, created order such as the "meadows" and "woodland," contrasts this natural beauty with that of Jesus who "is fairer ... [and] purer," concluding with a powerful metaphor - Jesus "makes the woeful heart to sing." Verse 3 lifts our eyes to the heavens - the sun, moon, and stars. Again, the comparison is that Jesus outshines the brightest lights of the heavens and is purer than all the angels of heaven. The final verse echoes the first, concluding with the feeling of a doxology.

This hymn has stood the test of time for over 300 years and will continue to be sung worldwide. The tune enchants the heart, and the text transcends time. What could be more beautiful than meadows in springtime, sun beams, or twinkling stars? Jesus, our "ruler of all nature, shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast"!



**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>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Alicia Taylor	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist/ Ambassador Choir</i>	Laina Lalane
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Amanda Sotolongo
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Kyla White

Officers

	Reaching Out	
Curtis Watson		<i>Witness (2024)</i>
	Engaging	
Charles Ardis		<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>
	Belonging	
Doug Bolton		<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Louly Hay Kapp		<i>Marketing (2023)</i>
Bob Tabb		<i>Finance (2023)</i>
	Connecting (Deacons)	
Tom Crews		<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>
	More	
Billy Fortson		<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>



IGNITING A SPARK

Youth Fundraising Lunch

The youth are holding a luncheon with soups, salads, and dessert to raise money for their trip to the 2023 Montreat Middle School Conference in July.



**Sunday, March 5 at 12 pm
in the Fellowship Hall
Any donations are appreciated!**

**Sunday, February 19
Transfiguration of the Lord**

- 11:00am Worship—Communion
- 7:00pm Jammies and Jesus

Tuesday, February 21

- 11:00am Sandwich Ministry
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 6:00pm Witness Team Meeting

**Wednesday, February 22
Ash Wednesday**

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service at FUMC
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 23

- 10:00am Neeley at Merryvale
- 12:00pm Pastors' Lunch

Saturday, February 25

- 9:00am Meals on Wheels delivery

**Sunday, February 26
First Sunday in Lent**

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 7:00pm Jammies and Jesus

seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

Lent 2023

Throughout this Lent, we hope you will continually ask yourself:

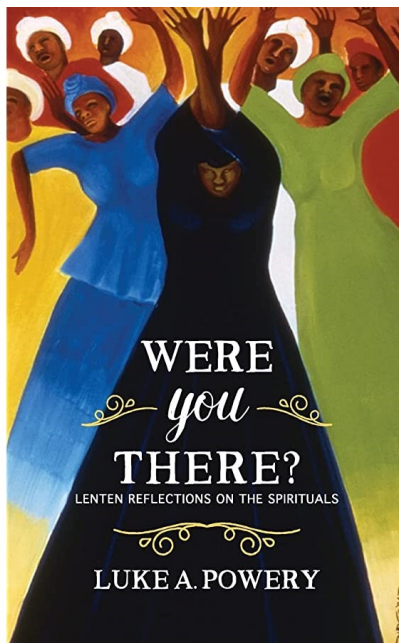
What am I seeking?

What is God seeking?



Lenten Prayer Stations are coming back!

Starting Ash Wednesday we will have nine prayer stations around the FPC grounds to guide you on your Lenten journey with a focus, reflection, and response.



Lenten Book Study: Were You There?

Join Neeley and Erin **Mondays in March at 6:00pm on Zoom** to study *Were You There?: Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals* by Luke A. Powery.

Contact the office if you would like to order your book through the church. For the class link visit fpccov.org/zoom-links

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Benson Dial, friend of Judy and Dennis Hooten - cancer
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis - dementia
- ✦ Dionne Young, friend of Alice Walker - recovering from concussion
- ✦ E.W. Sims, great-uncle of Robert Lane
- ✦ 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

- ✦ 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 Angela Gilmer and her family as they mourn the passing of her father Homer Sharp.

Military Service

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

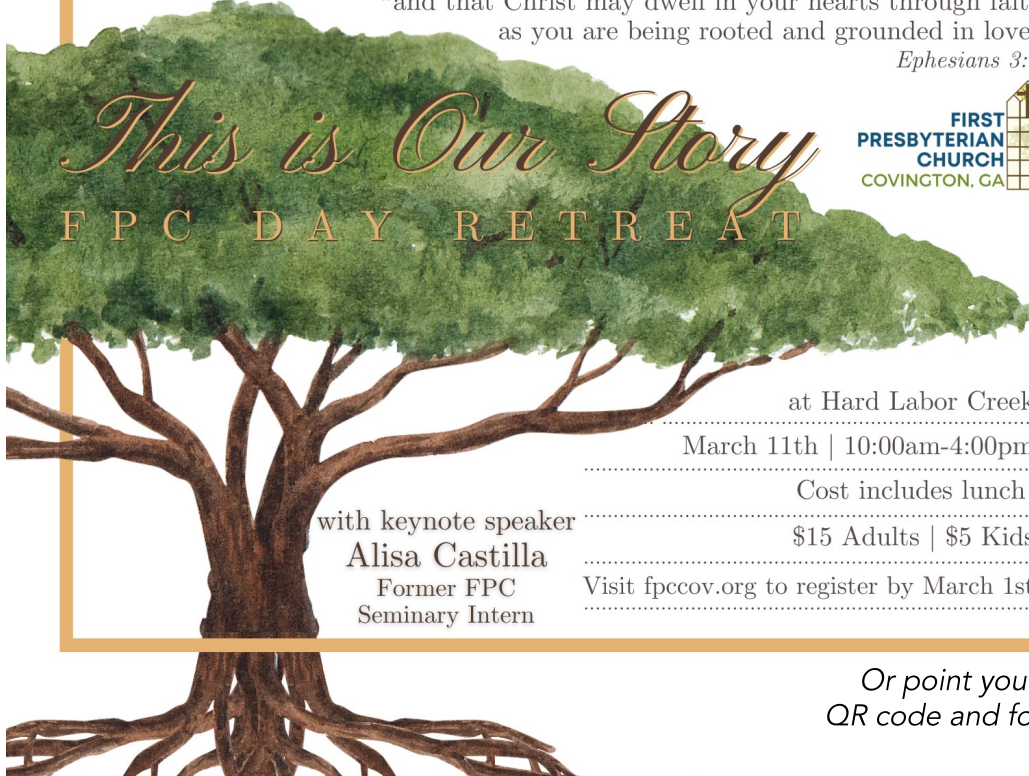
Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ 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.

"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



**FIRST
 PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH
 COVINGTON, GA**

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

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are at 9:45am on Sunday mornings.

- Children's Class (PreK-4th)
- Youth Class (5th and up)
- Foundations 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.

Join our combined congregations for a
 community
Ash Wednesday
 service at the Covington First United
 Methodist Church on
February 22nd at 6:00pm



JAMMIES AND JESUS

Join Neeley and Erin on Zoom
 for a 10-minute bedtime prayer.
SUNDAYS 7 PM  Invite a Friend!
**visit fpccov.org/zoom-links
 to join in!**