

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

## APRIL 23, 2023

*First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA*

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*Pastorale*  
*The Solid Rock*  
*Adagio Molto*

G.F. Handel  
Arr. Michael Burkhardt  
Alexandre Guilmant

## **Prelude**

*I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*

Arr. Mark Hayes

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## ✠ **Call to Worship**

We have been walking, Lord,  
**on roads of uncertainty and fear,**  
**on roads of exhaustion and doubt,**  
**on winding roads that have led us here.**

Join us on our journey, Lord.

**By your presence, refresh our spirits,**  
**set our hearts ablaze, and give us new direction!**

## ✠ **Hymn of Praise 267**

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

MADRID

## ✠ **Call to Confession**

## ✠ **Community Confession**

**Jesus, Teacher, we confess today our outright foolishness. We have been foolish to doubt your promises. Foolish to withhold love from neighbor.**

**Foolish to chase riches, prestige, and power. Foolish to waste your gifts and spoil your creation. Foolish to divide your children from each other. Foolish to think hope is lost. Wise us up again. Open our hearts to your presence in our lives, in our neighbors, in our world. In your grace, help us grab onto our millionth second chance, and forge a new road from here on. Amen.**

## **✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

## **✠ Hymn of Response 240**

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

ALLELUIA NO. 1

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.***

## **✠ Passing of the Peace**



## ***Proclaiming the Word***

### **Wondering with God's Children**

Dan Walden

### **Anthem**

*Risen Indeed!*

Larry Shackley

Chancel Choir; Krista Firkus, soloist

### **Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding**

### **Old Testament Reading**

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

Pew Bible page 564



## *Responding to the Word*

### ✠ Hymn of Response 451

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

### ✠ Affirmation of Faith

*Adapted from A Brief Statement of Faith*

#### **In life and death we belong to God.**

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

#### **We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

In sovereign love, God created the world good, acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation, and makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

#### **We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, was crucified, and raised from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal.

#### **We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!**

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Pam Stillerman

**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

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

H. Percy Smith  
Arr. by Tedd Smith  
and Don Hustad

### ✠Hymn of 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 835

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

CLOSER WALK

## ✠ 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*

Johann Ernst Eberlin



## *Worship Practices*

Music printed in our bulletin and streamed online is covered by One License #A-728738 authorizing their use. Art: *The Road to Emmaus* by Ronald Raab, CSC. | Originally used for the Third Sunday of Easter, April 30, 2017 bulletin at Sacred Heart Parish in Colorado Springs, CO. | [ronaldraab.com](http://ronaldraab.com)

## Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Curtis Watson

Acolyte | Ruth Ralston

## Children in Worship

*We have a new "Children in Worship" guiding brochure available in the Narthex! This brochure is intended to serve as an aid to parents and other members of our congregation in welcoming our children to 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.

## **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.

## **Sound System**

Please know we recognize the need for improving our sound system. We have new microphones and we are evaluating new settings while we plan for better solutions. Currently, we encourage congregants who are hearing impaired to move closer to the front near the main speakers.



## ***Sermon Series***

### **"Closer and Closer"**

The Resurrection means deeper relationships with God and one another!

At Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, but this is no ghostly apparition. Jesus returns in the flesh to be close once again with his friends and to bring them closer with one another. There is tenderness and physicality highlighted in the resurrection narratives, people coming together to hear and respond to this amazing news. Before Jesus' followers become heroic saints of the church, they are simply a group of friends hearing and telling one another a story for which they can barely find words. Like bedtime stories and old family lore, we share our stories in close and safe relationships so that we will be equipped to boldly share the story of Jesus in the world!

May we grow closer to God and one another as a people of the Resurrection!



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

### Our Mission Statement

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.

### 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](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or call: 770-786-7321

### Officers

#### Reaching Out

Curtis Watson *Witness (2024)*

#### Engaging

Charles Ardis *Christian Ed (2025)*

Pat Harper *Worship (2024)*

Nichole Howell *Worship (2025)*

Mary Catherine Whisnant *Christian Ed (2024)*

#### Belonging

Doug Bolton *Welcome (2025)*

Louly Hay Kapp *Marketing (2023)*

Bob Tabb *Finance (2023)*

#### Connecting (Deacons)

Tom Crews *Pastoral Care (2025)*

Dana Hall *Faith & Fellowship (2025)*

Eleanor Scarborough *Pastoral Care (2023)*

Darcel Tabb *Faith & Fellowship (2024)*

#### More

Billy Fortson *Personnel (2024)*

Stan Hall *Facilities (2023)*

John McCarthy *Clerk of Session*

Ed Perkerson *Strategic Planning (2023)*

### First Presbyterian Church Staff

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

*Nursery Staff*  
Hattie Bellinger  
Sierra BlackShear  
Laina Lalane  
Amariah Ray  
Kyla White



*Kick-off  
Lunch*

**Wednesday, May 3rd**

**at 11:30AM at Tava's Diner**

RSVP to the office by Tuesday, May 2nd at 12:00PM.

Lunch Bunch is a new lunch outing that will meet one Wednesday of the month at different local restaurants!



*Golden-Age  
Ministry*

## SOUL FEAST'S GOT TALENT



**May 10th Fellowship Hall**



Everyone come and enjoy the fun! All ages are welcome!

**Showcase your hidden talent in  
Soul Feast's Got Talent!**

We'll be holding a talent show in the Fellowship Hall following Soul Feast on May 10th. Email Darcel Tabb if you are interested in participating. Email your name, talent, and the approximate length of your act to [darceltabb@yahoo.com](mailto:darceltabb@yahoo.com) **by Friday, May 5th!**

**Sunday, April 23**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

**Monday, April 24**

6:00pm GriefShare

**Tuesday, April 25**

1:00pm A Novel Bunch Book Club on Zoom

5:00pm Faith Formation Meeting

**Wednesday, April 26**

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

4:30pm Joyful Noise

5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!

5:30pm Session Meeting

6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday, April 27**

2:00pm Ambassador Choir at Merryvale

**Friday, April 28**

6:00pm Piano Recital at FPC for Alicia's Students

**Saturday, April 29**

9:00am Meals on Wheels Delivery

**Sunday, April 30**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

9:45am Sunday School

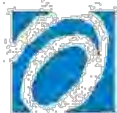
11:00am Worship

12:00pm Lemonade on the Lawn

12:30pm CPR Training for Nursery Workers

7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

**Join us on a mission trip with PDA to  
New Bern, NC July 9-13.**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

We will be focused on supporting survivors of Hurricanes Florence and Matthew.

*The cost is \$175 and the deadline to register is June 1. Scholarships are available.*

See Pastor Erin for more details.

**VBS June 5-8**

**Ready, Set,  
MOVE!**

Volunteer and registration forms are in the Narthex and online at [fpccov.org/vbs](http://fpccov.org/vbs)



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Illness

- ✦ Joe Milner, brother of Day Kennon
- ✦ Bob and Beverly Beasley, friends of Jean Elder - health concerns and care
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother of Theodosia Wade - immunotherapy cancer treatment
- ✦ Mary Annese, mother of Barbara Martin - shingles
- ✦ Mike Crews, son-in-law of Jack and Miriam Wheeler - awaiting bladder cancer test results
- ✦ Linda Trenthan, friend of congregation
- ✦ Lucas and Morgan, friends of Faye and Joel Kitchens - complicated pregnancy issues
- ✦ Terri Sherril, friend of Beth and Danny Vining - shoulder surgery
- ✦ Jennifer Idrobo, friend of Jonny Atkins - bone marrow biopsy
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew

- ✦ 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
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis - dementia
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Linea Lott, niece of Tricia Hinton - leukemia treatment
- ✦ E.W. Sims, great-uncle of Robert Lane
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

### Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with Amy Fraser and her family as they mourn the passing of her father, Fred Fraser, on April 9th.
- ✦ Our prayers are with Roger and Tootles Tinger and their family as they mourn the passing of their brother-in-law, Buddy Young.

### Military Service

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

### Independent and Assisted Living

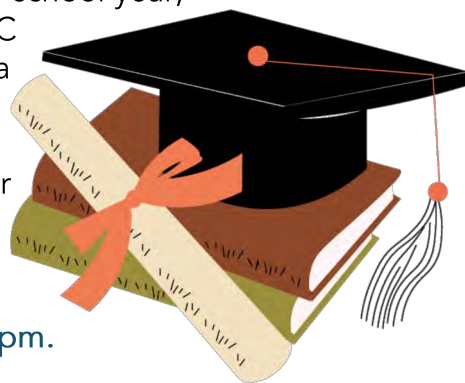
- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ Homer Borders - Presbyterian Village
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Gene Wallace - Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

### Prayer Requests

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

## Do you have a soon-to-be graduate you'd like to celebrate?

As we come to the end of the school year, we'd like to recognize our FPC graduates as they move into a new chapter of life! Let the office know if you or a loved one is graduating and look for the list in the worship guide on May 14th. **The deadline to have your graduate included is May 8th by 5:00pm.**



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 to give online.

## Call from the FPC Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is charged with proposing candidates for the offices of Elder (Session) and Deacon to be voted on at a **Congregational meeting on August 27, 2023**, after worship.

If you believe someone might be called to serve, please suggest their names to a member of the committee - *and it is perfectly appropriate to suggest yourself!* In submitting a name, we do kindly ask that you include a summary of why you feel this person has the gifts to be an elder or deacon.

**We encourage you to contact us with any name suggestions or questions by May 4, 2023.**

To suggest a name (along with summary explanation) you may email Pastor Neeley Lane ([neeley@fpccov.org](mailto:neeley@fpccov.org)) or Chair of the Nominating Committee, Louly Hay-Kapp ([loulyh@ymcaatlanta.org](mailto:loulyh@ymcaatlanta.org)).

*Read the Nominating Committee's full letter at [fpccov.org/nominations](http://fpccov.org/nominations)*