

# ***DID JESUS REALLY SAY THAT?***



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
COVINGTON, GA**

**ELEVENTH  
SUNDAY  
AFTER  
PENTECOST  
AUGUST 13, 2023**

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*Fantasia in G*

J.S. Bach

*Let All Things Now Living*

Welsh Folk Tune

*Praise to the Lord*

Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Strasland

## **Prelude**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Charles C. Converse

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## ✠ **Call to Worship**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

**God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Let us hear what the Lord will speak.

**God will speak peace to the faithful.**

Let us worship God.

## ✠ **Hymn of Praise 804**

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

MARION

## ✠ **Call to Confession**

## ✠ **Community Confession**

**Holy God, it is easy to confess with our lips that you are Lord, but it is much harder to believe with our hearts, to live in a way that puts you first. We are quick to trust in idols. We depend on what we can see, touch, and control, instead of waiting to hear your still, small voice. Forgive us, Lord, and help our unbelief, so that what we confess with our lips we may truly believe in our hearts.**

## ✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

## ✠ Hymn of Response 447

*We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.***

***Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.***

***Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

## ✠ Passing of the Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**



# *Proclaiming the Word*

## Wondering with God's Children

### Anthem

*The Lord's Prayer*

Albert Hay Malotte

Janet Carmichael, soprano

Arr. by Henrietta Dippman Griswold

## Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

### Scripture Readings

*Psalm 105:1-6*

Pew Bible Old Testament page 556

*Matthew 18:21-35*

Pew Bible New Testament page 20

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Message

*Forgive our Debtors! Did Jesus Really Say That?*

Rev. Erin Morgan



# Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 444**

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

DETROIT

✠ **Affirmation 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.**

## **Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory**

*Be Thou My Vision*

Jim Patrick, trombone

Traditional Irish Melody

Arranged by Tom Fettke

Solo arrangement by Ed Hogan

✠ **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.***



# *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 295**

*Go to the World!*

SINE NOMINE

## ✦ **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**

*Lead On, O King Eternal*

David Cherwien



## *Serving Today*

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Louly Hay-Kapp

Acolyte | Palmer Wilson



## *Worship Practices*

### **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**

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**

We are excited to announce that Session has approved updating the sound system in our Sanctuary! Our sound system has not been updated in several years and we believe this is a valuable way to make our church welcoming and accessible for all of God's people. The new system is designed to improve the sound in the space, not only in volume but in clarity and it will include a Bluetooth hearing aid connectivity option.

Due to supply chain delays we do not have a firm timeline for installation, so we still encourage congregants who are hearing impaired to sit close to the front near the main speakers. Know that you have been heard and you are loved!

## **Children in Worship**

*We have a "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! 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. 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.

## **Use**

One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online.



1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014 | [fpccov.org](http://fpccov.org) | 770.786.7321

Our Mission Statement

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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

<b>Reaching Out</b>	
Curtis Watson	<i>Witness (2024)</i>
<b>Engaging</b>	
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>
<b>Belonging</b>	
Doug Bolton	<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Louly Hay Kapp	<i>Marketing (2023)</i>
Bob Tabb	<i>Finance (2023)</i>
<b>Connecting (Deacons)</b>	
Tom Crews	<i>Pastoral Care (2025)</i>
Dana Hall	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2025)</i>
Eleanor Scarborough	<i>Pastoral Care (2023)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2024)</i>
<b>More</b>	
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>

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	
Alicia Taylor	<i>Dir. of Music &amp; Worship Arts</i>	
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i>	
Felicia Carson	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	Laina Lalane
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Kyla White



# SOUL FEAST

## AUGUST 16

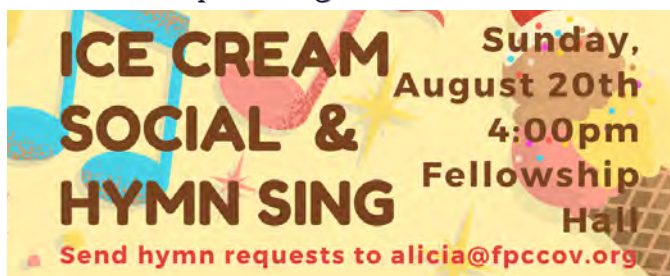
### ON THE MENU: BRISKET

Email Erin to bring  
your favorite side!  
erin@fpccov.org



Feed your body and soul in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15pm.

RSVP by Monday, August 14th  
to catherine@fpccov.org or 770-786-7321



JOIN US FOR  
**LEMONADE**  
**ON THE LAWN**  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP  
ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 20TH!



### Congregational Meeting Sunday, August 20

Immediately following  
worship on Sunday,  
August 20, we will host a  
congregational meeting  
with the purpose of  
hearing and voting on the  
Nominating Committee's  
selection of proposed  
Elders and Deacons for  
the Class of 2026.

The **Presbyterian Women**  
books for 2023-24, *Sacred  
Encounters: The Power and  
Presence of Jesus Christ in  
Luke-Acts*, will be available  
for purchase in the Narthex  
on August 20th &  
27th. Contact  
your PW Circle  
leader with  
questions.



**JAMMIES & JESUS**  
**SUNDAYS 7 PM on Zoom**

Join Neeley & Erin for a short bedtime prayer.  
Visit [fpccov.org/zoom-links-to-join](https://fpccov.org/zoom-links-to-join)!  
Starts back August 20th

### Sunday, August 13

#### Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Communion
- 12:00pm New Member Welcome
- 4:00pm Kids' Worship Class

### Monday, August 14

RSVP deadline for Soul feast

- 4:15pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 5:00pm Worship Team Meeting
- 6:00pm Grief Group

### Tuesday, August 15

- 10:00am Sandwich Ministry
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 4:30pm Thriving Congregations Meeting
- 5:00pm Faith Formation Meeting

### Wednesday, August 16

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 4:30pm Joyful Noise
- 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!
- 5:15pm Soul Feast
- 6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir
- 6:00pm Soul Class—Mission Trip Reflection
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, August 17

RSVP for Men's Breakfast

- 2:00pm Ambassador Choir

### Friday, August 18

Materials deadline for Kirkin'

### Saturday, August 19

- 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

### Sunday, August 20

#### Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Youth & Children Sunday
- 12:00pm Congregational Meeting
- 12:30pm Lemonade on the Lawn
- 4:00pm Ice Cream Social & Hymn Sing
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Illness

- ✦ Gabby Daugherty
- ✦ Brenda Howell - car accident
- ✦ The Crane family, friends of Alex, Barbara, and Chris Martin - mourning death of three year old child, Milo
- ✦ Caroline Harper, daughter of Pat Harper - cervical cancer
- ✦ Ken Walker - upcoming surgery
- ✦ Doris Deadwyler, friend of Judy Davis - hip replacement
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV liver cancer
- ✦ Bill Loeble - recovering from kidney removal surgery
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ Lucas, Morgan, and baby Nate, friends of Faye and Joel Kitchens - baby going through dialysis

- ✦ Taylor Waters, great-niece of Gene Wallace
- ✦ Bob and Beverly Beasley, friends of Jean Elder - health concerns and care
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother of Theodosia Wade - immunotherapy cancer treatment
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Lee Morris, friend of Donna Weesner - meningitis
- ✦ E.W. Sims, great-uncle of Robert Lane

- ✦ Linda Trenthan, friend of the congregation
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Homer Borders - Presbyterian Village
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

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




## Youth & Children Sunday

August 20th  
11:00am



Our FPC Kids will **lead worship** and we will hear from our Youth about their time at the **Montreat Middle Conference**



## Grief Group

Join Neeley, Erin, and some of your FPC family in the Parlor for a grief support group.

**Mondays in August**  
**at 6:00pm**  
 August 7, 14, 21, 28  
 Enter through the office door

### 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](mailto:erin@fpccov.org)

## Kirkin' o' the Tartan

### August 27

Celebrate the Presbyterian Church's roots in the Church of Scotland!



You are invited to bring in fabric from around the world and flags from countries with Presbyterian denominations for the worship art!

Please provide the materials to Alicia Taylor by Friday, August 18th.



You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering!  
 Text\* FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to: 73256

**The Witness Committee** is looking into the possibility of starting a new ministry to visit seniors in local nursing homes.

The visits would be to interact with the residents, many of whom have few visitors. If you are interested in helping us start this ministry and feel that you could commit a couple of hours a month to visiting seniors, please contact Curtis Watson.