



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
COVINGTON, GA

November 26, 2023

Christ the King Sunday

Asking for  
a friend...

A sermon series inspired by  
your friends' questions!

✠ *You are invited to stand in body or spirit*



# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name  
Crown Him with Many Crowns  
I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

James Ellor  
Christopher Tambling  
Graham Ross

## **Prelude**

*Be Thou My Vision*

David Cherwien

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## ✠ **Call to Worship**

Make a joyful noise to God!

**Worship God with gladness!**

Come into God's presence with a song!

**Know that the Lord is God.**

God made us. We belong to God.

**Give thanks to God! Bless the name of the Lord!**

## ✠ **Hymn of Praise 15**

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

## ✠ **Call to Confession**

## ✠ **Community Confession**

**Everlasting God, we say we want to see you, we say we want to know you, we say we want to serve you, but we also do not want to put in the work. We do not want to prepare for your coming by working for your kingdom on this earth. We do not keep alert for signs of you among us,**

so we schedule you in for an hour or so on Sundays. Forgive us. Inspire us to put our faith to action. Surprise us with your presence so we might learn to always be ready for you to arrive.

## ✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

## ✠ Response to God's Grace 582

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

***World without end, without end. Amen.***

***World without end, without end. Amen.***

***World without ed, without end. Amen.***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

## ✠ 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**

*My Song Of Praise*  
Chancel Choir

Don Besig

# Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

## Scripture Reading

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

Pew Bible page 586

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message** *Asking for a Friend...Why is trusting God so hard?* Felicia Carson Ph.D.



## *Responding to the Word*

✠**Response 816** *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

✠**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.

## 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: An Invitation to Generosity

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

*Text\* FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to: 73256 and follow the link to give online! Or scan the QR Code to visit the giving page!*



### Offertory

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*  
Alice Walker, organ

William Williams, 1762

### ✠Hymn of Response 581

*Glory Be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, 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 720

*Jesus Calls Us*

GALILIEE

### ✠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

*Let All Together Praise Our God*

J.S. Bach



## *Invitation to Advent*

**How does a weary world rejoice?**—Joy is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy in addition to feeling many other things at once: grief, anticipation, anxiety, excitement, disappointment, exhaustion. Perhaps many of us live with the myth that joy is not something we deserve - or that is wholly out of reach. But our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can you tether yourself to that deep truth? You deserve to feel joy - fully. The world needs your joy, even if you are weary. Our joy is better when it is shared. This Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a "thrill of hope" in our hurting world. We will welcome joy - even and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort. In this weary world, may we find ways to rejoice.

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## *Worship Practices*

**Sound System**—We are excited to announce that the new sound system has been installed in the Sanctuary! The new system is designed to improve the sound in the space, not only in volume but in clarity and includes a Bluetooth hearing aid connectivity option. We are still testing and figuring out the settings and we appreciate your patience during this adjustment period. Once we fully understand the settings and capabilities, we will hold lessons on how to connect with the Bluetooth.

**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.

**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.

**Use**—One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. \*Messages and data rates may apply when using Text to Give. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.



# Serving Today

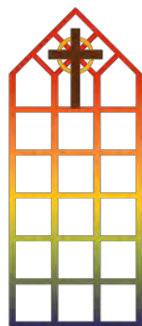
Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton,  
Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell  
Usher Chair | Ed Perkerson  
Acolytes | Parker Firkus, Palmer Wilson

Our Mission Statement			Officers		
<p>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.</p>			<div>Reaching Out</div> <div>Curtis Watson<span>Witness (2024)</span></div> <div>Engaging</div> <div>Charles Ardis<span>Faith Formation (2025)</span></div> <div>Pat Harper<span>Worship (2024)</span></div> <div>Nichole Howell<span>Worship (2025)</span></div> <div>Mary Catherine Whisnant<span>Faith Formation (2024)</span></div> <div>Belonging</div> <div>Doug Bolton<span>Welcome (2025)</span></div> <div>Louly Hay Kapp<span>Marketing (2023)</span></div> <div>Bob Tabb<span>Finance (2023)</span></div> <div>Connecting (Deacons)</div> <div>Tom Crews<span>Pastoral Care (2025)</span></div> <div>Dana Hall<span>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2025)</span></div> <div>Eleanor Scarborough<span>Pastoral Care (2023)</span></div> <div>Darcel Tabb<span>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2024)</span></div> <div>More</div> <div>Billy Fortson<span>Personnel (2024)</span></div> <div>Stan Hall<span>Facilities (2023)</span></div> <div>John McCarthy<span>Clerk of Session</span></div> <div>Ed Perkerson<span>Strategic Planning (2023)</span></div>		
First Presbyterian Church Staff					
Neeley Rentz Lane		Senior Pastor	Nursery Staff		
Erin Morgan		Associate Pastor	Hattie Bellinger		
Alice Walker		CAGO, AAGO Organist	Sierra BlackShear		
Catherine Laseter		Dir. of Communications & Operations	Catrina Crowe		
Peni Kehoe		Finance Administrator	Jahniyah Greene		
Krista Firkus		Interim Choir Director	Laina Lalane		



# Worship Notes & Doodles

*We invite you to fill the space below with the thoughts, reminders, and doodles that you may be blessed with during and after worship.*



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**1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014**

**fpccov.org | 770.786.7321**



# In Our Thoughts and Prayers

## Illness

- ✦ Ken Fullerton, father of Scott Fullerton - recovering from illness at Westbury rehab
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis
- ✦ Grant Moss & Chris Mattice, family of Louly Fowler Hay - cancer and care
- ✦ Joyce, sister of Faye Kitchens
- ✦ Shelvie Belser, grandmother of Neeley Rentz Lane
- ✦ Carolyn Watson
- ✦ Bernice Bailey - cancer treatment
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Karla Ensminger, sister of Perri Walden
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Marcia McGowan-Thurman, mother of Alicia Taylor - inoperable brain tumor
- ✦ Rosalia Meadors, friend of Tom Crews - three year old with bone marrow failure
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV kidney cancer
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

## Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy
- ✦ Clint Williams - Army
- ✦ Daryl Williams - Army

## 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.

## Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.  
 Children's Class (PreK-4th) Youth Class (5th+)  
 Foundations Adult Class The Wired WORD

*Where Our Treasure Is*



## Come help decorate the church!

We'll be decorating for Advent and Christmas on **Saturday, December 2nd starting at 1:00pm!**  
 Contact Pat Harper with any questions!

**Even though Commitment Sunday has passed you still have time to have your pledge included in the 2024 budget!**

Be sure to fill out your Pledge Card and Time & Talent so it can help us fund ministries for the coming year! For more, visit [fpccov.org/stewardship](http://fpccov.org/stewardship)

You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering! Find more details in the worship guide under "Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity."



## Christmas Charity and Angel Trees are in the Narthex!

Pick out an angel to get gifts for this year! Be sure to write down your name with the angel's number on the clipboard next to the tree so we can keep track of the angels! Bring gifts to the Narthex no later than noon on Sunday, December 17 so it can reach your angel in time for Christmas.

## Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 10th at 5:00pm  
 Meet at FPC to carol in  
 The Cottage Links at Corrydale



# CHRISTMAS SOUL FEAST



DEC. 6



**ON THE MENU:  
CHRISTMAS DINNER  
TURKEY, DRESSING, GREEN BEANS**

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

RSVP by Monday, December 4th  
to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or 770-786-7321



**Explore the meaning of advent through  
hands-on activities, crafts, and fellowship  
for ALL AGES: adults & families!**

In addition to the regular Advent Workshop  
activities, we will also have limited  
supplies to make Advent Wreaths!

To make your own Advent Wreath for \$10 during  
the Advent Workshop, signup with Erin by Nov. 29

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

**BELIEF AND  
- BEER -**

DRINKS AND DISCUSSION  
NOVEMBER 27 | 5:30PM  
LUCKY DAY TACO SHOP  
CHILDCARE AT FPC

**Sunday, November 26**

**Christ the King Sunday**

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Asking for a Friend...

**Monday, November 27**

5:30pm Belief and Beer

**Tuesday, November 28**

Giving Tuesday

12:00pm Lectio Divina

1:00pm A Novel Bunch Book Club

3:30pm Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, November 29**

RSVP to make Advent Wreath

10:00am Coffee Club

12:00pm Tree Decorating for Lights at Legion

5:00pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

5:30pm Session

6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

**Saturday, December 2**

9:15am Christmas Parade

1:00pm Decorating the Church

**Sunday, December 3**

**First Sunday of Advent**

9:45am Advent Workshop

11:00am Worship



**We will be  
passing out  
doughnuts for  
the Lions Club  
Christmas  
Parade on  
December 2nd!**

We will have a table in front of the church  
and will meet at **9:15am** to set up before  
the parade starts at 10:00am.

*Please contact Curtis Watson if you are  
interested in helping!*