

**THIRD
SUNDAY
IN LENT**
MARCH 20, 2022



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*Healer of Our Every Ill
On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand
Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

Jeffrey Honoré
Adam Mason
James Mansfield

Prelude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Joel Raney

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

Come, all who are thirsty.

Come, all who are seeking.

Come, all who are waiting.

Come, all who labor.

Come, all who need rest.

Come, all who dream dreams.

Come—

whether you're young or old,

confident or curious,

lonely or hopeful.

This is God's house. All are welcome here.

Let us worship holy God.

✦ Hymn

I Am a Child of God
See next page for hymn.

NUN DANKET ALLEGOTT

1 I am a child of God, the One who made and keeps me.
 2 God's im-age is in us, the peo-ple of cre-a-tion.
 3 God nev-er turns from us, not e-ven in our sin-ning.
 4 I thank God for that love and all the world a-round me,

By God's free gift of love, God's child I al-ways will be.
 No mat-ter where we live, we share a close re-la-tion.
 God loves and waits for us to claim a new be-gin-ning.
 the seen and un-seen things, and prom-ised things that will be.

For-ev-er I be-long, I know that this is true;
 God's cov-e-nant is sure, e-ter-nal word for all
 By o-pen-ing our hearts, we then pre-pare the way
 Through wor-ship, trust, and prayer, may I re-lect God's will.

and with my mind and heart, I trust and love God, too.
 who fol-low in God's way and an-swer to God's call.
 for God's love to come in and guide us ev-ery day.
 Let love be seen in me as I God's word ful-fill.

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Silent Individual Confession

✦ Community Confession

Holy God,
 we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store;
 but you know this even better than we do.
 Instead of trusting that we are made good,
 instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are,
 we stockpile our value in earthly things—
 in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power.
 Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick.
 Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down.
 We won't be forgotten if we rest.
 Gratefully we pray, amen.

✠ Hymn 551

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

***Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.***

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Friends, take a deep breath.
Release the tension in your jaw.
There is good news here.
For even when we stumble,
even when we take the easy way out,
even when we forget our own self-worth,
even when we lose our way—we belong to God.

Say it with me—

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are
under God's wing. We are worthy of grace.
We belong to God.**

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

Reflecting on the Artistic Interpretation of the Scripture



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Down to the River to Pray
with *Lord, Listen to Your Children*
Jennifer Fogarty, soprano;
Darcel Tabb, second soprano; Krista Firkus, alto

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL
"LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN"
Words and Music by Ken Medema
Arranged by Mary McDonald

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Luke 13:1-9

Message

Full to the Brim... You are Worthy

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

Silent Reflection



Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn 710

We Lift Our Voices

OFFERING

✦ Affirmation of Faith

**We believe
that the God of the cosmos is at work here.
We believe that God is fertilizing the soil.
We believe that God is planting roots.
We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted.
But until that promised day
when the fig tree stands tall and swords are beaten into plowshares,
we believe:
when our work does not bear fruit,
God still loves us.
When our soil grows dry and cracked,
God still longs for us.
When all seems hopeless here on earth,
God holds hope for us.
The God of the cosmos is at work here.
We believe. Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

Let Us Break Bread Together

Arr. William Lawrence

✦ Response 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

***For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***



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 up 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! (instructions for in-person communion are provided for you with your individual communion elements.)

Prayer After Communion



Being the Church in the World

✠ Sending Hymn 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

***God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.***

***Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
And from beneath, above and all ways: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.***

✠ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Prelude in B Flat

J.S. Bach



Worship Notes

The instrumental postlude is an integral part of the act of worship, offered to assist our prayer and contemplation, to kindle our imaginations, to reflect on words just spoken, and to connect us to God; therefore, we ask that you remain seated until the postlude has concluded.

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.

Friendship Registers

There are Friendship Registers in each pew. We ask that all members and visitors sign in each week. If you are a visitor or interested in church membership, signing in helps us with a way to contact you.

Nursery for Children

Nursery care is available for children newborn through first grade. Our nursery is located on the lower level. Please ask an usher to direct you. Children are also welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pew.

Worship Bags for Children

The bags are labeled with children's name tags clipped to their bag, and they are invited to use the same bag each time they come to worship. For our visitors and newcomers, we have bags labeled "Child of God." The bags are available in the narthex.

Serving Today

Tech Team | Brad Phillips, Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins
Acolyte | Harry Hawkins
Usher Chair | Aubrey Evans

Worship Music Notes

I Am a Child of God

Mary Jackson Cathey (b. 1926) was born in Florence, SC, and educated at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC. She received an advanced degree from Union Seminary, Presbyterian School of Christian Education, in Richmond. As a Christian Educator, she finds hymn text writing a profound way to express her faith. Her hymns have been recognized by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, and a number of her poems have been published by John Knox Press, The Pilgrim Press, and Hope Publishing. She is an elder at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

Lord, Have Mercy

This setting of the Kyrie was made for *Worship III* by Richard Proulx (1984). Proulx (b. 1937) is an active composer and musician. He served as consultant to the Standing Committee on Church Music of the Episcopal Church. He served as the director of music at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Chicago until his passing in 2010.

We Lift Our Voices

Dwight Liles (b. 1957) is an ordained minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and lives in Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee, with his wife, Denise. He has had several hundred Christian songs recorded in a career spanning thirty years. Perhaps the Dove Award winning songwriter's best-known work is "We Are An Offering," a standard at churches the world over. Not "we give" an offering, but "we are" an offering. With a rising sense of hope and expectation, we acknowledge who we are - in Christ - and declare our availability to serve God's purposes in this world.

For the Beauty of the Earth

Since Roman times, the town of Bath, on the banks of the Avon River in England, has been considered one of the most beautiful spots on the British Isles. Enclosed by an amphitheater of hills and blessed with warm springs, it has been both a pleasure resort and a health spa for the ailing. Folliot Pierpoint was born in Bath but went away to attend Cambridge University, where he became a classical scholar and taught. When he was 29 years of age, he returned to his hometown of Bath. The beauty of the countryside in the late spring caused his heart to well up with emotion and inspired this hymn. Each verse thanks God for a different kind of beauty. In its original form, it was a Communion hymn of eight verses. Each verse concluded with the words, "Christ our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise," alluding to Hebrews 13:15.

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a lorica (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

Worship Art

This Sunday's worship art is a block print with oil based ink inspired by Luke 13:1-9 titled "You Are Worthy" by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman.

How often does society wish us to feel like we are wasting soil? The whole capitalist system lurches forward, powered by our collective sense of unworthiness and our searching for worth based on what we produce. This parable upends the notion that we are what we produce, and speaks truth: you are worthy. You deserve rest and care simply for existing. What a gift!

In this image, I wanted the fig tree to look unremarkable, surrounded by the hands of the Gardener reaching down to lovingly massage the soil. The sleeves contain patterning of simplified visual references to everything a plant needs to not only survive, but to thrive. Starting close to the roots and moving upward, the patterns include water, air, sunlight, nutrients, and space. The emphasis in this image is on

what is happening below the surface, in the depths of the dirt. The roots stretch toward the hands of the Gardener as the specks of dirt seem to also image the stars of the vast universe. Within us, despite what we produce, despite what can be seen at the surface, we contain multitudes. We bear the image of God, and our mere existence makes us worthy of Sabbath and the loving arms of the Gardener reaching out to provide us with everything we need.

On a personal note, the Full to the Brim theme keeps bringing me back to the image of resting while God reaches to embrace us. Lately I've spent so much time and energy fighting so hard to get some kind of tangible grasp of God, all the while feeling so empty. I'm realizing that I need to practice surrender, allowing God to find me where I am, and to receive God's care and love, filling me to the brim so I can then be full to pour out once again.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Music printed in our bulletins and streamed online is covered by licenses authorizing their use.
 Licenses include CCLI #11379886 and One License # A-728738.
 "You are Worthy" by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Interested in Joining the Church?

We will welcome visitors to official membership on March 30 at our session meeting! You may participate in person or by zoom! Reach out to Neeley if you would like to become an official member of the FPC church family! You can enjoy a coffee together and discuss what it means to become a member.
 Email: neeleey@fpccov.org; or call the office: 770-786-7321

Mission Statement

Covington First Presbyterian Church 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.

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	
Alisa Castilla	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	<i>Caring for Our Children</i>
Alicia Taylor	<i>Director of Music & Worship Arts</i>	<i>in the Nursery</i>
Alice Walker	<i>Organist/Ambassador Choir</i>	Danielle Schubert
Catherine Laseter	<i>Director of Communications & Operations</i>	Beverley Beasley
Peni Kehoe	<i>Church Administrator</i>	Amiah Williams
		Ian Rein
		Kennedy Lynn

Deacons

Day Kennon (2022)
 Eleanor Scarborough (2023)
 Darcel Tabb (2024)
 Alice Walker (2022)

Session

Class of 2022
 Aubrey Evans
 John McCarthy
 Stephanie Scarborough
 Trista Hooten Wilson

Class of 2023
 Stan Hall
 Louly Hay Kapp
 Ed Perkerson
 Bob Tabb

Class of 2024
 Billy Fortson
 Pat Harper
 Brad Phillips
 Curtis Watson

Sunday, March 20 Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 3:00pm Choir and Handbell Choir Moving Day
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

Monday, March 21

- 8:00am Lenten Poetry and Prayer on Zoom
- 5:45pm Women-on-the-Go Book Study

Tuesday, March 22

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina Bible Study
- 2:15pm Church Office Staff Meeting
- 5:15pm Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 23

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 4:00pm Joyful Noise Music Rehearsal
- 6:00pm Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00pm "Help, Thanks, Wow" Book Study
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 24

- 5:00pm Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 27 Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

New Sunday School Time 9:45

Children

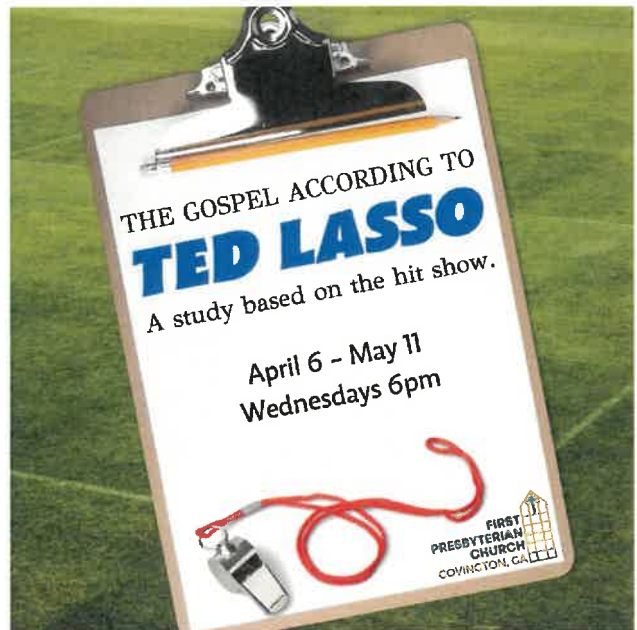
Sunday School Room downstairs
 Teachers: Rotation Model
 Interested in teaching?
 Email catherine@fpccov.org

Youth

Meeting at Bread and Butter
 Teachers: Pam and Jim Stillerman

Adult

Foundations Class, downstairs



JOYFUL NOISE
 Children's Choir, Handbells, Drumming, and More!
 Rehearsals are at 4:00 PM on Wednesdays

A Child Shall Lead: Children in Worship!
 All school-age children are invited to come and see, come and do, come and learn. We will sing, ring, drum, and dance our way through an hour of fun each week. All are welcome!



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to: catherine@fpccov.org

Requests will be removed after three weeks if not updated. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle.

Ukraine

Looking for a way to give? Donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Funds are being used for emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, and more.

To donate, text PDAUKR to 41444 or use this link for their website:

<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/>

You may also write a check out to FPC with "Ukraine" in the memo line and we will donate it to PDA for you.

Keep the APNC in Your Prayers

Those serving on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee:

Jodi Walden Atkins, Dana Hall, Judy Hooten, Steve Kapp, Randy Layton, Pam Stillerman, and Bob Tabb

- ✦ Danny Vining - eye surgery
- ✦ Ed Walton, boss of Brad Phillips - back surgery
- ✦ Joe Burckel, nephew of Danny and Beth Vining - brain cancer
- ✦ Bernice Bailey - recent fall
- ✦ Kim Bailey, family of Bernice and Betty Bailey - tests
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Anne Cranford - breast cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie— kidney problems
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julia MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Cathy Martin, sister-in-law of Chris Martin - breast cancer
- ✦ Melissa, friend of the congregation - cancer
- ✦ Karen Moss - breast cancer
- ✦ Saba Tanner, friend of Warren and Jeanie Liem - cancer
- ✦ Bobbie Vining, sister-in-law of Danny and Beth Vining - recovering from back surgery
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with Cathy Dobbs and her family as they grieve the passing of her brother, Johnny Burns.

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - home
- ✦ Julia Brubaker - Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Guy McGiboney - Merryvale
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Betty Robinson - Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

Military Service

- ✦ Lee Scarborough - Army
3661 Airport Blvd
Apt 299
Mobile, Alabama 36608
- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

Meals for our neighbors in Christ
experiencing homelessness



Volunteers needed
Sign up on the website,
or call the office

APNC Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, April 10th, for the purpose of receiving a report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) regarding a candidate to be called to serve as the next associate pastor here at FPC Covington. All members are asked to stay, hear their report, and vote on the proposed pastoral candidate.

You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering:
Text FPCCOV to: 73256

Or use this link online:

<https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/FPCCOVtext>



Witness and Easter Lilies

If you would like to make a donation this Easter to honor or memorialize a loved one, fill out this form and attach a check made out to FPC and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office. Please put "lilies" or "Easter Witness" in the memo space on your check or envelope.

Donations can also be made via Text to Give, by texting FPCCOV to: 73256

Please email Catherine@fpccov.org with your "in memory" and "in honor" details if you use Text to Give.

The deadline is Sunday, April 10th and a minimum donation of \$12 is suggested.

This year whatever donations we collect over the cost of the flowers will be given to our Baby Love Program.

Thank you!

Given by _____

Please use the first and last names for any person being remembered.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

please circle one cash check

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

710

We Lift Our Voices

We Are an Offering

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment features chords and a steady bass line. The vocal line includes lyrics and is marked with various musical notations such as slurs and triplets.

System 1: Chords: F, C, F, C, F, C. The piano accompaniment starts with a chordal texture. The vocal line begins with a rest followed by a melodic phrase.

System 2: Chords: Dm, F, C, F. The vocal line has the lyrics: "We lift our voic - es; we lift our".

System 3: Chords: C, F, C. The vocal line has the lyrics: "hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an". The piano accompaniment ends with a triplet of eighth notes.

This praise and worship song can best be understood as reflecting on and expanding 1 Chronicles 29:14b: "For all things come of you, [O Lord,] and of your own have we given you." There are also echoes of Paul's appeal for Christians to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).

Dm7 F C F

of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic - es; Lord, use our

C F C 3

hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an

Dm7 F G7 Em7 Asus A

of-fer-ing. All that we have,

Dm7 F G Esus E Am

all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

F C B \flat Dm
give to you, we give to you.

F C F
We lift our voices; we lift our

C F C 3
hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an

Dm7 C 3
of-fer-ing; we are an of-fer-ing.