



# Sixth Sunday of Easter

MAY 9, 2021 - 11:00am  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Order of Worship

### Gathering As God's Beloved People

#### GATHERING MUSIC

*We Are One in the Bond of Love*

Otis Skillings

Alice Walker, organ

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Martin Luther

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Michael Burkhardt

Bill Cobham, trombone Alice Walker, organ

#### PRELUDE

*He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!*

David Cherwien

Alice Walker, organ

#### CHIMES

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

written by Joanna Harader

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:

**Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.**

May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

#### HYMN 405 (stanzas 1,3,4)

*Praise God for This Holy Ground*

HEYMONYSTRAAT

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Broken, tired, weathered by the storm we come to you. We tried to go out in the storm all by ourselves. We have relied on our own understandings and clung to empty promises.**

**We take pride in our independence and yet we long for connection to the true vine.**

**Cleanse us of our wayward ways. Abide in us, that we may abide in you. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

## *Proclaiming the Word*

WONDERING WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

*Magic Penny*  
Dan & Perri Walden

Malvina Reynolds

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-17

SERMON

*A Guide to Pruning Fruit Trees*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

## *Responding to the Word*

HYMN

*I am the Vine, and Ye Are the Branches*

Knowles Shaw

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Heidelberg Catechism PCUSA

Question 1.

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**Answer: That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my God in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

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.**

OFFERTORY

RESPONSE HYMN 36

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

AR HYDY NOS

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.*

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

written by John Birch [faithandworship.com](http://faithandworship.com)

**God of harvest,  
gardener supreme,  
you place us at the center,  
feed us, equip us and,  
having provided for us,  
look to a different harvest—  
a fruitfulness of lives  
in service to you  
and others.  
God of harvest,  
feed us  
prune us  
harvest us  
that our lives  
might bring glory to you. Amen.**

# *Being the Church in the World*

HYMN 838 (stanzas 1,3,4)

*Standing on the Promises of God*

PROMISES

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Prelude in Classic Style*

Gordon Young



## **Nursery for Children**

We have a nursery available for children newborn—1st grade. It is located on the lower level. 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 every time they come to worship. For our visitors and newcomers we have bags labeled "Child of God The bags are hanging on a rack on the right side of the narthex.

## *Activities in the Life of the Church*

### **Worship Update**

Health and Safety Update: We are moving forward in opening up Worship! RSVPs are no longer required for worship. We are grateful for the good and faithful work of our Health Team. It is a joy to be able to continue to open back up safely. We are now able to sit 85 people safely socially distanced in our pews. We hope to see you in worship in person and or online! Invite a friend! We still ask that you wear a mask and if you are ill or have a temperature that you worship from home on our Zoom or FaceBook page.

### **Mother's Day Offering for "Caring Hands"**

Included with today's bulletin is information about the Mother's Day Offering for the Caring Hands fund at Presbyterian Homes. Your check can be made out to the church and put "Caring Hands" in the memo space. If you choose to use cash, use an envelope and put "Caring Hands" on one of the envelopes from the pew rack.

### **The Art of Reading Scripture Called Lectio Divina**

**Tuesdays at 12:00 noon in April & May** you are invited to join Neeley in prayerfully considering the upcoming week's worship scripture reading. We will participate in an art of reading scripture called Lectio Divina. You are welcome to gather in the Church Parlor or on Zoom.

### **Coffee and Conversation!**



Faith and Fellowship Team would like to invite you for coffee and conversation on Wednesday mornings in May. We enjoyed our conversations in April so much we'll also be meeting for the month of May! We're getting together in the Fellowship Hall (socially distanced of course) from 10:00-11:00 am to catch up with friends and fellowship together for the first time in a year! Love-a-Latte if you'd join us on Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>!

### **Serving Our Neighbors**

The **Newton Co. Community Food Pantry** has reopened! They are now taking donations of non-perishable food and things like soap and tissue paper. You may take items to 7125 Turner Lake Circle on Wednesdays or Fridays between 9:00-11:30 or bring them to the church. They are also taking financial donations which you may give to the church or directly to the Food Pantry. Put Food Pantry in the memo space of your check or choose Food Pantry for the fund if you give through REALM or TEXT.

### **Seeking Office Volunteers!**

We are searching for volunteers to help with office tasks. We are hoping that volunteers would serve a minimum of 4 hours a month, but more frequently would be preferred. We have a full "Job Description" available. We can email it to you or you can pick one up at the church from the round table in the narthex. Speak with Peni Kehoe for more information. 770-786-7321 or email [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org).

### **Elder Nominations**

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the next class of Elders to serve on Session for a three year term 2022-2024. If you have a person you'd like to nominate you will find forms on the ushers table at the church or online at: [www.fpccov.org/nominations](http://www.fpccov.org/nominations).

# Activities in the Life of the Church

## This Week at FPC

### Sunday, May 9, Easter 6

#### Happy Mother's Day

10:00 Adult Sunday School—link below  
 10:00 Youth Sunday School  
 10:00 Children's Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 (Livestream link provided in the Weekly Enews)  
 7:00 Jammies and Jesus

### Tuesday, May 11

12:00 Lectio Divina Scripture Study (parlor)  
 7:00 Bible Study on The Book of Acts on zoom  
 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, May 12

10:00 Coffee & Conversation

### Thursday, May 13

2:30 Ambassador Choir on Zoom  
 6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Sunday, May 16, Easter 7

10:00 Adult Sunday School—link below  
 10:00 Youth Sunday School  
 10:00 Children's Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 (Livestream link provided in the Weekly enews)  
 12:00 Lemonade on the Lawn  
 7:00 Jammies and Jesus

## Christian Education

**Adult Sunday School** is a casual time of conversation and fellowship. Each week is a stand-alone lesson, so if you miss a week, come back the next! Adult Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom at 10:00am. Please enter through the Sanctuary doors to then proceed to the fellowship hall.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83852010376> Meeting ID: 838 5201 0376

**Youth Sunday School** is led by Pam and Jim Stillerman and offers a time of connection and of studying scripture.

Youth Sunday will meet **in person in the Youth Room**. Please enter through Sanctuary doors to then proceed to your class.

**Children's Sunday School** is offered each week by Dan and Perri Walden. Sunday school is in-person at 10:00am in the Green Room! Please enter through the Sanctuary doors.

## Zoom Bible Study

A study of the Book of Acts will continue on Tuesdays, at 7:00pm. They will use the study book "Life Lessons from Acts" by Max Lucado which you may obtain from Amazon. The link for the study is in our mid-week *First Press* on-line newsletter. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86337019579>

## Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering

On the second Thursday of the month you are invited to bring your knitting, crocheting and other hand crafts to join for a time of prayer and fellowship. The group will gather in the fellowship hall, socially distant and masked. This month they will meet on **May 13 at 6:30pm**. Perri Walden is the coordinator. If you need to get in touch with her you can call or text 404-502-9293 or email to: [perriwalden@charter.net](mailto:perriwalden@charter.net)

## Grief Small Group

The date to meet has been changed to Tuesday, May 25, at 6pm. Details will be printed next week.

## The Pastor's Patio

The Lanes want to get to know you! You are invited to sign up for an evening on their patio this May! We will start with three Wednesdays in May hosting up to 6 people. Interested in joining Robert, Neeley, Kately, Paisley, and MaryRentz on their backyard patio? Sign up for a time of fellowship and fun!

Dates: May 12, May 19, May 26; Time: 6:00pm-7:00pm. Sign up by emailing [info@fpccov.org](mailto:info@fpccov.org) or calling the church office!

Please  
Recycle!



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
COVINGTON

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Neeley Rentz Lane	Senior Pastor	Peni Kehoe	Church Administrator
Krista Firkus	Music Director	Danielle Schubert	Nursery
Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO	Kennedy Lynn	Nursery
	Organist/Ambassador Choir	Beverly Beasley	Nursery

## MEMBERS OF SESSION

**Class of 2021**  
 Jay Lanners  
 Warren Liem  
 Pam Stillerman  
 Cy Wolverton

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

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

**We thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian Church of Covington!**

You are invited to "Text to Give"  
 your offering: Text to: 73256  
 Enter FPCCOV as your message, click to send  
 Or use this link: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/FPCCOVtext>

**If you made a pledge for 2021, choose "2021 Pledge"** as the fund. Then the system will walk you through entering your bank or credit card information. If you did not make a pledge you can choose another fund such as "Non-pledge"; or "Flowers" "Food Pantry", etc. There is a drop-down menu you can scroll through to choose a fund. You now have the option to help offset the cost of on-line giving. Just check the space and use the suggested donation or put in what you'd like to give. Use this link for on-line giving:  
<https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/now>

*In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

- ✦ Tommy Bassett-terminal liver cancer (friend of Beth & Danny Vining)
- ✦ Guy McGiboney-back at Merryvale
- ✦ Teresa Shaffer-ill (Lane Dobbs' mother-in-law)
- ✦ Doug Bolton-burn injury treatment
- ✦ Linda Boyd-recovering from back surgery (she is a former FPC member)
- ✦ Angela Gregory-cancer, hospital in Scotland (aunt of Sarah Gregory)
- ✦ Paisley Freeman (great-niece of Judy Davis)
- ✦ Steve Jones-cancer (friend of Alice Walker)
- ✦ Susan Fiedler-cancer (friend of Darcel Tabb)
- ✦ Hulda McDonald-health issues (friend of Judy Davis)
- ✦ Blair Weaver-health issues
- ✦ Jane Parker-recovering from fall
- ✦ Betty Lunsford-recovering at home
- ✦ Sarita Pope-breast cancer (mother-in-law of Elizabeth Martin Pope)
- ✦ Beverly Beasley-caring for husband who has leukemia (friend of Jean Elder)
- ✦ Karen Moss-breast cancer
- ✦ Carter Mackenzie-neck injury (son of Julie & Jeff Mackenzie)
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa-home health care (sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie)
- ✦ Tom Bass-cancer treatment & dialysis (friend of Beth & Danny Vining)
- ✦ Wilford Reed-health issues (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ✦ Bob Darby-kidney problems (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ✦ Joyce Williams-Alzheimer's, breast cancer treatment (sister of Danny Vining)
- ✦ Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)
- ✦ Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)

- Independent and Assisted Living**
- ✦ Travis Moss-Pruitt Healthcare
  - ✦ Penny Blakeney-home
  - ✦ Julia Brubaker-Benton House
  - ✦ Jean Elder-currently in Florida with her daughter (address available from church Office or on REALM)
  - ✦ Dot Fincher-Merryvale
  - ✦ Guy McGiboney-Merryvale
  - ✦ Betty Robinson-Merryvale
  - ✦ Louise White-Merryvale
  - ✦ Jerry McGaffney-Merryvale

- Military Service**
- ✦ Koen Ardis-Navy
  - ✦ Lee Scarborough-Army
  - ✦ Billy Scarborough-Marines-basic training



**Special Prayers**  
 Piedmont Newton frontline workers as well as other medical staff. The hospital is very busy with helping sick patients, night and day. Please pray for their work and their safety.

**Praises!**

Thank you to Faith and Fellowship for Lemonade on the Lawn this past Sunday!

We rejoice we are able to now visit our church family living in assisted living residences!

**Prayer Requests**

All prayer requests should be sent to: [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org) or by clicking the "Email Pen" button at the bottom of the Enews prayer list. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle.

*Worship Notes*

- ✦ Recordings of Sunday sermons can be accessed on the church website: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org).
- ✦ Music printed (and streamed) in our bulletins are covered by licenses authorizing their use. Licenses are from: CCLI #11379886 and One License # A-728738.
- ✦ Liturgy written by Roger Gench and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*.

*Thanks to those serving us today*

Tech Team:  
 Dan Walden, Brad Phillips  
 Usher chair: Bob Tabb

*Our Caring Hands...*



*...need your caring heart.*

Our *Caring Hands* need your caring heart to ensure that no resident who has out-lived their financial means is asked to leave their Presbyterian Home. We've kept this promise for 72 years because of caring hearts like yours.



*Caring Hands*  
Offering

Please show you care and consider a one-time gift or an annual commitment to the *Caring Hands Fund* during the *30 Days of Caring*, now through May 31.



*"And the king will answer them,  
'Truly I tell you, just as you did it  
to one of the least of these who  
are members of my family,  
you did it to me.'"*

-Matthew 25:40

Donate online at  
[www.PHGAinc.org](http://www.PHGAinc.org)  
or scan this code:



PRESBYTERIAN HOMES  
OF GEORGIA

You may drop a check in the offering plate with "Caring Hands" in the memo space or mail your check to the church. If you give cash, use an offering envelope with "Caring Hands" written in.