



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Siciliano
Wonderful Words of Life
Everybody Sing Praise to the Lord

Domenico Scarlatti
Philip P. Bliss
Marilyn Arison

Prelude

All Who Would Valiant Be

ST. DUNSTAN'S

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Let us Worship Holy God!

✦ Hymn 81

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Community Confession

by Rev. Doug Hagler

**God of the clean and the unclean,
we too easily think we can see from your point of view.
We exclude, hold grudges and nurse contempt,
all the while hiding ourselves
for fear we too would be found wanting.
We think we are justified
because we are made holy by your love,
and we assume holiness means more like us.
We forget, or never really knew,
that all you touch is holy,
and that you created all that is.
So when we exclude, we exclude you.
When we hold grudges, we hate you.
When we show contempt,
we are contemptuous of those you love.
May we be made holy in truth,
loving as you love, clean and unclean alike.**

✦ **Hymn 695**

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

✦ **Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Church, we are forgiven!
We are free to try again.

✦ **Passing of the Peace**



Proclaiming the Word

Children's Anthem

*The Butterfly Song
(If I Were a Butterfly)*

Ernie Rettino
Debby Kerner Rettino

Wondering with God's Children

Recognition of Graduates

Anthem

For the Beauty of the Earth
David Edwards, violin

Arr. Anna Laura Page

Verses 1 and 2 - Choir Only

Verse 3 - Choir and Congregation

***For the church that evermore lifteth holy hands above
offering up on ev'ry shore her pure sacrifice of love;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

Verse 4 - Choir Only

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Message

Surprise! An Unexpected Change of Menu

Reverend Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn 754**

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

✦ Affirmation of Faith

excerpt from Confession of Belhar

We believe

That Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

That unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;

That this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

That this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another. 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

Offertory

Psalm 100 (Variants on Old Hundredth)

David Edwards, violin

Charles Callahan

trans. Benjamin M.Culli

✦ Response

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

Prayer of Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✦ Hymn 634

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

✦ Charge *and* Benediction

Postlude

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

David Cherwien

We invite you to remain seated until the conclusion of the instrumental postlude. The 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.



Worship Notes

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.

Music printed in our bulletin and streamed online is covered by One License # A-728738 authorizing their use.

Welcome

Welcome to our new Associate Pastor of Faith Formation, Reverend Erin Morgan as she joins us for her first Sunday here at First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA. She is accompanied by her husband Jeff and their daughter Valerie. Welcome Erin, Jeff, and Valerie to the FPC family!

Contact Cards

There are new Contact Cards in each pew. We ask that all visitors sign in each week and place the Contact Card in the offering plate. If you are a visitor or interested in church membership, signing in gives a way to contact you. Members may also choose to fill out a contact card if their contact information has changed or if they would like to get more involved in the church. Please indicate if you are open to options or are drawn to a certain form of involvement.

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.

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.

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell
Acolyte | Mary Lindsey Whisnant Usher Chair | Ed Perkerson



Sermon Series

The women at the empty tomb experienced the ultimate surprise discovering the Lord had Risen, indeed! This element of the surprise of God continues throughout our biblical story. For the next several weeks, we will explore together the surprising acts of God through our study of Acts in worship. We will come to welcome an unpredictable God and to expect the unexpected! We will witness Peter having a change of heart. We will be surprised by a holy friendship between Ananias and Saul. We will meet Dorcus and Lydia this Eastertide. Our study on the book of Acts will conclude on the day of Pentecost! Surprise!

*"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages,
as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:4 NRSV)*

You are invited to explore the unlikely, ironic, and surprising stories in the book of Acts this May!

- Neeley



Worship Music

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

This text in praise of the church is by John Newton. It is based on Isaiah 33:20-21 and gives a general notion of the state of the redeemed in the kingdom of God. The hymn first appeared in the *Olney Hymns* (1779), the result of a collaborative effort between Newton and William Cowper. John Newton is best known for writing the hymn *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*. AUSTRIAN HYMN was composed by Franz Joseph Haydn.

Help Us Accept Each Other

This text by Fred Kaan was inspired by a Bible study written for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church by Mrs. Jackie Mattonen. Mrs. Mattonen served for several years as a member of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, for which Kaan served as staff from 1968 to 1978. Several biblical references are present in the hymn: Romans 15:7 in verse 1, John 3:21, Ephesians 4:15, and Matthew 18:21 in verse 3.

BARONITA was composed by Doreen Potter in 1975 especially for this text in *Break Not the Circle* (1975). According to Kaan, the appearance of this hymn in *Cantate Domino* (1980) occurred only after copyright clearance could not be obtained for another hymn. He writes, "It so happened that my "Hymn on acceptance" was just of the right length to fill the two blank pages that needed filling." This hymn was used by Church Women United in the 1983 World Day of Prayer service.

To God Be the Glory

This hymn was written by Fanny Crosby for children. She titled it "Praise for Redemption." It was published in William H. Doane and Robert Lowry's *Brightest and Best* (1875). The hymn was all but forgotten until Cliff Barrows was gathering materials for the Billy Graham Greater London Crusade in 1954. Someone suggested this hymn. It became a favorite of the Crusade and subsequently the hymn was reintroduced to the United States in the 1954 Nashville Crusade held at Vanderbilt University. The text differs from other Crosby gospel hymns in that it has an objective rather than subjective nature. TO GOD BE THE GLORY was composed for this text by William Howard Doane for *Brightest and Best* (1875).

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

This form of the Doxology was written by Neil Weatherhogg in 1988. The first published form of the text was in *The Presbyterian Hymnal - Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs* (1990). It is an inclusive language versification originally used by the congregation of Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Kentucky, where he is pastor and head of staff. This is the first published form of the text.



Worship Art

The children of our church are learning about the liturgical seasons by exploring worship art. The butterflies in worship this morning were crafted by our children. Although butterflies in the Bible aren't mentioned explicitly, their lifecycle is a remarkable illustration from nature of the transforming work of Jesus Christ in the lives of believers.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
(2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

The word transform is *metamorpho* in Greek, from which we get the English term metamorphosis. It describes the type of change a caterpillar undergoes to become a butterfly. The same word is used to explain Christ's transfiguration. The idea conveys a radical change or complete transformation. At Jesus' transfiguration, his physical appearance was temporarily metamorphosed from an ordinary human to a divine being in all his glory.

"As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light." (Matthew 17:2, NIV)



Graduates

This Sunday, we would like to congratulate and recognize our graduates for accomplishing a milestone in their lives. While we support all those who are graduating this year, we would like the following high school seniors to stand and be recognized:

Laurel Ardis - Ola High School Gavin Bates - Eastside High School
Noah Hicks - George Walton Raleigh Loftin - Piedmont Academy

We also congratulate the following graduating loved ones of church members:

Jacob Dexter, grandson of Curtis and Carolyn Watson—Oklahoma State University

Grant Elder, grandson of Russ and Jean Elder—Killian Hill Christian

Rose Elder, granddaughter of Russ and Jean Elder—Killian Hill Christian

Emily Grace Gilmer, granddaughter of Larry and Day Kennon—High School in Nashville, TN

Hannah Banks Gilmer, granddaughter of Larry and Day Kennon—High School in Nashville, TN

Lila Marie Gilmer, granddaughter of Larry and Day Kennon—High School in Nashville, TN

Florence Hay Luranc, daughter of Louly Hay—Emory University, Guizuetta Business School

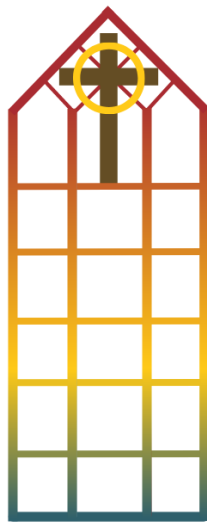
Hutson Luranc, grandson of Louly Hay—Presbyterian College

Louisa Luranc, granddaughter of Louly Hay—University of Virginia, Darden School of Business

Will Watson, grandson of Curtis and Carolyn Watson—High School in Murfreesboro, TN

Morgan Wheeler, granddaughter of Jack and Miriam Wheeler—High School in Loveland, OH

Jacquelin Wilson, daughter of Michael and Trista Wilson—University of Tennessee



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

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 our witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or any number of activities.

Reach out to the office and we'll point you in the right direction!

Email: catherine@fpccov.org or call: 770-786-7321

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

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
Erin Morgan
Alicia Taylor
Alice Walker
Catherine Laseter
Peni Kehoe

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Music & Worship Arts
CAGO, AAGO Organist/Ambassador Choir
Dir. of Communications & Operations
Finance Administrator

*Caring for Our Children
in the Nursery*
Danielle Schubert
Beverley Beasley
Kennedy Lynn

Sunday, May 15 Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 11:00am Graduate Sunday
- 5:30pm Campfire Church

Monday, May 16

- 12:00pm RSVP Deadline for Soul Feast
- 4:00pm Nominating Committee Meeting
- 5:30pm Economic Development Presentation

Tuesday, May 17

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 12:00pm RSVP Deadline for Pentecost Paint Party
- 2:15pm Office Staff Meeting
- 6:00pm Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, May 18

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 1:30pm Singing Ambassadors Choir at FUMC
- 4:00pm Final Joyful Noise Music Before Summer
- 5:00pm Soul Feast
- 6:00pm Galatians Bible Study
- 6:00pm Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 19

- 2:00pm Singing Ambassadors Choir at FPC
- 6:00pm Pentecost Paint Party at Wild Art

Sunday, May 22 Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 9:45am VBS Volunteer Training
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Session Meeting

REGISTER FOR VBS TODAY!

LIVING WATERS
FOR THE WORLD

Where: First Presbyterian Church Covington
When: June 1-3, 9 am-12 pm
Who: Children 3yrs-5th grade
How: Visit FPCCOV.ORG

Volunteer Information also available at fpccov.org

SOUL FEAST

Wednesday Night Supper is back!
Feed your body and soul with your FPC family.

Wednesdays 5:00 pm beginning May 4th
\$5 for adults, \$3 for kids

Ages 4 and under are free. Childcare is provided.
Reserve your seat each Monday by noon:
770-786-7321 or catherine@fpccov.org

The Gospel According to
PIXAR

All Ages Summer Sunday School

Sundays at 9:45am
May 29-July 31

Movie Nights at 6:00pm
May 25, June 15, July 6, July 20

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.



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

*Or point your camera at the
QR code above and follow the
link to give online.*

Illness

- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
- ✦ Betty Robinson
- ✦ Guy McGiboney
- ✦ Tootles Tingler
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff Mackenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Rick Brown, brother of Sherri Bolton - bladder surgery
- ✦ Kim Bailey, family of Bernice and Betty Bailey
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Joe Burckel, nephew of Danny and Beth Vining - brain cancer
- ✦ Bobby Cocker, nephew of Judy Davis - colon cancer surgery
- ✦ Anne Cranford - breast cancer
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Cathy Martin, sister-in-law of Chris Martin - breast cancer
- ✦ Melissa, friend of the congregation - cancer
- ✦ Barbara Phillips, friend of Alice Walker - cancer

✦ Blair Weaver - health issues

✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

Celebrations

✦ We would like to congratulate Doug Hicks on his upcoming position as President of Davidson College.

Independent and Assisted Living

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

Military Service

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

Kirkin' o' the Tartan

Sunday, September 25

Honor the **Presbyterian Church's** roots in the **Church of Scotland** in a special service that will include bag pipes, field drum, and a blessing of your family tartan

Order from Alicia Taylor by July 17th
to receive your family tartan in time.
email: alicia@fpccov.org
call: 770-656-6848

Campfire Church

Sunday, May 15 5:30pm

COOKOUT
CAMPFIRE SONGS
DEVOTION

FPC PLAYGROUND

HOSTED BY THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE
WITH SUPPORT FROM FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP



Bring a Chair and a Dessert to Share!