

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**June 18, 2023**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Simple Gifts*

Arr. Jon Spong

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**WELCOME**

Jim Alexander

**MINUTE FOR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Jack Osteen

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader:* We are here not because we have found God,  
but because God our Creator has called us here.

**People:** Our calling is to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
and to be servants in the service of the whole human family.

*Leader:* But the call is also God's promise:

**People:** The promise of forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace as we love all people,  
and eternal life in that realm which has no end.

*Leader:* We have gathered on this Lord's Day to renew our callings and to praise the Almighty.

**People:** Blessing and honor and glory and power be unto God in Jesus Christ!

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE 370**

*This Is My Father's World*

TERRA BEATA

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Eternal God, you set Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and you called us to be servants in your kingdom. We confess that we would rather set our own agenda for our lives, rather than pursue the purposes you have given us in your son. Forgive us. By your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need. Give us stamina and humility that we might live for the benefit of others. Then, at the last, bring us to your eternal realm where we may worship and adore you and be welcomed into your everlasting joy. We draw near to you in prayer, O Lord, bringing our needs and cares and burdens to your mercy.

*(Silent Reflection)*

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Leader:* The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith and sets us free to accept ourselves as we love God and neighbor. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and redeemed.

**People:** To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

**\* GLORIA PATRI**

GLORIA PATRI

*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.*

**\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

*Jesus Loves Me!*

Rev. Mary Ramirez

*Following the Children's Moment, children preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to  
Children in Worship. Parents can pick up their children from the third floor after worship.*

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Psalm 100

Jim Alexander

(Pew Bible, pg. 552, Old Testament)

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Romans 5:1-8

Rev. Mary Ramirez

(Pew Bible, pg. 155, New Testament)

**SERMON**

*"The Strength of Faith"*

Rev. Mary Ramirez

**\* 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.**

**\* HYMN 829 (V. 1 and 2)**

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

OLIVET

**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.**

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem

*I Choose Love*

Mark Miller

Chancel Choir with Sarah Alexander, Soprano Soloist

**\* Doxology**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,*  
*Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia.*  
*Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,*  
*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

**\* Offertory Prayer**

**\* HYMN 838**

*Standing on the Promises*

PROMISES

**BENEDICTION**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 838 (Refrain)**

PROMISES

*Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my savior:*  
*Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.*

**\* CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*Postlude*

Edouard Batiste

**\* Please stand as you are able**

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We welcome Rev. Mary McCutchen Ramirez to our pulpit this morning. She grew up in Manning and is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary. She has served as a tent maker pastor for over 20 years. She works for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control.

## WELCOME!

We especially welcome those of you who are guests today. We invite you to fill out a Welcome card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate as it is passed. We look forward to meeting you.

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders: Jim Alexander, Bonnie Disney  
Assisting with Worship: Jim Alexander  
Deacons: Lark Haynie, Susan W. Osteen

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Bill Richardson, John James  
Assisting with Worship: Bill Richardson  
Deacons: Kenny Jordan, John Michael Osteen

### WELCOME NEW OFFICERS

We welcome the following officers who were installed last Sunday. The Class of 2026 includes:

Deacons: Mike Blanding, J.D. Dunn, Jimmy Ezell, Kenny Jordan, Joe McElveen  
Elders: Jim Alexander, Margy Carpenter, Kimberly Land, Becky Owens, Bob Smith

### BI-CENTENNIAL FUND

During this Bi-Centennial Year, the Session has approved a gift to Habitat for Humanity and Sumter United Ministries. Our special fund-raising goal is \$200,000, half of which will come from one-time gifts from our congregation. The other half, \$100,000, will come from matching funds from our church's local mission reserves. Please prayerfully consider a gift. Thank you.



### GEAR UP FOR LEARNING

Sumter United Ministries has asked for our help with Gear Up for Learning again this year. First Presbyterian Church has volunteered to collect **1650 college ruled spiral notebooks** for donation to the Sumter School District. ***Please donate notebooks by August 6.*** You may leave them in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for helping gather these school supplies for Sumter children for the coming school year.

### ONLINE GIVING

Online giving can be accessed from the FPC website, [fpcsumter.org](http://fpcsumter.org) (press the red "Give" button), also from your mobile device (text FPCS to 73256). Follow the online instructions. You can also give online by using the QR code and your smartphone. Just hover over the QR code with the camera or scanner on your smartphone or tablet and click on the link that appears.



### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Home:** Marilyn Jenkins, Bill Redmond, Tumpy Creech, Patti Croft, Jackie Osteen,  
Beth Byce (Sibble McFaddin's Daughter),  
Milo Abbott (Grandson of Norma Abbott)

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to Lauren Decker on the death of her brother, David Coffin, who died on May 31 in New York.