

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



July 30, 2023

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Amazing Grace

Setting Wilbur Held

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

Bonnie Disney

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: As we gather to worship, know that you are God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved.

People: We are God's children, and we will clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Leader: Bear with each other and be forgiving because God has forgiven you.

People: Over all these things, we will clothe ourselves with love.

Leader: As brothers and sisters in Christ, we have come into this place to worship the living God.

People: We sing songs of praise to the God who gives us mercy, fresh every morning!

*** HYMN OF PRAISE 20**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you are our refuge and strength and a very present help in time of trouble. Enable us, we pray, to put our trust in you. Help us now to wait upon you with reverent and submissive hearts. In the silence of this hour speak to us of eternal things, that through the patience and comfort of the scriptures we may have hope and be lifted into the light and peace of your presence. Knowing that you forgive us in Jesus Christ, we confess our need for your healing power in our lives. Make us whole again in all our broken places and send us out into the world to love all people with the grace we have received from you. We lift our prayers to you.

(Silent Reflection)

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We rejoice in the Lord always because we are loved by our God always.

The good news this day and every day is that in Jesus Christ we are a forgiven people.

People: The mercy of the Lord is unfailing. Thanks be to God. 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!

Dr. Chris Denny

Following the Children's Moment, children will stay with their parents.

Children in Worship will not meet again until September.

BLESSING OF EDUCATORS

A Litany for Schools, Educators, Staff, and Students

Bonnie Disney

Leader: Today, we remember the children and youth of this congregation, the community, and all who participate in their education. The call to be involved in education is a high calling. Those who instruct our children help shape the future. We give thanks to a gracious God for the teachers, school administrators, counselors, homeschool families, school volunteers, support staff, cafeteria workers, school bus drivers, and all others in our congregation and community who work in our schools.

People: We celebrate their calling and pledge our support to those in our community who participate in the education of children and youth.

Leader: Education involves partnerships between school, home, and community. The support of parents and guardians is essential to a child's success. This morning we recognize all who give support to students in our homes. May we pray daily for those in this congregation who have children and youth who attend school. May their homes be places where families value education and encourage excellence in learning.

People: We pledge our support to parents and guardians. We pray that our ministries will encourage and strengthen those in our church families who provide care for children.

Leader: Our church family believes that students are gifts from God, filled with potential and possibility. We pray that as they learn and grow, they will develop caring hearts and disciplined minds.

People: We will do all that is possible to ensure that our schools are hope-filled environments providing positive opportunities for growth and resources necessary for learning.

Leader: Let us pray—Gracious God, we pray for all who play vital roles in the educational efforts of this community, our nation, and our world. Great God, guide us as we seek to discern the most effective ways to show our interest in and support for our students, teachers, and all involved in education. We pray this prayer in the name of the greatest teacher, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 43:18-28
(Pew Bible, pg. 672, Old Testament)

Bonnie Disney

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 2:1-12
(Pew Bible, pg. 36, New Testament)

Dr. Chris Denny

SERMON

"Forgiven"

Dr. Chris Denny

*** 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 720**

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

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

Lord, Who Knows My Heart
Sarah Alexander, Soprano Solo

Daniel Burton

*** Doxology**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
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!

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*** Offertory Prayer**

*** HYMN 314 (V. 1, 4, 5)**

+ Christ, Be Our Light

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

BENEDICTION

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

+ Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

* **Please stand as you are able**

+ *Christ, Be Our Light* is our 200th Anniversary theme song.

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We welcome Dr. Chris Denny to our pulpit this morning. He is the younger son of Charles and Glenda Denny and grew up in First Presbyterian Church. He is a graduate of Presbyterian College and Columbia Theological Seminary. He has been Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia since 2016. You will have an opportunity to visit with him at a reception in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

W E L C O M E !

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: Liza Cooper, Bonnie Disney
Assisting with Worship: Bonnie Disney
Deacons: Debbie Jackson, Susan W. Osteen

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Linda Hogon, John James
Assisting with Worship: John James
Deacons: Harold Nixon, Lark Haynie

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Faith Formation and Fellowship is looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School and Children in Worship starting September 10th. Volunteers are also needed (no teaching) to assist these teachers. Lesson plans will be provided. Please consider volunteering for these important ways to help our children grow in their Bible journey. Please contact Debbie Jackson if you are able to help!



GEAR UP FOR LEARNING UPDATE

Sumter United Ministries would like to thank everyone who contributed to Gear Up for Learning. With your generous help, First Presbyterian collected over 2600 notebooks for Sumter schools. Thank you!

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving can be accessed from the FPC website, 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: John Michael Osteen, Marilyn Jenkins