

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



August 20, 2023

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

Becky Owens

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come all you who are weary

People: Of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division.

Leader: Come all you who are heavy laden

People: With too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger.

Leader: Come all you who have hope

People: For peace, for justice, for freedom, for the Kingdom coming.

Leader: Hear these words: "See, I am making all things new."

People: Rejoice in the Lord always. Let us worship God!

*** HYMN OF PRAISE** 415 (V. 1-3) *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

RESTORATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, all that we have and all that we are come from you, yet we prefer to focus on what we have done to justify ourselves. We count all that we have done to earn your love rather than confess our need for your grace and mercy. We point to the shortcomings of others rather than examine our own blind spots and blurred vision. Forgive us, Lord. Open our eyes to our need for your indiscriminate and unconditional love. Free us from our urge to justify ourselves in your sight, and guide us as we welcome the fullness of your life in Jesus Christ our Lord. We bring our prayers to you.

(Silent Reflection)

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news about our God: we are held by a love that we have done nothing to earn, a love that will not let us go. Friends, in Jesus Christ we have forgiveness and new life.

People: Thanks be to God! May our lives be a constant response to such amazing grace. 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. Bob Brearley

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

Children in Worship will not meet again until September.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 51:1-12

Becky Owens

(Pew Bible, pg. 520, Old Testament)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 7:1-5

Rev. Bob Brearley

(Pew Bible, pg. 6, New Testament)

*** HYMN** 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

SERMON

"The Spiritual Gift of Self-Awareness"

Rev. Bob Brearley

*** 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.

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

Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness
Chancel Choir

John L. Bell

*** 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 765**

May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

BENEDICTION

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 765**

ARGENTINA

*Praying, let us work for peace: singing, share our joy with all:
Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

*** CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Tune in F

Terry Baldridge

*** Please stand as you are able**

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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: Bill Richardson, Becky Owens
Assisting with Worship: Becky Owens
Deacons: Kathy Lyons, Jimmy Ezell

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Norma Abbott, John James
Assisting with Worship: John James
Deacons: Gary Bratton, Suzanne Wates

COVERED-DISH LUNCHEON

Plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship today for a Welcome Back covered-dish luncheon. The church will provide chicken and drinks. We will enjoy a meal together, and our Session will share the results of the HolyCow! congregational survey. We hope everyone will come.

JOY RINGERS BEGIN REHEARSALS

Our handbell group, the Joy Ringers, will begin rehearsal on August 27 at 4:00 p.m. in the Session Room under the sanctuary. High schoolers and adults who are interested should contact Joni.

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Rev. Josie Holler will be our guest preacher next Sunday. Josie served as our Parish Associate beginning in 2004. She is currently serving as Interim Pastor at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church in Kingstree. You are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

ACOLYTE TRAINING

There will be a training session for all children who are interested in being an acolyte on Sunday, August 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the narthex. If your child is interested in serving First Presbyterian Church as an acolyte, please contact Debbie Jackson (debbiejackson1954@gmail.com).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Faith Formation 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!

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION CONCERT

Sunday, September 17

4:00 PM in the FPC Sanctuary

Featuring Hamilton Stoddard and Bill Scobee, Organists
and other musical guests

A reception will follow the concert in the Fellowship Hall.

MAUI RELIEF

If you would like to contribute to disaster relief in Maui, please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and list Maui in the memo line. We pray for those harmed by the fires and for those who help.

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.

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