

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**September 3, 2023**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*An Early American March*

Setting by Jon Spong

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**WELCOME**

Jim Alexander

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader:* Christ calls us to come to worship,

**People:** and to rest from the things that are troubling us.

*Leader:* We gather to learn what the Lord can teach of life,

**People:** and to realize what we can offer to others with God's love.

*Leader:* Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord!

**People:** Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation!

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE 2**

*Come, Thou Almighty King*

ITALIAN HYMN

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy and merciful God, you have searched us, and you know us. You know when we sit down and when we stand up. You perceive our thoughts from afar. You are familiar with all our ways. You know that we have heard the name of Jesus much more often than we have done the deeds of Jesus in our lives. Forgive our selfishness when we have kept ourselves too busy to notice a friend in need. Forgive us when our faith has retreated in the face of trouble. Forgive us when we have failed to hear you and when we have failed to do your deeds of love. Renew us. Heal us in every way, even as we bring our concerns and needs into your presence in prayer.

*(Silent Reflection)*

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

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Leader:* For God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. In Jesus Christ, we are redeemed and forgiven.

**People:** To God be glory and honor in the church and in our lives now and forever. 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 130  
(Pew Bible, pg. 573, Old Testament)

Jim Alexander

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Matthew 7:24-29  
(Pew Bible, pg. 7, New Testament)

Rev. Bob Brearley

**SERMON**

*"Built on the Rock"*

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

*Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho*  
Sean Hackett, Alto Saxophone

Daniel Kallman

\* 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 353 (V. 1, 2, 4)

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

SOLID ROCK

**BENEDICTION**

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 353

SOLID ROCK

***On Christ the Solid Rock, I stand:***  
***All other ground is sinking sand; All other ground is sinking sand.***

\* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*King William's March*

Setting by Jon Spong

\* 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: Jim Alexander, Margy Carpenter  
Assisting with Worship: Jim Alexander  
Deacons: Mike Blanding, Joe McElveen

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

Elders: Liza Cooper, Bonnie Disney  
Assisting with Worship: Liza Cooper  
Deacons: Valerie James, Kathy Lyons

**BI-CENTENNIAL FUND**

During this Bicentennial Year, the Session has approved a gift to Habitat for Humanity and Sumter United Ministries. Our special fund-raising goal is \$200,000. The first \$125,000 in congregational giving will be matched by our reserve funds for local mission. Our culminating offering will be received on Sunday, September 17. Please prayerfully consider a gift. Thank you.

## **CELEBRATING 200 YEARS!**

**Help us celebrate our Bicentennial as we emphasize the preaching mission of our church with former pastors returning to our pulpit.**

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

Dr. Jeff Aiken (1980-1992) will be our guest preacher.  
Rev. David DuBay and Rev. Mike McGehee will visit.

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

Dr. Ed McLeod (1995-2004) will be our guest preacher.

### ***When In Our Music God Is Glorified*** **Bicentennial Celebration Concert**

Sunday, September 17

4:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

Featuring Hamilton Stoddard and Bill Scobee, Organists

Sumter Brass Ensemble,

Kara Grover, Soprano Soloist

Lauren Decker and Gracie Reynolds, Violin

*A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow the Concert.*

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

Dr. Mark Durrett (2006-2012) will be our guest preacher.

## **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.

## **HELP IS NEEDED!**

We are seeking to employ a church custodian to assist Barry Gholson and primarily to clean preschool classrooms each afternoon. Please help us in this search. If you know someone who would be interested in this position, please contact John James or the church office.

## **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:** John Michael Osteen