

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



November 13, 2022

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Let There Be Joy*

Beatrice A. Miller

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**WELCOME**

John Jackson

**MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP**

Chuck Fienning

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader:* The word of God awaits us here; come to worship.  
The Holy Spirit welcomes us; gather to pray.

**People:** **From the routines and struggles of our lives, we come.  
Amid the stresses and worries of every day, we gather.**

*Leader:* Come to be renewed in the spirit of Christ;  
God is waiting to offer us a new life of freedom.

**People:** **In hope, we seek God's caring presence.  
In faith, we dare to trust God's steadfast love.**

*Leader:* As followers of Jesus Christ, we sing joyfully to our God.

**\* HYMN 301 (V. 1, 2, 5) *Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)***

TWO OAKS

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, you want us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing except losing you, and to lay our cares on you, knowing that you sustain us in life. Liberate us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties and grant us the poise and confidence to live the faith with gracious acts of kindness. We confess that too often we have focused our resources on personal ambitions and selfish desires. Teach us to cry out to you for mercy. Forgive our sins and free us for thankful living. As we claim the new life in the Spirit, may we follow the example of Jesus in living for others and in giving without limit. Hear us as we pray to our merciful God.**

*(Silence for Personal Confession)*

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

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Leader:* Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and sin that clings to closely and run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

**People:** **The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.  
In Christ we are a forgiven people.**

**\* 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

*(Children come forward during singing.)*

*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**

Micah 6:6-8

Edmunds DuBose

*(Pew Bible, pg. 866, Old Testament)*

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Luke 18:9-14

Rev. Bob Brearley

*(Pew Bible, pg. 81, New Testament)*

**SERMON**

*"The World's Most Popular Thanksgiving Prayer"*

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.**

**\* HYMN 693**

*Though I May Speak  
(The Gift of Love)*

GIFT OF LOVE

**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

*Shall We Gather at the River*  
Sean Hackett, Alto Saxophone Solo

Arr. by 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 711**

*Lord of All Good*

TOULON

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 543**

GREEN TYLER

*God, be the love to search and keep me;  
God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God, be the strength to now uphold me:  
O Christ, surround me: O Christ, surround me.*

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*Give To Our God Immortal*

Setting by Wilbur Held

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

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**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. If you have particular questions, please speak to Rev. Brearley.

### **ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING**

Elders: John Jackson, John James  
Assisting in Worship: John Jackson  
Deacons: Valerie James, Colin Davis  
Youth Liturgist: Edmunds DuBose  
Jr. Usher: Caroline Thames, Charlie Thames

### **ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

Elders: Ann Geddings, Bonnie Disney  
Assisting in Worship: Ann Geddings  
Deacons: Jim Alexander, Suzanne Wates  
Youth Liturgist: Madelynn Davis  
Jr. Usher: Adelaide McElveen, Mary Taylor Moorman

## **STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, November 20**

Please make your plans now to attend our Stewardship Celebration Luncheon on Sunday, November 20, immediately following morning worship. We will be featuring an old-fashioned fried chicken and barbeque dinner with a special guest - Bluegrass gospel group. There is no charge for this luncheon, but we would appreciate a head count so that we can get a good estimate of how much food to prepare. Please make a reservation by calling the church office (803-773-3814) or by signing up on one of the reservation sheets found on the tables outside the sanctuary and on the welcome desk outside the church office.



## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

A big thank you to all of you who were able to pack an Operation Christmas Child shoebox this year. These will be delivered to our local collection center this week where they will begin their journey! Please consider volunteering to spend an afternoon working at the regional Processing Center in Charlotte where the shoeboxes are checked and then boxed for distribution to over 170 countries around the world, bringing gifts to boys and girls and telling them about The Greatest Gift — Jesus! Our church has reserved two afternoons to work at the Processing Center: Wednesday, November 30, from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, December 3, from 2-6 p.m. Please sign up on one of the clipboards outside the Church Office. Karen Ingram (803-983-6299) and Ashley Blum (803-849-4406) can answer any questions. If your schedule changes after you sign up, you can cancel at any time.

## **CHRISTMAS CRECHE EXHIBIT**

**November 27 through December 12**

Explore the beauty of Jesus' birth depicted in our collection of nativity scenes from around the world during the first three weeks of Advent. Bring your Nativities to the Fellowship Hall for set-up from November 20-22 and collect them to take home on December 12.

## **IT'S TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS**

First Presbyterian will again decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias this year. Watch this week's Focus for order forms. All orders must be received no later than Thursday, December 1. Please note that no phone orders will be accepted.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

**Wednesday, December 7**

We will meet at the West Building and leave at 3:45 pm. to start our singing at Covenant Place at 4 p.m. We will then return to the West Building to have a light meal and then go in designated groups to homes of church members who could use some Christmas cheer. A light dinner will be provided and hot chocolate and apple cider and yummy sweet treats will await our returning carolers.

## **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:** Milo Abbott (Grandson of Norma Abbott), Wanda Casker,  
Priscilla Dickey, Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of Les Carpenter, who died November 10.