

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



April 30, 2023

OPENING VOLUNTARY

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

John James

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls us away from all that distracts us from our true purpose, that we may focus our thoughts on things that are lasting.

People: In God's presence we see our lives more clearly, and the broken pieces are put back together.

Leader: God calls us out of loneliness into a life of community.

People: **Worshiping together, caring about one another, we discover what it means to be faithful to our risen Lord and to our neighbor.**

Leader: We sing praises to God and rejoice in the life we share in Jesus Christ.

* HYMN OF PRAISE 35 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of truth, how difficult it is for us to be truthful before you. We want to hide our anxieties and fears, our resentments and self-centeredness. Cut through our evasions by the truth of your word and help us be honest. God of mercy, your hopes for us are greater than our own, yet our failures do not surprise you. Forgive us, we pray, even for the sins we cannot see or find too painful to confess. God of love, you accept us as we are, but you call us to grow toward Christ and to live his life. Teach us to affirm the good in our lives and to put behind us what is unworthy. We pray for renewal that we may find our home in your love and journey in confidence and joy all our days. Hear us as we draw near to you.

(Silent Reflection)

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

People: **May our lives declare the steadfast love of the Lord. Thanks be to God!**

* 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 preschool through 2nd grade are invited to Children in Worship. Parents can pick up their children from the third floor after worship.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 34:1-10 Cameron Coulter
(Pew Bible, pg. 508, Old Testament)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 24:13-35 Rev. Bob Brearley
(Pew Bible, pg. 90, New Testament)

SERMON "The Road Home" 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: We give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion this morning will be served by intinction. The congregation will come forward by the center aisle, receive the bread, the cup and partake at one of the stations and return to your seat by the side aisle. If you would rather partake in the pew, please raise your hand and Elders will come to you where you are seated.

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

Christ, Be Our Light!

Bernadette Farrell

(Theme song for the FPC 200th Anniversary Celebration)

Congregation sing on cue:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

* 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 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

SHOWALTER

BENEDICTION

Rev. Bob Brearley

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 837

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

* Please stand as you are able

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

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders: John James, Bonnie Disney
Assisting with Worship: John James
Deacons: Colin Davis, John Michael Osteen
Youth Liturgist: Cameron Coulter
Junior Ushers: Murrell Smith, Richard Dwight

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Ann Geddings, Linda Hogon
Assisting with Worship: Linda Hogon
Deacons: Jim Alexander, Suzanne Wates
Youth Liturgist: Grayson Alexander
Junior Ushers: Charlie Thames, Caroline Thames

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of the wedding of Maggie Lowery and Bruce Binney. The ceremony took place in the sanctuary last night.

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

A South Carolina Historical Marker commemorating our church and its 200-year history was unveiled this morning. A special thank you goes to all who took part in making this possible.

HOLY COW! NOW IS THE TIME!!

Today's the last day to submit your electronic congregational survey!

You can use 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. This will help our Pastor Nominating Committee as they continue their journey for our next installed pastor!



SUNDAY, MAY 7

Next Sunday, May 7. Mark Champagne, Director of Sumter United Ministries, will be our Guest Preacher and also share an update on several projects underway in the Sumter Community. Following church, you are invited to join us for a covered dish luncheon in the Fellowship Hall and view a display to learn about ways to participate in Local Missions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY-ELECTED OFFICERS

Elders, Class of 2026: Jim Alexander, Margy Carpenter, Kimberly Land, Becky Owens, Bob Smith

Deacons, Class of 2026: Mike Blanding, J.D. Dunn, Jimmy Ezell, Kenny Jordan, Joe McElveen

Trustee, Class of 2026: William Croft

At-large Members for Congregational Nominating Committee: Fred Brogdon, Jr., Ann Geddings, Jim McQuage, Scott Williams

JOYS AND CONCERNS

National Healthcare: Patti Croft

Sumter Grove Senior Living: Tom & Wanda Casker

Home: Lisa Bratton, Jackie Osteen, Milo Abbott (Grandson of Norma Abbott)