

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



August 15, 2021

OPENING VOLUNTARY

O, That I Had a Thousand Voices

Paul Manz

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

Debby Williams

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: For cool mornings and rumbling afternoon storms,
for amazing days and even more ordinary evenings,

People: We give thanks to God!

Leader: For the moments we bow reverently before God,
for the times when God blesses us with God's favor,

People: We give thanks to God!

Leader: For the wisdom to know the difference between right and wrong,
for the Spirit of grace who teaches us to fear our Lord,

People: We give thanks to God!

*** HYMN 307**

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We try to be so careful, God, yet we make so many mistakes. We think we are so wise, yet do not understand the simple wonder of a child. We spend so little time in your presence and ask why we do not know your dreams for us. We long to be good, upright people, but find our hearts tripping over the temptations of the world.

Have mercy, Lord, and be gracious to us. As you continue to teach us of your hopes, your dreams, your love for us, may we practice what we learn, as we follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen! *(Silent Reflection)*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Sing Twice)

LOE DI ÍSÁ

Jesus knows the inmost heart: nothing can be hidden.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our lives are laced with foolish mistakes and unwise choices, yet God extends grace and forgiveness to all.

People: Blessings be to God whose forgiveness and mercy is from everlasting to everlasting!

*** GLORIA PATRI**

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

BLESSING OF EDUCATORS A Litany for Schools, Educators, Staff, and Students

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 your calling and pledge to support you and others in our communities 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: Your church family believes that each of you is a gift from God filled with potential and possibility. We pray that as you learn and grow you will develop caring hearts and disciplined minds. We believe in you and care about your education.

People: **As your faith community, we pledge to be with you on your educational journey. We affirm that each of you is a precious gift from God. We will do all that is possible to ensure that your 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, even Jesus Christ-our Lord. Amen!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Kelly Hickey

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:26-31

Debby Williams

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 111

Rev. Joel Long

SERMON

*A Three-Part Mini Series
#2: "When Fear Is Near"*

Rev. Joel Long

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

(Excerpt from A Brief Statement of Faith, Book of Confessions-PCUSA)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem

Be Still My Soul/What a Friend We Have In Jesus
Ann Long, Soloist

Arr. Selah

* 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 735

I Need Thee Every Hour

NEED

* BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Christ, Surround Me

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

Praise My Soul, O Lord, Whom I Adore

Paul Manz

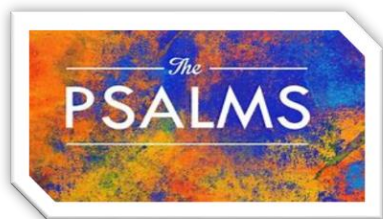
* Please stand as you are able

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A nursery is provided for children 2 years old and younger in Room 309 on the third floor of the Educational Building.

WELCOME!

We especially welcome those of you who are guests today. We invite you to fill out a Welcome card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering basket as you leave. We look forward to meeting you. If you have particular questions, please speak to Rev. Long.



Today, Rev. Long continues his three-part mini-series entitled, *Psalms For Summer*. Today's message is entitled, "*When Fear Is Near.*" The theme of the message deals with our call to fear God. The scriptural text for this morning is...

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111:10

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders: John Moorman, Debby Williams
Deacons: Andrew McCord, Lark Haynie

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Teacher: Kelly Hickey
Volunteer: Glenda Denny

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Whit Shaw, Dan Spencer
Deacons: Katherine Brogdon, Taylor Geddings

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Teacher: Missy Coulter
Volunteer: Liza Cooper

PARENT MEETING FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

For Parents of Rising 6th-12th grade

Next Sunday, August 22, at 4:00 p.m., parents are invited to join Kelly Hickey in the West Building for a time of open conversation about youth ministry and the future. We hope you will make every effort to join us. Any questions, please contact Kelly.

JOY RINGERS BEGIN FALL REHEARSALS

Our handbell choir, the Joy Ringers, will begin fall rehearsals on **August 18, from 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.** in the Session Room. If you are interested in joining, please contact Joni at jonibrown@fpcsumter.org or 803-773-3814. High schoolers and adults are welcome.

CHANCEL CHOIR RESUMES WEEKLY REHEARSALS

Regular Chancel Choir rehearsals will resume weekly rehearsals on **Wednesday, August 18, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** No audition is necessary. If you would like to join our choir family, please contact Joni Brown, Director of Music Ministry at jonibrown@fpcsumter.org or 803-773-3814 for more information.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Suzanna Foley, Bill Scobee, Tiny Owens, Tom Tindal (John Tindal's Brother)

Austin, TX: Robert Cain (George Cain's Father)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Cricket Edmunds on the death of his brother, Richard "Dick" Edmunds, who died August 10.