

First Presbyterian Church

Cleveland, GA

February 11, 2024



“Growing together by sharing Christ’s love”

**First Presbyterian Church
Transfiguration Sunday
February 11, 2024**

We Gather to Worship God

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God of power and wonder, we are awestruck by the glory of your presence. We rejoice at what we can see; we marvel at what we cannot see. You dazzle us with your brightness; you overshadow us as with a great cloud. Loving, protecting, challenging, nurturing, you strengthen and transform us. May we love and serve you in all that we are and do. Glory be to you. Amen.

PRELUDE TO WORSHIP “Crusaders Hymn” arr. E.L. Ashford

GREETING

As God spoke, calling light out of darkness,
God’s glory shines in the face of Jesus Christ.

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The glory of God shines
like a consuming fire.

**We have seen the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.**

The voice of God thunders
like a mighty storm.

**Out of the cloud, God speaks:
This is my beloved Son; listen to him!**

***GATHERING PRAYER**

***HYMN:**

“God Is Here!”

GtG #409

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all glory, beauty, and grace,
we have tried to hide from you—
to hide our faces, to hide our sins—
yet you have never hidden your love for us.**

**We have tried to search for you—
in temples, in clouds, on mountaintops—
yet you have already revealed yourself to us
in the face of Jesus Christ.**

**Forgive us, and transform us
so that our lives may shine with your glory, beauty, and grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**This is the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.**

***SONG OF RESPONSE**

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.**

We Hear the Word of God in Scripture and Song

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 4:3-10

Rachel Ficklin

ANTHEM

“Known Only to Him”

arr. Mary McDonald

GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

SERMON

“In Vessels of Clay”

Rev. Greg Loskoski

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

“Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory”

GtG #190

We Respond to the Word of God

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (11.4)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit...In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us the courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

OFFERING

HYMN FOR MEDITATION

“Moment by Moment”

arr. Cindy Berry

***SONG OF THANKSGIVING**

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you God of the universe...

For all these things we praise you,
joining our voices to the whole company of heaven,
who sing together:

HYMN: “Holy, Holy, Holy”

GtG #562

Praise to you for the gift of this holy meal...

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord’s Passover

from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

HYMN: “Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen”

GTG #563

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody begins with a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, a quarter note B-flat3, and a quarter note C4. The accompaniment starts with a half note G2, followed by a half note B-flat2, and a half note C3. The lyrics "Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain." are written below the treble staff.

O God of resurrection and new life...

Now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: "Amen"

GTG #564

A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Amen". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics "A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men." are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

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.**

Words of Institution

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

***HYMN:** "Sing Glory to the Name of God"

GtG #10

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** "Make Me a Servant" Kelly Willard

Make me a servant

Humble and meek

Lord let me lift up

Those who are weak

**And may the prayer
Of my heart always be
Make me a servant
Make me a servant
Make me a servant today**

POSTLUDE

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

arr. Carol Tornquist

Devotion for Discernment

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-16

Focus Text: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (v. 3).

Listening to God: I desire fellowship with you more than anything else in the universe. You often expect me to bless you most in your abundance. This is not the way I work. When I bless you in your abundance, you tend to forget me in fascination with my gifts. The gifts become an idol, and our relationship suffers. It is my way to bless you in your lack, failure, and emptiness. This way you don’t forget me, and I can work my will through you in amazing ways. Look for my hand moving in your life when you are feeling lonely, incompetent, and out of control. Blessed are you when you don’t run away from the means I use to draw you to me.

My Prayer:

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Souper Bowl of Caring Offering: Today, on this Super Bowl Sunday, we collect our annual Souper Bowl of Caring Offering. If your contribution is in the form of spare change or bills, please place your offering in the soup pot at the back of the sanctuary. If your contribution is a check, please write Souper Bowl of Caring on the memo line and place your check in the offering plate as it is passed. All contributions will benefit the White County Food Pantry.

Presbyterian Women: Our January Bible Study was canceled because of weather, so we will do chapters 4 and 5 on February 13 at 12:30, with Judy Winski as the study leader and Linda Leslie as hostess. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and join us. Dessert and drinks will be provided.

Ash Wednesday: Join us on February 14 for a pancake supper at 5:00 and Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00.

Presbyterian Men will have their lunch meeting on February 20 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

In-House Food Pantry: Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our in-house food pantry. Thank you. Thank you. **Thank you!**

The Week at a Glance

Monday, Feb 12th

Office Closed

Tuesday, Feb 13th

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

8:00 - 12:00 TGP

12:30 PW Bible Study

Wednesday, Feb 14th

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

8:00 - 12:00 TGP

12:30 Bible Study

2:00 Knit'n'Stitch

5:00 Pancake Supper

6:00 Ash Wednesday Service

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb 15th

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

8:00 - 12:00 TGP

Friday, Feb 16th

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

Sunday, Feb 18th

9:30 Choir Rehearsal

10:00 Coffee & Conversation

11:00 Worship Service

12:00 Session Meeting



If you'd like to provide flowers for Sunday service, please sign up in the upper narthex or contact the church office with the preferred date and the occasion you're commemorating.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Cleveland

Today we welcome Rev. Greg Loskoski to the pulpit. A graduate of Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina, and Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, Rev. Loskoski was ordained as an Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Valdosta, Georgia. Rev. Loskoski has also served congregations in Leesburg, Georgia, and Spartanburg, South Carolina.

In 1990, Rev. Loskoski accepted a call to Flemington Presbyterian Church in Hinesville, Georgia, where he served until his retirement on April 30, 2023. Upon retirement, Rev. Loskoski and his wife, Ellen, relocated to Blairsville, Georgia. They are the parents of four adult children.

Since 1998, Rev. Loskoski has also served as a volunteer chaplain with law enforcement, serving the Georgia State Patrol, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Natural Resources. As chaplain, his duties include victim assistance, delivering death notices, as well as ministering to law enforcement officers and their families. While in Hinesville, Rev. Loskoski helped coordinate the jail ministry for Liberty County.

Pastor:	Rev. Greg Loskoski
Director of Music:	David Arvold
Accompanist:	James Geiger
Organist	Rachel Ficklin
Usher:	Phil Baughman
Greeters:	Charles Massingale
	Hugh Walters
	Collin Armour
Liturgist:	Rachel Ficklin
Elder of the Month February:	Hugh Walters
Deacon of the Month February:	Bob Thomason

Members' Special Needs, at Home, or Hospitalized

Beth Everling
Tony Clark
Jeanette Wiley

Family and Friends

Lindalee Walters and her family
Pat Ellenburg, friend to Faye Boatenreiter
Erma Axelson, cousin to Penny Murdoch
Brenda Miller, sister to Linda Watkins
Rusty Whitt, friend of Hugh Walters
Diane & Mark Grainger

In the Military

Zack Ciriello Ciriello and Murdoch family
Greyson Ekdahl-McBride Ciriello and Murdoch family
Charlsie Maddox Maddox family
Tyler Lovell Royds family

THE SESSION

Reverend Burnetta Armour, Moderator

Bruce Morgan, Clerk of Session

Jim Hiers, Clerk of Session, Emeritus

CLASS OF 2024

Phil Baughman
Worship

Jim Crawford
Membership

CLASS OF 2025

Bruce Morgan
Administration & Finance

Hugh Walters
Building & Grounds

Elaine Wiegert
Missions and Discipleship

CLASS OF 2026

Judy Massingale
Membership

Nancy Webber
Communications

THE DIACONATE

Rita Morgan, Moderator

Judy Massingale, Session Liaison

CLASS OF 2024

Viveca Cooper
Debbie Wessely

CLASS OF 2025

Rita Morgan
Adele Page

CLASS OF 2026

Kim Ciriello
Bob Thomason



First Presbyterian Church

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