

First Presbyterian Church

Cleveland, GA

February 25, 2024



“Growing together by sharing Christ’s love”

**First Presbyterian Church
2nd Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024**

We Gather to Worship God

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We glory in your holy name, O God; we marvel at your wondrous works. You gathered a nation around you and called it blessed. You spared not your own Son, but sent him in the midst of a people to redeem them from sin. We gather this day to bear witness to your majesty. Our hearts rejoice in the promise of your covenant of love; our souls are cleansed by your mercy. Our bodies rise to bless your name; our voices sing your praises. Amen.

PRELUDE TO WORSHIP “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

arr. Mark Hayes

GREETING

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Based on Psalm 22

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters, and lead them in praise.
You did not despise the afflicted nor turn a deaf ear when they cried to you.
All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O God; all families shall worship the Lord.

We will tell of your deeds to those who follow, and proclaim your deliverance to all.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

***HYMN:** “The God of Abraham Praise ”

GtG #49

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of compassion and mercy,
look with favor upon us as we confess our sins.
Our faith is weak in the face of crisis.
Our hope collapses when we are threatened or maligned.
We seek our own safety and abandon those you love.
We trust in objects we can create and control.
We speak much and risk little.
But you, O God, have given your promise
that you will never forsake us.
Forgive our failure to take you at your word.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**In Jesus, we find forgiveness of our sins and the power to live a new life.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***SONG OF RESPONSE** “Hear the Good News of Salvation”

GtG #441 (v. 2)

**All the sins I have committed to my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing:
Jesus Christ, how much I love You! Jesus Christ, You Save from sin!
How I love You! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.**

We Hear the Word of God in Scripture and Song

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE

Romans 4:13-25

Dick Frost

ANTHEM

“My Savior Jesus”

Patrick Liebergen

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-22

SERMON

“Filling Empty Pots ”

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

GtG#39

We Respond to the Word of God

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Shorter Catechism (7.001)

What is the chief end of man?

Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

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.

OFFERING

HYMN FOR MEDITATION “Glorify Thy Name”

arr. Bruce Greer

SONG OF GRATITUDE

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

GtG #708(v. 1)

**We give thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***HYMN:**

“Standing on the Promises”

GtG #838

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

“Lord, Prepare Me” (Sanctuary)

Lord, Prepare Me

701

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

POSTLUDE

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

arr. Carol Tornquist

Devotion for Discernment

Scripture: Luke 15:11-24

Focus Text: “While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him” (v. 20).

Listening to God: Your unfaithfulness does not change my faithfulness to you. Your sin does not erase our relationship. Jesus died on a cross so that sin would not have the last word between us. Turn and take one step in my direction, and I will run to meet you. You cannot image how the angels rejoice when they see you turn for home.

My Prayer:



The flowers in the sanctuary are provided by Penny Murdoch in honor and memory of Bob Murdoch's birthday.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Thank you for all that contributed to **Souper Bowl of Caring**. We are able to donate \$580 to the White County Food Pantry.

Concerts On The Hill - First Presbyterian Church in **Clarksville** is presenting a series of special services during the liturgical season of Lent. Local musicians will be featured in a short program of music and scripture at noon on Wednesdays in their Fellowship Hall. The public is invited. Feb 28 at noon, featuring Helen Fincher Hardman on the organ.

PW Annual Gathering: The PW Annual Gathering will be on March 16 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Augusta. Daryl Mullee, a participant in the USA Mission Experience to the southern border in Arizona, will be the featured speaker. There is a signup sheet in the upper narthex.

The Week at a Glance

Monday, Feb 26th

Office Closed

Tuesday, Feb 27th

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

8:00 - 12:00 TGP

Wednesday, Feb 28th

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

8:00 - 12:00 TGP

12:30 Bible Study

2:00 Knit'n'Stitch

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb 29th

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

8:00 - 12:00 TGP

Friday, Mar 1

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

Sunday, Mar 3

9:30 Choir Rehearsal

10:00 Coffee & Conversation

11:00 Worship Service

Remember in Your Prayers

Family, Friends, and those Recovering will be kept on our pastoral care list for one month unless an extension of time is requested. Please notify the church office of any changes. **Bold** print indicates new prayer requests. You can call the church or send your new requests to info@fpcleveland.org.

Members' Special Needs, at Home, or Hospitalized

David and Clair Arvold and their family
Tony Clark

Family and Friends

Diane & Mark Grainger
Eddie Price, Brother-in-law to Donna Barrett
Pat Ellenburg, friend to Faye Boatenreiter
Erma Axelson, cousin to Penny Murdoch
Judy Lummus

In the Military

Zack Ciriello.....Ciriello and Murdoch family
Greyson Ekdahl-McBrideCiriello 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
Education 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

Pastor:

Director of Music:

Accompanist:

Organist

Usher:

Greeters:

Liturgist:

Elder of the Month February:

Deacon of the Month February:

Rev. Burnetta Armour

David Arvold

James Geiger

Rachel Ficklin

Becky Wiegert

Charles Massingale

Hugh Walters

Collin Armour

Dick Frost

Hugh Walters

Bob Thomason