

First Presbyterian Church

Cleveland, Georgia

August 18, 2024



Growing together by sharing Christ's love

First Presbyterian Church

13th Sunday After Pentecost

August 18, 2024

We Gather to Worship God

Prayer of Preparation for Worship

Dear Lord, give me eyes to see and ears to hear. I know there is light in the darkness that makes everything new. I know there is new life in suffering that opens a new earth for me. I know there is a joy beyond sorrow that rejuvenates my heart. Yes, Lord, I know that you are, that you act, that you love, that you indeed are Light, Life, and Truth. People, work, plans, projects, ideas, meetings, buildings, paintings, music, and literature all can only give me real joy and peace when I can see and hear them as reflections of your presence, your glory, your kingdom.

Let me then see and hear. Let me be so taken by what you show me and by what you say to me that your vision and hearing become my guide in life and impart meaning to all my concerns. Let me see and hear what is really real, and let me have the courage to keep unmasking the endless unrealities that disturb my life every day. Now I see only in a mirror, but one day, O Lord, I hope to see you face to face. Amen.

- *Henri Nouwen*

Prelude to Worship

“Thy Word”

(arr. Mark Hayes)

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

**Call to Worship*

John 6 and Luke 24:13-35

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life,”

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this

bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

In this place, in the breaking of bread, Christ makes himself known to us.

“Were our hearts not burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?”

Here, we can’t help but proclaim what God has done for us.

“Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.”

Let us do what we have come here to do.

Let us worship God!

**Gathering Prayer*

**Hymn*

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

GtG #15

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, God of righteousness and justice, we pray for your mercy.

Day after day, week after week, Sunday after Sunday, we claim to seek after God. Yet we continue to serve our own interests, and in so doing, blindly oppress our neighbors, both near and distant.

We confess that we use our acts of piety to make ourselves feel good about ourselves, to assure ourselves that we are Christians, to confidently claim that we are different from the rest of the world.

But, as Isaiah says, we use our piety — our fasts and even this time of praying — to turn our heads upwards to the heights of heaven, while we crush the people around us under our feet. We walk blindly, unaware of our destruction.

As you say in Isaiah ... “to cover them, and not to hide ourselves from the needy.”

We pray that in your mercy, O Lord, you will go before us, preparing our eyes and ears to contemplate our lives during this season so that we may discover the victims hidden from us, and repent of our sins. Then, O Lord, as your prophet declares, we may begin to see how your “*light shall break forth from our midst like the dawn,*” and your healing hands will work through ours. We will be given the profound gift of serving in your Kingdom, participating in your work of redemption, joining our lives to yours and tasting the fruit of eternal life.

Hold us in your grace, O God, that we may practice this kind of piety, this kind of fasting, that bears witness to the justice of your holy embrace with which you hold the whole world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear this good news! God does not forsake us. Even in our doubt and suffering Christ finds simple ways to reveal himself to us: in the breaking of bread, sharing a meal, killing time with strangers on a dirt road. God draws near to us, let us draw near too. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Song of Response*

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

GtG #582

We Hear the Word of God in Scripture and Song

Prayer of Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Mary Ann Clyburn

Anthem

“In the Beauty of Your Presence”

David Lantz III

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

Sermon

“Hidden in Plain Sight”

Lily Geiger

**Hymn*

“Great God of Every Blessing”

GtG #694

We Respond to the Word of God

**Affirmation of Faith*

Adapted from the Confession of 1967 (9.22)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His life as man involves the church in the common life of men. His service to men commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of mankind so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of men in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgement on man's inhumanity to man and the awful consequences of its own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of man's life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

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

Offertory: A Time for Giving and Reflection

"You Are My Hiding Place" (arr. Mark Hayes)

**Song of Gratitude*

"May the Peoples Praise You" (Refrain) FPC Songbook #48

**Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Hymn*

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

GtG #547

****Charge and Benediction***

****Benediction Response***

“They’ll Know We Are Christians” (Refrain) GtG #300

Postlude “To God Be the Glory” (arr. Fred Bock)

Lily Geiger is leading our worship today. She has served as an elder at FPC and is entering her sophomore year at Davidson University.

Devotion for Discernment

Scripture: Romans 5:12-21

Focus Text: “If, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who have received the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ” (v. 17).

Listening to God: I did not create and redeem you to go through life just barely scraping by. You have received an abundance of grace. It is yours to claim by prayer whenever you want. This grace will enable you to follow my path through any difficulty. This is victory, to follow my path through life no matter where it takes you. If you try to follow a path you make, you will end up bogged down in needless problems and woes. Or you will succeed (by human standards) and become something I never meant you to be. Stay close to me, and you will find abundant life.

My Prayer:

Remember in Your Prayers

Family and Friends

Bill Hayes, friend of Roy Ficklin

Chloe Maddox and Family

Douglas Jones Family, Betty Royd’s nephew

Christopher Buice

In the Military

Zack CirielloCiriello and Murdoch family

Greyson Ekdahl-McBrideCiriello and Murdoch family

Charlsie Maddox Maddox family

Tyler Lovell Royds family

The Week at a Glance

Monday, August 19

Office Closed

Tuesday, August 20

9 am - 1 pm: Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm: TGP

12 pm: PM Luncheon

Wednesday, August 21

9 am - 1 pm: Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm: TGP

12:30 pm: Bible Study

5:30 pm: Wednesday Night Supper

6:30 pm: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 22

9 am - 1 pm: Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm: TGP

Friday, August 23

9 am - 1 pm: Office Hours

Sunday, August 25

9:30 am: Choir Rehearsal

10 am: Coffee & Conversation

11 am: Worship Service

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Presbyterian Men will meet for lunch on Tuesday, August 20, at 12 noon.

Wednesday Night Supper - Join us on Wednesday, August 21, at 5:30 p.m. for a fun night of games and a pot luck dinner. We will play Phase 10, Mexican Dominoes, Scrabble, Mah Jongg, or you can bring your favorite game. (*No gambling, please!*) Please sign up in the Upper Narthex.

FPC will be hosting a **Crafts & Car Show** on Saturday, October 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are interested in having a craft table or showing off your car, please fill out and turn in a registration form and payment to the church office. Registration forms and flyers are in the Upper Narthex for you to share .

The **photo booth** will be open in Fellowship Hall following today's service for those who would like to update their photos for the church directory.



The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Becky Clark
in celebration of Tony's birthday
and their 60th anniversary.

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
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:	Rev. Burnetta Armour
Director of Music:	David Arvold
Accompanist:	James Geiger
Organist:	Rachel Ficklin
Usher:	Judy Massingale
Greeters:	Charles Massingale, Hugh Walters, Collin Armour
Liturgist:	Mary Ann Clyburn
Elder of the Month for August:	Phil Baughman
Deacon of the Month for August:	Debbie Wessely