

First Presbyterian Church

Cleveland, GA

October 27, 2024



Celebration of

Our Scottish Heritage

First Presbyterian Church

Kirkin' o' the Tartans

October 27, 2024

The People Gather

Thanks to Thee, O God, that I have risen today,
To the rising of this life itself;
May it be to Thine own glory, O God of every gift,
And to the glory of my soul likewise.

--from "Thanksgiving" in the *Carmina Gadelica*

**Processional*

Please stand when you hear the bagpipes play.

Welcome, Notices, and Introduction

**Blessing of the Tartans*

On behalf of all families represented here in the observance of this service, we raise these tartans before Almighty God. O God of all lands and seas for all generations, your eternal presence weaves through the fabric of heaven and earth. You clothe us in your mercy and cover us with your grace.

Like generations before us, we are sustained by your presence; and in your hands, we find refuge and strength. Bless, we pray, our lives and these gifts that we offer in your service.

God of all creation and creativity, we praise you for the beauty of tartans, and for the families they represent, of every tongue and tribe and nation.

We praise you, O God, for our rich traditions, and for the faith and wisdom given to us by generations past.

God of all, every place and every time, we praise you for the heritage of every land from which we or our ancestors came. We praise you, O God,

for the blessings of love received: from mothers and fathers, from friends and companions; from all who have drawn us close to your side. Now bind us together as one family in Christ. Amen.

****Opening Responses***

from the *Carmina Gadelica*

Come I this day to the Father,
Come I this day to the Son,
Come I to the Holy Spirit powerful;
Come I this day with God,
Come I this day with Christ,
Come I with the Spirit of kindly balm.
God, and Spirit, and Jesus,
From the crown of my head
To the soles of my feet;
Come I with my reputation,
Come I with my testimony,
Come I to Thee, Jesus;
Jesus, shelter me.

****Song***

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

GtG #12

Call to Prayer

We gather in God’s name;
we claim Christ’s promised presence.

Prayer of Confession and Restoration

Eternal Maker of the endless heavens,
lowly Christ, befriender of the changing earth,
Holy Spirit, wind over the flowing waters,
in earth, sea, and sky
you are ever present.
O hidden mystery
sun behind all suns,

**soul within all souls,
in everything we touch,
in everyone we meet
you are there,
and we give you thanks.**

But where we have not touched but trampled you in creation,
where we have not honored but avoided you in one another,
where we have not received but rejected your goodness,
forgive us, and hear our prayer for your pardon.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Know that God is good,
and that to those who are truly sorry
God forgives what is past
and enables us to begin again.

Once we were no people,
Once we were beyond God's mercy;
now that mercy has been given to us.

So let us live
as those who treasure God's costly generosity,
by safeguarding God's earth,
delighting in its people,
and loving our Maker
to whom be glory forever.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

GtG #581

**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.**

Reading

Psalter

Psalm 34:1-8

Phil Baughman

Anthem

“Celtic Praise Song” (arr. Joseph M. Martin)

Reading

Old Testament

Job 38: 25-27, 41: 1-8, 42: 1-6

For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Transforming Acceptance”

**Song*

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ”

GtG #182

**Affirmation of Faith*

Adapted from The Scots Confession (3.01)

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom alone we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust... By whom we confess and believe that all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.

Prayers of Concern

Response: God in your mercy

Bring healing, bring peace.

...we join our words to those he taught us to pray...

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.

A Minute for Stewardship

Offering

Song of Meditation

**Doxology* “For the Life You Have Given” GtG #717

**Prayer of Thanksgiving*

All that we have and all that we are
are God’s gifts to us.
So here we return a token of our wealth
asking that it and all we possess be used to God’s glory.
Blessed be God forever.

**Song* “Amazing Grace ” GtG #649

**Blessing*

**Blessing Response*

Postlude

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@fpccleveland.org.*

Members' Special Needs, at Home, or Hospitalized

Beth Chambers	Jim Hiers
Larry and Linda Hoppock	Bill Hines
Eric Wall	Betty Goswick
	Betty Sloop

Family and Friends

John Ekdahl and his wife, Brenda - Kim Ciriello's father
Chloe McNeely and Family - friend to Kim Ciriello
Jannie DeWaart and Family, Cees DeWaart passed away

In the Military

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

Announcements

A note about our Order of Worship: Our order of worship and many of the pieces of our liturgy today are adapted from the Sunday morning worship of the Iona Community as found in the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*.

A note about the Carmina Gadelica: During the Highland Clearances and the years that followed, measures were taken by the English government to eradicate Highland culture. Speaking Gaelic and wearing tartans were prohibited. Clans were broken up. The old traditions were looked down upon. However, many Highlanders secretly kept the traditions of their past. In the 19th century, Alexander Carmichael, a man who worked for the civil government in Customs and Excise, collected the prayers, incantations, stories, practices, and traditions of the Highlanders in their native tongue of Gaelic and published them in the *Carmina Gadelica: Hymns and Incantations*. The book preserved Scottish Highland culture for future generations.

Stewardship Scripture for this week:

Giving is both a duty and a delight, something we ought to do
and something we are pleased to do (Romans 15:25-26).



The flowers in the sanctuary are provided
by Rachel Romfo in honor of the
58th anniversary of our wedding.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday Bible Study - will meet at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, October 30. The fall study is *Disciple Fast Track, New Testament*. Bring your lunch and join us for this New Testament study. The study concludes on November 13.

Mah Jongg - will meet on Thursday, October 31, at 1 pm. Are you interested in learning how to play the fascinating game of American Mah Jongg? You are invited to join us at church every Thursday afternoon at 1pm. Call or text Becky at 706-973-9386 for more information.

Operation Christmas Child: This year a limited number of shoe boxes will be available. We will not have a packing party this year. Shoe boxes may be picked up starting November 3 and must be returned to the church no later than November 17. If you include a \$10 check in the shoe box, please make the check out to Samaritan's Purse. If you make the checkout to FPC Cleveland, please drop it in the offering plate and we will make sure the money gets to Samaritan's Purse.

Presbyterian Women - will have their Coordinating Team meeting on Wednesday, November 6, at 2 pm.

Knit'n'Stitch will meet on Wednesday, November 6, following the PW CT meeting. We will be getting our wares ready for the Christmas Market at North Hall Community Center on Friday and Saturday, November 8-9, from 1 pm - 7pm.

Upcoming Events

PW Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, November 12 at 12:30 pm. Please read chapter 6.

White Christmas - Again, this year, we will be working with Family Connections to help make Christmas a joyous event for families in White County. The Angel Tree will be available on November 17. When you select an Angel from the tree, please place an Angel with your name in the basket provided. The gifts that you purchased should be returned to the church no later than December 8. **Unwrapped gifts** should be in one bag per child (should you choose gifts for more than one child) and labeled with the child's name.

Advent Bible Study: Yes, Advent Bible Study! This year we will be studying *On the Way to Bethlehem* by Rob Fuquay. We will meet on Wednesdays at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall from November 27 through December 18. If you would like for us to purchase a book for you, please sign up on the sheet in the Upper Narthex.

The Week at a Glance

Monday, October 28

Office Closed

Tuesday, October 29

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

Wednesday, October 30

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

12:30 pm Bible Study

2 pm Knit'n'Stitch

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 31

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

Friday, November 1

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

Sunday, November 3

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10 am Coffee & Conversation

11 am Worship Service

Pastor:	Rev. Burnetta Armour
Director of Music:	David Arvold
Accompanist:	James Geiger
Organist:	Rachel Ficklin
Usher:	Penny Murdoch
Greeters:	Charles Massingale, Hugh Walters, Collin Armour
Liturgist:	Phil Baughman
Elder of the Month for October:	Jim Crawford
Deacon of the Month for October:	Viveca Cooper

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