

First Presbyterian Church

Serving Christ in Milledgeville

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

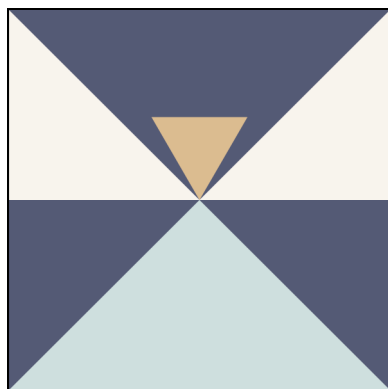
478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgevilleorg

Like us on Facebook



FOR THE **BE**GINNING

— YOU ARE A BLESSING —



This quilt square is a simplified abstract image of the angel Gabriel who tells Mary she is “blessed among women.”

**Followers of Christ, called to serve our community
and be an actively-engaging light to the world.**

We live into our faith, inspired by our worship, encouraged by our fellowship, empowered by our studies. As a Matthew 25 Congregation, we answer the call to provide food and shelter to those in need. As a More Light Presbyterians Congregation, we provide a safe and affirming worshiping community for LGBTQIA+ persons, celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person as they seek a home for their faith and confidence in the promises of God for them.

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

David Cherwien

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are delighted that you have joined us this Lord's Day. If you'd like to learn more about our mission and ministry, we invite you to speak to Rev. Susan. Restrooms & changing table are at the end of the hall to the left. Thank you for being with us!

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

In case no one ever told you

Praxis Pietatis Melica

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God says,

Congregation: "Do not be afraid."

Leader: God says,

Congregation: "I have called you by name."

Leader: God says,

Congregation: "I will be with you."

Leader: God says,

Congregation: "You are precious and honored in my sight."

Leader: At the beginning of this season,

Congregation: at the start of this week,

Leader: at the top of this hour,

Congregation: may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.

Let us worship our Holy God!

CHILDREN'S TIME

Gloria Burns

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Congregation: Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing!

Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.

Leader: Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

Congregation: May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.

Leader: May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

*HYMN 76

Do not Be Afraid

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things: that she is highly favored, and that she is going to have a child. Mary's response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks, "How can this be?" How can God's mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me? Regardless of the week we've had, this good news never changes. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God's mercy leave you awestruck. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Affirming God, your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

You are the masterpiece

Praxis Pietatis Melica

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, I don't know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are. I don't know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God. I don't know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah: God says,

Congregation: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

HYMN NO. 581

***Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end!
Amen, amen***

THE PEACE

HEARING GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

The Angel Gabriel

arr. Richard Shephard

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Affirming God, How often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it? How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear? Open our hearts. Create space in us to not only hear these words, but to believe the good news tucked between them. We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now. With hope and curiosity, we listen. With hope and curiosity, we dare to begin again. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 43:1-7
GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

Pew Bible Page #
OT P 672
NT P 56

SERMON

Reverend Susan Balfour

THE LORD'S SUPPER

*HYMN 505

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING (see insert)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting. So in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough. Thanks be to God! Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Joel Burns

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God who has so richly blessed us. You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR Code in your bulletin or visit our website at fpcmilledgeville.org.



Scan. Pay. Go.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Generous and loving God, we do thank you for the many blessings in our lives. As you have so freely given your love in Jesus Christ, may we freely share your love with others through these gifts we offer today. May they be signs of our devotion to you and our willingness to love in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Go in Peace. AMEN!

CHORAL BENEDICTION *You are uniquely created for love*

Praxis Pietatis Melica

POSTLUDE

People, Look East

James Mansfield

Liturgy written by Sarah Are Speed, Sanctified Art

The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

We give thanks for Jenny Moore as she joins us at the organ bench this morning.



CHURCH FAMILY:

Wesley Applebury, cancer recurrence and treatment, attending seminary in Atlanta,
**Columbia Theological Seminary, D. Wesley Applebury, Box 289, 701 S. Columbia Dr.,
Decatur, GA 30030**

Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns

LIMITED MOBILITY

Ellen Thompson, waiting on double hip replacement

Helen Danuser

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues

Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home

Julie Balfour, Susan Balfour's sister, ongoing health issues

Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns

Nick Carruthers, Sunda Coleman's great nephew, recovering from car accident in hospital

Blake Connly, Mary Lucik's great grandson, ongoing health concerns

Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis

Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer

Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer

Kathy Hall, Gini Wilkerson's mother, knee replacement surgery

Marshall Hodgman, Donna Gautier's son, recovering from heart surgery at home

Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melenoma

Velma Kelley, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns

Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns

Donald Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, recovering from back surgery

Charles Morgan, Jenifer Flory's father, in rehab center following surgery

Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon

Paul Orman, Barbra Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns

Ambriea Pearson, Sunda Coleman's granddaughter, ongoing health concerns

Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis

Shaylee Pearson, Sunda's great-granddaughter, ongoing health concerns

Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns

Gloria Roberts, Bill Werts' cousin, recovering from a traumatic fall

Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis

Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns

Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns

Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments

Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care

Wayne Woodard, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING

George and Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549

Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Nancy Holbrook, The Dublin Place, 504 Fire Tower Rd, Dublin GA 31021



Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Runette Pounds, Oaks at Lake Wildwood, Rm 109, 6191 Peake Rd, Macon, GA 31220


Suzy Smith, Savannah Court 1061 Willow Run Rd., Unit 4, Greensboro, GA 30642

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 1- December 8

Today	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship with communion
	12:00	Youth Group
	1:00	The Bridge UMC Worship
Monday	7:00	MSG
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
Wednesday	6:30	Pot Luck and Bible Study
	6:30	The Bridge UMC Bible Study
Saturday	7:00	MSG
Sunday	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Joint Worship Service & Joy Gift Play
	12:00	Chili Cookoff
	5:00	Presbyterian Women Bible Study
	7:30	MSG Christmas Concert

 <p>PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE</p> <p>OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE</p>		<p>To give by phone, call 800-872-3283. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to: Presbyterian Church (USA), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700</p>
---	--	--

Offerings in November	\$20,769.65
Anticipated November expenses:	\$18,290.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)	

	<p>Join us for worship in-person, online at Facebook Live or on the radio at 102.3 WKZR radio every week.</p> <p>Sunday: 9:30AM Zoom Sunday School Class, we are studying <i>The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann</i> www.Zoom.com, Meeting ID: 871 5078 2729 Passcode: 881336</p> <p>Fellowship Sunday School Class, studying <i>Final Words From the Cross</i> by Adam Hamilton, meeting in the Parlor Room</p> <p>10:15AM Children's Sunday School Class, singing, crafts and stories, meeting in the Craft Room Upstairs</p> <p>Wednesday: 6:30PM Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study, studying the Letter to the Romans, Meeting in the Fellowship Hall</p>
---	--

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

552

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
F C F B^b C F

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) (D/F#) (F#m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am B^b C Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: American folk melody; adapt. Marcia Pruner, 1980; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.


LAND OF REST

According to Christ's commandment: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory...

SERVICE MUSIC


553 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G)(A) (D) (A) (D/F#)(F#m)
F C F B^b C F C F/A Am



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A)(Bm) (G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A)(Dsus)(D)
B^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

LAND OF REST

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

In Case No One Ever Told You

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music from the *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, 1668



In case no one e - ver told you or
You are the mas - ter - piece born of God's
You are u - nique - ly cre - a - ted for

4



you have for - got - ten You are a bless - ing and
i - ma - gin - a - tion E - ven the parts that are
love and be - long - ing For - cing your - self to be

9



have been since you were be - got - ten
cry - ing out for res - tor - a - tion
some - one you're not is ex - haus - ting

13



Fash - ioned from love Sent to the earth from a - bove
All that you are Born out of star - dust and scars
You are a gift There is no box you must fit

18



You're no - thing short of a god - send
Re - flects God's per - fect cre - a - tion
Let your be - lov - ed - ness blos - som

Do Not Be Afraid 76

Refrain

All E B C#m G D/F# E B

Do not be a - fraid, for I am with you. Cho - sen and be -

C#m D Bm7 Dmaj7 E B C#m

loved, you are my own. Do not be a - fraid, for I have re -

E7 D Bm7 C Em Am7 Bm7 E *Last time*

deemed you: by your name I called you for my own.

Leader or All D Bm7 E

1 ♪ Look up, a new thing I am do - ing;
 2 I am God, who blots out your trans - gres - sions;
 3 ♪ The Lord, the Ho - ly One of Is - rael

D Bm7 E

♪ it springs forth; ♪ look and see it grow.
 for my own sake I do not chide or blame.
 ♪ has prom - ised to lead us on our way,

F G

♪ Through wil - der - ness I'll make a lev - el high - way;
 On - ly this much I ask, that you love me
 ♪ and we who love and wor - ship God our Mak - er

F Dm7 Bsus B *to Refrain*

through des - erts, make streams and riv - ers flow.
 and seek me and hon - or my name.
 will lis - ten to hear the Spir - it say:

Several verses from Isaiah 43 are paraphrased here: 1b (refrain), 19 (stanza 1), 25 (stanza 2). That prophetic oracle of salvation is rooted in the assurance of God's presence with the People of the Covenant. They, in turn, are called to seek God's will and proclaim God's power.

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing 505

The Feast Is Ready



1 The trum-pets sound; the an - gels sing; the feast is
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; O taste the
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heaven are o - pen wide,
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
 poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heaven and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.

Refrain



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

This celebratory gathering song is cast in a highly rhythmic praise and worship style and brings together many images associated with the eucharistic feast. Despite its new sound, its emphasis on communion as a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet is a very traditional theme.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

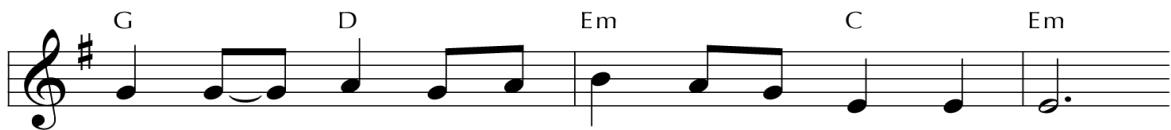
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



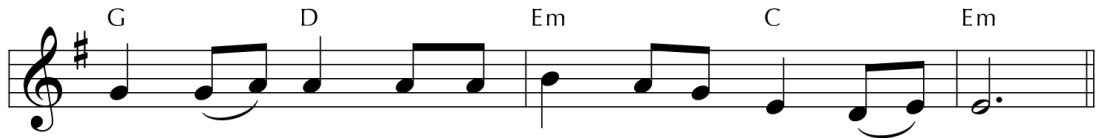
You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

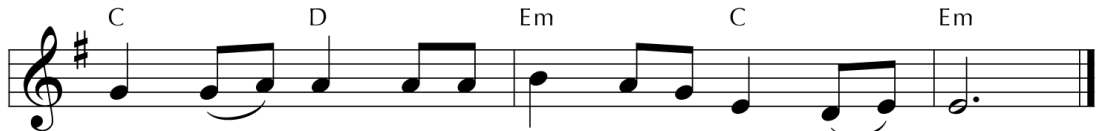
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.