



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

MARCH 19, 2023
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC

AGNUS DEI

MICHAEL W SMITH

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness;
All: **For those who follow me will have the light of life.**

✦HYMN 805

COME, SING TO GOD

ELLACOMBE

✦CALL TO CONFESSION

✦PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to the paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

✦RESPONSE 423 V. 1

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God
**Create in me a clean heart,
O God;
create in me a clean heart,
O God; Create in me a clean heart,
O God,
and renew a right spirit
within me.**

SARADAY

✦ Please rise in body or spirit.

✠ **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Amen

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH (11:00)

DR. DUDLEY WEAVER

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE LESSON

EXODUS 5:8-14

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 9:1-41

SERMON

“OUT OF DARKNESS LIGHT”

DR. DUDLEY WEAVER

RESPONDING

SILENT REFLECTION

✠ **HYMN 177**

I WILL COME TO YOU

YOU ARE MINE

✠ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

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

Please sign and pass the friendship register on your pew during this time.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

TRUST IN YOU

LAUREN DAIGLE, MICHAEL FARREN,
AND PAUL MABURY

Water to Wine

✠ **CELEBRATION OF GIVING**

HYMN 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

✠ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SENDING

✠ **HYMN 816 v. 1**

IF THOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE THEE

WER NUR DEN LIEBE GOTT

✠ **INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

✠ **BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

CHANGE MY HEART O GOD

CHANGE MY HEART

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

As a community of those who are actively seeking ways to continue:

... writing a new chapter in an old story ...

First Presbyterian Church of Aiken extends a simple and unqualified welcome, in Christ's name, to all who seek to join us. We affirm that there can be no exclusiveness within the body of Christ, and therefore we invite all children of God into our worship, study, mission, and fellowship as we together seek ways to live in grace and respond with gratitude.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the staff of First Presbyterian Church by Amy and Rob Gray.

Liturgist/Lay Reader:

8:45 AM - Chick Warner

11:00 AM - Margot Salzman

Head Usher:

8:45 AM - Wayne and Sharon Rickman

11:00 AM - Covenant Group members

Large print hymnals, bulletins, and wireless assisted hearing receivers are available from any usher.

Childcare is available during worship for our youngest members ages infant to 5 years old. Room 6 is for ages 0-2 and room 8 is for ages 3-5.

Worship Bags are available in the Narthex for children through 5th grade.

Offering system



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROOTED DINNER - The Congregational Life Committee invites everyone to ROOTED, on Wednesday, March 22 from 5:30-7:00 PM, to grow in knowledge while you build community with your fellow church members. The menu will be ham, mac & cheese, green beans, salad, rolls, and a dessert. Price will be \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Please RSVP to the Church by Monday, March 20th.

Reception - A reception will be held after the 11:00 AM worship service on March 26, 2023, to welcome the Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde to our church.

Morning Prayer - Join us for quiet prayer and participation at the Lord's table as we gather every Wednesday at 8:45 AM in the Narthex.

ACTS - March's item is soap; April's it is peanut butter.

Easter Lilies - We will have Easter lilies for purchase, with a suggested \$25 minimum for each memorial or gift. Donors will be listed on an insert to be placed in the Easter worship bulletin. Donor forms are available in the church office, and on the church website. Completed forms are due by April 2nd.

Sanctuary Flowers - Please remember that we have openings for flower dedications in April for those wishing to remember or honor someone special. For more information, please contact: Sharon Stone at adminassist@aikenpresbyterian.org.

CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

STAFF	TRUSTEES	THE SESSION	THE BOARD OF DEACONS
Director of Music Media Specialist Organist/Accompanist Preschool Director Financial Secretary Administrative Assistant Interim Youth Coordinator Interim Director of Finance	Daniel Hamilton Joanna Hamilton Kathy Clark Mary Maddrey Debby Dugan Sharon Stone Mary Fran Crook Cassie Buchanan	Susan Budney, Clerk Moderator Class of 2024 Kim Abney Susan Budney Mike Loftus Paula Luther Robert Girardeau Jr. Bailey Shafer Mary Helen Simons	Class of 2024 Robin Callicott Chuck Dynarski Jennifer Feraldi Katie Kucharski Jerry Shumpert Chick Warner Class of 2026 Trey Brown Suzanne McLeod Melissa Patterson Graham Reynolds Wayne Rickman Class of 2024 Liz Cox Bob Hinds Nancy Thorne Class of 2025 Dave Clerc Mary Fran Crook Kathy Kent Class of 2026 Alicia Nyerges Anne Elkins Barbara Bower

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation.