



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

MARCH 26, 2023
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC

MERCIFUL GOD
Sanctuary Choir

ALONSO

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Out of the depths we cry to the Lord.

All: In the valley of death we await God's Word.

One: Jesus says: I am the resurrection and the life.

All: Let us turn to him in faith and live.

✠HYMN 366

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

HYFRYDOL

✠CALL TO CONFESSION

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of great mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you. We speak as though hope is lost, even while you are still speaking. We act as though death is the end, even while you are still acting. By your steadfast love, please forgive us. Create a clean heart within us, teach us your holy way, and restore the joy of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

✠Please rise in body or spirit.

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.**

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of
Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: **Thanks be to God, and amen.**

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH (11:00)

Joanna Hamilton & Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

SECOND LESSON

JOHN 11:1-45

SERMON

New Beginnings

Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde

RESPONDING

SILENT REFLECTION

✠HYMN 728

SOMEBODY'S KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR

SOMEBODY'S KNOCKING

✠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

PSALM 27
(8:45) Daniel Hamilton
(11:00) Sanctuary Choir

SORENSEN

✠ CELEBRATION OF GIVING

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

HYMN 607

✠ 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

FUGUE IN G MAJOR

BACH

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 flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by John and Gayle Gordon in loving memory of John's mother: Mrs. Jean Gordon.

Liturgist/Lay Reader:

8:45 AM - Ruth Bankes

11:00 AM - Michael Kucharski

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

Reception - A reception will be held today after the 11:00 AM worship service, to welcome the Erde family to our church.

JAM - 1st-5th grade children will meet today from 4:30-6:00 PM in Room 3.

Middle and Senior High - We will meet today, March 26th from 4:30-6:00 PM in Room 1 and Room 2. We will be finishing Youth Sunday planning, as well as stuff Easter Eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt!

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 is peanut butter.

Easter Lilies - We have Easter lilies available 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 and May 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
Head of Staff	Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde	Susan Budney, Clerk	Class of 2024 Liz Cox
Director of Music	Daniel Hamilton	Rev. Dr.	Bob Hinds
Media Specialist	Joanna Hamilton	Christopher Erde, Moderator	Nancy Thorne
Organist/Accompanist	Kathy Clark	Class of 2024 Kim Abney	Class of 2025 Dave Clerc
Preschool Director	Mary Maddrey	Susan Budney	Mary Fran Crook
Financial Secretary	Debby Dugan	Mike Loftus	Kathy Kent
Administrative Assistant	Sharon Stone	Paula Luther	Class of 2026 Alicia Nyerges
Interim Youth Coordinator	Mary Fran Crook	Robert Girardeau Jr.	Anne Elkins
Interim Director of Finance	Cassie Buchanan	Bailey Shafer	Barbara Bower
		Mary Helen Simons	

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation.