



Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Gathering As God's Beloved People

## Gathering Music

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*  
*Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him*  
*O for a Thousand Tongues*

David Cherwien  
Mathew F. Walicke  
Carl G. Glazer

## Prelude

*My Savior's Love*

Marilyn Arison

## Chiming of the Hour

## Welcome and Announcements

### ✦ Call to Worship

Psalm 23

We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters,  
**and gives us refreshment of soul.**

Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,  
**so that the name of God will be glorified.**

Though all manner of evil befall us, we will not be afraid,  
**for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.**

We are never away from the love and mercy of the Lord,  
**and we shall be with him for ever and ever. Amen!**

### ✦ Hymn 39

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

### ✦ Call to Confession

### ✦ Community Confession

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us.

**But God, do you mean I have to love everyone?**

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us.

**But God, do I have to every day or is Sunday enough?**

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us.

**But God, I am already devoted to so many other things that take my time and attention.**

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us.

**But God, that means I have to change some of my ways, my thoughts, my perspectives,  
my comforts, even my actions.**

May it be so. **Amen.**

### ✦ Hymn 695

*Change My Heart, O God*

CHANGE MY HEART

### ✦ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

## ✦ Passing of the Peace



### Proclaiming the Word

#### Wondering with God's Children

#### Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

#### Scripture Reading

Acts 9:36-43

#### Message

*Surprise! An Astonishing Imitation*

Reverend Neeley Rentz Lane



### Responding to the Word

#### ✦ Hymn

*For All the Faithful Women*

AURELIA

***For all the faithful women who served in days of old,  
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.  
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.  
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.***

***We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly  
while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;  
For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,  
who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.***

***We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan  
while Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.  
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb  
and found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.***

***Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.  
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.  
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,  
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.***

#### ✦ Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

Mary Lindsey Whisnant

**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 sitteth 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.

## Confirmation of Cotton Young

### Hymn 488

*I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*

WATERLIFE

### Prayers of the People

### Offering Our Gifts

### Offertory

*We Are An Offering*

OFFERING

### ✦Response

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)*

OLD HUNDREDTH

***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 Gratitude

Cotton Young



## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### Invitation to the Table

*We Gather Here in Jesus' Name*

COME, SHARE THE LORD

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving *and* The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**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.**

### Words of Institution

Church, you are invited to partake with bread and cup upon hearing the words "The gifts of God for the people of God." We recognize Christ is present with us as the Body of Christ in our sanctuary and in our homes this day. May the Holy Spirit dwell with you as we participate in the sacrament of communion together. One bread, one body!

*(instructions for in-person communion are provided for you with your individual communion elements.)*

### Prayer After Communion



## Being the Church in the World

✦ **Hymn 515**

*I Come With Joy*

DOVE OF PEACE

✦ **Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Sinfonia from the Cantata "Wir Danken Dir Gott"*

J.S. Bach



## Worship Notes

The instrumental postlude is an integral part of the act of worship, offered to assist our prayer and contemplation, to kindle our imaginations, to reflect on words just spoken, and to connect us to God; therefore, we ask that you remain seated until the postlude has concluded.

Musical offerings are an act of worship. If you wish to express thanks to God at the conclusion of a musical offering, feel free to offer a hearty "Amen," a Biblical way of saying "so be it!" and affirming spiritual gifts.

Music printed in our bulletin and streamed online is covered by One License # A-728738 authorizing their use.

### Flower Donation

The flowers in the sanctuary this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in honor of Judy Davis on Mother's Day by her children, Rachel Davis Elledge and Bert Davis, and their families including six grandchildren.

### Contact Cards

There are new Contact Cards in each pew. We ask that all visitors sign in each week and place the Contact Card in the offering plate. If you are a visitor or interested in church membership, signing in gives a way to contact you. Members may also choose to fill out a contact card if their contact information has changed or if they would like to get more involved in the church. Please indicate if you are open to options or are drawn to a certain form of involvement.

### Worship Bags for Children

The bags are labeled with children's name tags clipped to their bag, and they are invited to use the same bag each time they come to worship. For our visitors and newcomers, we have bags labeled "Child of God." The bags are available in the narthex.

### Nursery for Children

Nursery care is available for children newborn through first grade. Our nursery is located on the lower level. Please ask an usher to direct you. Children are also welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pew.

### Serving Today

**Tech Team** | Brad Phillips, Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell  
**Acolyte** | Kately Lane    **Liturgist** | Mary Lindsey Whisnant    **Usher Chair** | Ed Perkerson



## Sermon Series

The women at the empty tomb experienced the ultimate surprise discovering the Lord had Risen, indeed! This element of the surprise of God continues throughout our biblical story. For the next several weeks, we will explore together the surprising acts of God through our study of Acts in worship. We will come to welcome an unpredictable God and to expect the unexpected! We will witness Peter having a change of heart. We will be surprised by a holy friendship between Ananias and Saul. We will meet Tabitha and Lydia this Eastertide. Our study on the book of Acts will conclude on the day of Pentecost! Surprise!

*"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:4 NRSV)*

You are invited to explore the unlikely, ironic, and surprising stories in the book of Acts this May!



## Worship Music

### **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

This text is one of the few gospel hymns that address God specifically. It was written by Thomas Obediah Chisholm and is based on Lamentations 3:22-23. It was first published in Runyan's private song pamphlet.

Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1866-1960) was born in a log cabin near Franklin, Kentucky, and at 16 taught in the country school where he received his education. He became associate editor of a weekly, *The Franklin Favorite* (1887). After experiencing a conversion during a revival meeting conducted by H.C. Morrison, he moved to Louisville, Kentucky to become editor and business manager of Morrison's *Pentecostal Herald*. Chisholm was ordained into the Methodist ministry when he was 36. Shortly after his ordination, his health failed and he moved to Winona Lake, Indiana (1909), and then Vineland, New Jersey, where he opened an insurance office. He began writing poetry and in 1923 sent a number of poems to William M. Runyan, a friend and colleague in ministry. He retired from the insurance business in 195 and moved to a Methodist retirement home in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. Chisholm wrote more than 1,200 sacred poems.

FAITHFULLNESS was composed by Runyan for this text at the request of Chisholm. He wrote that the poem held such an appeal he prayed his tune might "carry its message in a worthy way." William Marion Runyan (1870-1957) was a Methodist minister and music editor, long associated with the Moody Bible Institute. He grew up in Kansas and was ordained at 21. He served several pastorates totaling 12 years. In 1903, Runyan was appointed evangelist for the Central Kansas Methodist Conference. For a time, he was associated with John Brown University, in Arkansas, and Hope Publishing Company. He died at the age of 87.

### **For All the Faithful Women**

Rev. Dr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., (1923-2007). Born in Clarion, Pennsylvania, he lived most of his life in Gettysburg. He served as President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. He was a graduate of Susquehanna University and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. He received additional advanced degrees from Union Theological Seminary in New York and a doctoral degree at Southern California School of Theology at Claremont. He retired in 1989. Rev. Dr. Stuempfle was the author of several books and numerous articles and lectures on preaching, history, and theology. He was also among the most honored and respected hymn writers of the 20th and 21st centuries. He was known for his leadership in community and civic projects. Always taking an active stance on social issues, he participated in the creation of day care centers, served on the

Gettysburg interchurch social action committee, helped create and support prison ministries and a homeless shelter, and tutored young people in the afterschool program of Christ Lutheran Church, where he was a long-time member.

### **I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry**

Prior to the merger of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Media Services Center of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) employed John Ylvisaker to write original compositions for its resources. During 1985, the ALC was doing a series on baptism called "Reflections." John began work on this song before any footage for the video had been shot. When the media team met to put the music with the video for the first time, it became obvious that the dance-like beat and fast rhythm of the music did not match the gentle scenes being depicted on the screen. The lyrics were on target, but not the music. As he left the studio that day, John received the suggestion to "take it home and personalize it." Thus began the most arduous task any composer can face - changing a completed work into something else; however, the original "false labor" later gave way to the "birth" of Boring Cry, which is now included in songbooks and hymnals around the world. The first version of the music for Boring Cry later became I Will Dance With Jesus. John Ylvisaker, the "Bob Dylan of Lutheranism" is best known for the writing of this hymn. He is renowned for his paraphrase of biblical text and theological astuteness, as well as his ability to recognize or write tunes people in the pew can readily sing.

### **We Are An Offering**

Not "we give an offering," but "we are an offering." With a rising sense of hope and expectation, we acknowledge who we are - in Christ - and declare our availability to serve God's purposes in this world.

### **Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

This form of the Doxology was written by Neil Weatherhogg in 1988. It is an inclusive language versification originally used by the congregation of Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Kentucky, where he is pastor and head of staff. This is the first published form of the text.

OLD HUNDREDTH, from the Genevan Psalter (1551), appears here with an English version of the last musical phrase. Several variations in the rhythm and harmonization of the tune are in common usage.

### **Come, Share the Lord**

Bryan Jeffrey Leech was born in Middlesex, England in 1931. He came to the United States in 1955 and studied at Barrington College and North Park Seminary. He was ordained in 1961 and served in the Covenant Church. He composed more than 500 worship songs.

### **I Come With Joy**

Brown Wren wrote this text as a summation of a series of sermons to his congregation at Hockley on the meaning of Communion (1968). Important theological themes are explained using simple straightforward words. There is a general move from the individual ("I come") to the corporate ("together met, together bound"). Stanza 4 relates Christ's real presence and the communal nature of worship.

DOVE OF PEACE is an American folk melody first published in William Walker's *Southern Harmony*. The present arrangement is by Austin C. Lovelace and is an adaptation of his 1973 anthem. Austin Cole Lovelace was born in 1919 in Rutherfordton, North Carolina, and was educated at High Point College and Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music, New York City. He has enjoyed a career as a music educator, teaching at major universities in five different states. He has served as minister of music in Methodist and Presbyterian churches nationally. He retired in 1986 after 52 years in church music.



# Worship Art

The children of our church are learning about the liturgical seasons by exploring worship art. The butterflies in worship this morning were crafted by our children. Although butterflies in the Bible aren't mentioned explicitly, their lifecycle is a remarkable illustration from nature of the transforming work of Jesus Christ in the lives of believers.

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*  
(2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

The word transform is metamorpho in Greek, from which we get the English term metamorphosis. It describes the type of change a caterpillar undergoes to become a butterfly. The same word is used to explain Christ's transfiguration. The idea conveys a radical change or complete transformation. At Jesus' transfiguration, his physical appearance was temporarily metamorphosed from an ordinary human to a divine being in all his glory.

*"As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light."* (Matthew 17:2, NIV)



## Want to Get Involved?

Reach out to become a more involved member of the church! We always have something happening that we would love for you to be a part of. You could be an integrated member of our church by volunteering with our witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or any number of activities.

Reach out to the office and we'll point you in the right direction!

Email: [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or call: 770-786-7321

## Deacons

Day Kennon (2022)  
Eleanor Scarborough (2023)  
Darcel Tabb (2024)  
Alice Walker (2022)

## Session

**Class of 2022**  
Aubrey Evans  
John McCarthy  
Stephanie Scarborough  
Trista Hooten Wilson

**Class of 2023**  
Stan Hall  
Louly Hay Kapp  
Ed Perkerson  
Bob Tabb

**Class of 2024**  
Billy Fortson  
Pat Harper  
Brad Phillips  
Curtis Watson

## Mission Statement

Covington First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.

## First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane  
Erin Morgan  
Alicia Taylor  
Alice Walker  
Catherine Laseter  
Peni Kehoe

*Senior Pastor*  
*Associate Pastor*  
*Director of Music & Worship Arts*  
CAGO, AAGO *Organist/Ambassador Choir*  
*Dir. of Communications & Operations*  
*Finance Administrator*

*Caring for Our Children*  
*in the Nursery*  
Danielle Schubert  
Beverley Beasley  
Kennedy Lynn

**Sunday, May 8 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 11:00am Confirmation of Cotton Young

**Monday, May 9**

- 12:00pm RSVP Deadline for Soul Feast
- 4:00pm Nominating Committee Meeting
- 5:45pm Women-On-The-Go Book Club

**Tuesday, May 10**

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 2:15pm Office Staff Meeting
- 6:00pm Worship Team Meeting

**Wednesday, May 11**

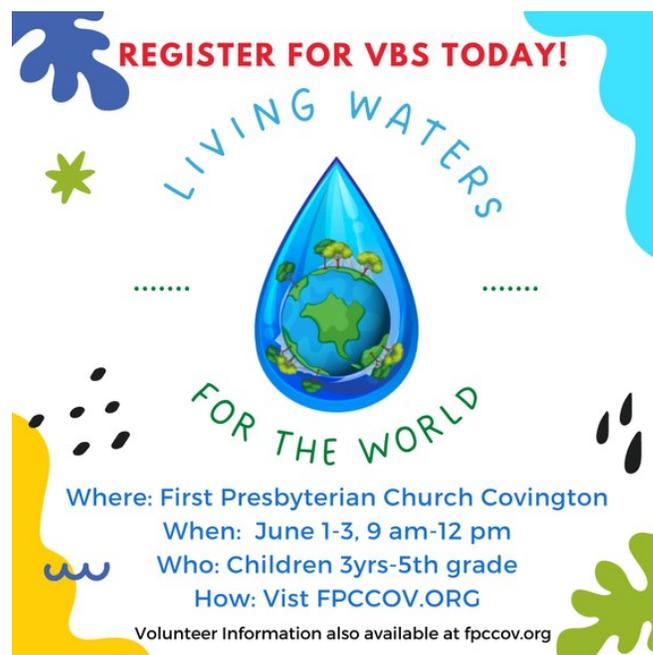
- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 1:30pm Singing Ambassadors Choir at FUMC
- 4:00pm Joyful Noise Music Rehearsal
- 5:00pm Deadline for Graduate Sunday Names
- 5:00pm Soul Feast
- 6:00pm Galatians Bible Study
- 6:00pm Gospel According to Ted Lasso
- 6:00pm Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 12**

- Neeley at Leadership Newton
- 2:00pm Singing Ambassadors Choir at FPC

**Sunday, May 15 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

- 9:30am Acolyte Training
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 11:00am Senior Sunday
- 5:30pm Campfire Church



**REGISTER FOR VBS TODAY!**

LIVING WATERS

FOR THE WORLD

Where: First Presbyterian Church Covington  
 When: June 1-3, 9 am-12 pm  
 Who: Children 3yrs-5th grade  
 How: Vist [FPCCOV.ORG](http://FPCCOV.ORG)

Volunteer Information also available at [fpccov.org](http://fpccov.org)

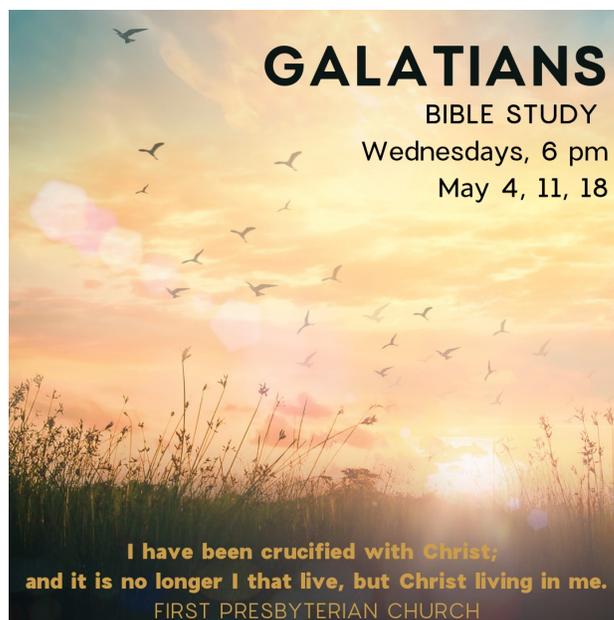


**SOUL FEAST**

Wednesday Night Supper is back!  
 Feed your body and soul with your FPC family.

**Wednesdays 5:00 pm beginning May 4th**  
**\$5 for adults, \$3 for kids**

Ages 4 and under are free. Childcare is provided.  
 Reserve your seat each Monday by noon:  
 770-786-7321 or [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)



**GALATIANS**

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 6 pm  
 May 4, 11, 18

**I have been crucified with Christ;  
 and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to:  
[catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)

Requests will be removed after three weeks if not updated. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle.



You are invited to **"Text to Give"**

your offering. Text  
FPCCOV to: 73256

*Or point your camera at the  
QR code and follow the link to  
give online.*

### Illness

- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - medical issues, tests
- ✦ Betty Robinson
- ✦ Guy McGiboney
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff Mackenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Bruce Brown, brother of Sherri Bolton - pancreatitis
- ✦ Rick Brown, brother of Sherri Bolton - bladder surgery
- ✦ Tootles Tingler
- ✦ Bernice Bailey
- ✦ Barbara Phillips, friend of Alice Walker - cancer
- ✦ Kim Bailey, family of Bernice and Betty Bailey
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Joe Burckel, nephew of Danny and Beth Vining - brain cancer
- ✦ Bobby Cocker, nephew of Judy Davis - colon cancer surgery
- ✦ Anne Cranford - breast cancer
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care

✦ Cathy Martin, sister-in-law of Chris Martin - breast cancer

✦ Melissa, friend of the congregation - cancer

✦ Blair Weaver - health issues

✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

### Celebrations

✦ We would like to congratulate Doug Hicks on his upcoming position as President of Davidson College.

### Independent and Assisted Living

✦ Penny Blakeney - home

✦ Julia Brubaker - Benton House

✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter

✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale

✦ Guy McGiboney - Social Circle Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers

✦ Betty Robinson - Merryvale

✦ Louise White - Merryvale

### Military Service

✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines

✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

## Kirkin' o' the Tartan

Sunday, September 25

Honor the Presbyterian Church's roots in the Church of Scotland in a special service that will include bag pipes, field drum, and a blessing of your family tartan

Order from Alicia Taylor by July 17th to receive your family tartan in time.  
email: [alicia@fpccov.org](mailto:alicia@fpccov.org)  
call: 770-656-6848

## Campfire Church

Sunday, May 15 5:30pm

COOKOUT  
CAMPFIRE SONGS  
DEVOTION

FPC PLAYGROUND

HOSTED BY THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE  
WITH SUPPORT FROM FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

