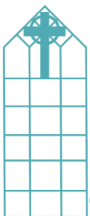




**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**JULY 24, 2022**



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
COVINGTON, GA**



# Gathering As God's Beloved People

## Gathering Music

*Your Word, Oh, Lord, Is Gentle Dew* David Cherwien  
*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* Wayne L. Wold  
*Hymn to Joy* John Carter

**Prelude** *Morning is Broken* Diane Bish

## Chiming of the Hour

## Welcome and Announcements

### ✠ Call to Worship

Here we are Lord

**The outcasts and the outraged**

Here we are Lord

**The tried and the temperamental**

Here we are Lord

**The joyful and the jumpy**

Here we are Lord

**The prayerful and the panicked**

Join us right where we are

**We have come here to worship you!**

### ✠ Hymn of Praise 10

*Sing Glory to the Name of God* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

### ✠ Call to Confession

## ✠Community Confession

**Forgive us Lord, when we're just not getting it. When you call seems vague and your Word is confusing. Help us to be honest when we don't understand. Give us the gift of questioning and send us those who are willing to wrestle those questions with us. And when we fail spectacularly in our efforts, lift us up from those moments, teach us afresh what it means to live in you and with this community of believers. Amen.**

## ✠Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Friends, our God always stands ready to pick us up, dust us off and set us on the right path. We are never alone, and we always have another chance to be the people God created us to be.

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

## ✠Response to God's Grace 480

*Take Me to the Water*    TAKE ME TO THE WATER

## ✠Passing of the Peace



# Proclaiming the Word

**Wondering with God's Children**

# Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26-39

Message *Baptized in Water* Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



## Responding to the Word

### ♠ Hymn of Response

*Come to the Waters of Life* Njooi majini  
Harry Hawkins, leader

*Leader:* *All, in harmony:*

Come to the wa-ters of life! Come! Come to the wa - ters!

Come, come, dy - ing and ris - ing with Je - sus

*Final time, add:*

the Ho - ly One! Come!

## ✠ **A Remembrance of Baptism**

**God of water**

**God of us all**

**We celebrate water from our lives**

**To remember that You are the water of life**

**To remember that through our baptisms we are  
bound to you and to one another.**

**May we remember our baptism when we need most  
to be reminded that we are beloved Children of  
God. We belong to you. We are loved.**

**God of water, God of all Living Water**

**Refresh us**

**Remind us**

**Renew us**

## **Prayers of the People**

## **Offering Our Gifts**

## **Offertory**

*Down to the River to Pray*      Traditional Spiritual  
*with Lord Listen to Your Children*      Arr. Mary McDonald  
Aubrey Evans and Perri Walden, alto

## ✠ **Response 492**

*You Belong to Christ*      YOU BELONG TO CHRIST



# The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

## Invitation to the Table

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

## 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.**

## 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**

## **✦ Sending Hymn 491**

*You Have Put on Christ*

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

## **✦ Charge and Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*Fanfare*

Jacques Lemmens



## **Worship Notes**

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.

### **Contact Cards**

There are 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 us 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 called 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** | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins,  
Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell  
**Usher Chair** | Bob Tabb  
**Acolyte** | Harry Hawkins



## **Sermon Series**

Come to the Water! This summer we are diving into the Biblical stories of water through worship. We will explore some of the most beloved stories of water found in the Bible. From God's Spirit hovering over the waters at creation to the endearing conversation that Jesus has with the woman at the well, we will wade in and take a deep dive into the water stories that have shaped us as people of God. Come sing, worship, and wonder - come to the water!





## Worship Music

### **Sing Glory to the Name of God**

This sweeping paraphrase of Psalm 29 conveys a sense of the Jewish reverence for the sheer power of God's name, regarded as too holy for mortal tongues to pronounce. The author of the text, Reverend David Gambrell, is associate for worship in the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship, editor of *Call to Worship*, and an ex officio advisor to the hymnal committee.

### **Take Me to the Water**

Water is integral to understanding deliverance and freedom in the spirituals (Go down Moses), a representation of passage from this life to the next (Deep River), and an agent of healing (Wade in the Water). "Take Me to the Water" is a rare example of a spiritual explicitly devoted to the sacrament of baptism. This hymn first appeared in print in *Yes, Lord! Church of God in Christ Hymnal* (Memphis, 1982); however, recordings and possible references to the spiritual in the accounts of enslaved Black people indicate that its roots may extend at least to the turn of the 20th century and perhaps to the antebellum South.

### **Come to the Waters (Njooi majini)**

This hymn was written by Mark Sedio for the 2019 Montreat Conferences on Worship and Music. The call and response texture adds a distinct African ambience to the Swahili text. Come to the waters, the waters of life, we live refreshed, by dying and rising together with Jesus, we are healed (made whole). The Swahili word used here for "refreshed" literally means "cooled off." In Africa, when you get well, it's nearly always from having malaria which causes a fever - that's the origin of the connection.

### **Down to the River to Pray**

"Down in the River to Pray" (also known as "Down to the River to Pray," "Down in the Valley to Pray," "The Good Old Way," and

"Come, Let Us All Go Down") is a traditional American song variously described as a Christian folk hymn, an African American spiritual, an Appalachian folk melody, and a Southern gospel song. The exact origin of the song is unknown.

The earliest known version of the song, titled "The Good Old Way," was published in *Slave Songs of the United States* in 1867. The song was contributed to that book by George H. Alan of Nashville, Tennessee, who may also have been the transcriber.

Another version, titled "Come, Let Us All Go Down," was published in 1880 in *The Story of the Jubilee Singers With Their Songs*, a book about the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

In some versions "in the river" is replaced by "to the river." The phrase "in the river" is significant for two reasons. The more obvious reason is that the song has often been sung at outdoor baptisms (such as a full-immersion baptism. Another reason is that many songs sung by victims of slavery contained coded messages for escaping. When the enslaved people escaped, they would walk *in the river* because the water would cover their scent from the bounty hunters' dogs. Similarly, the "starry crown" could refer to navigating their escape by the stars. And "Good Lord, show me the way" could be a prayer for God's guidance to find the escape route, commonly known as "the Underground Railroad."

### **You Belong to Christ**

The music for this congregational response was written by Robert A. Hobby in 2003. Hobby currently serves as Director of Music for Trinity English Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana. In the rite of baptism provided in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, this text appears as one of the optional congregational responses after each person is baptized.

### **You Have Put On Christ**

This brief, easily sung congregational response is appropriate for use at baptism, as well as occasions including the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant.



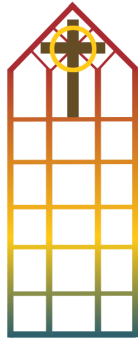
## Worship Art

Do you see it? You may have noticed the font in the center aisle of our sanctuary. The presence of the font in worship serves as a constant reminder of the new life that is ours in Christ Jesus, through our dying and rising with Christ in baptism, the forgiveness of sin, the gift of the Holy Spirit, our incorporation into Christ's body and the promise of life eternal and abundant in the kingdom of God.

Placing the font in clear view, almost inconvenient and in the way, invites us to pause and reflect on our baptisms, actively remembering our baptism. Baptism is central to our faith and our belief that before anything of our own doing God says to us I love you, I claim you, you are my beloved. In baptism we celebrate God's sovereignty and the overflowing waters of God's good grace.

Through our shared experience worshiping together in a space with intentional and purposeful visual expressions, we open greater opportunities for God to be revealed in our midst. The Spirit's presence grows in our lives as these experiences guide our journey and manifest God with us. By including the eyes in this process, our imagination can expand our understanding of God's voice.

What do you see in the worship art? The cleansing waters of the baptismal font? The waves of crashing waters at creation? The living waters of earth? The still waters of the soul? The flowing waters of life? The circle of water at the well? The water wide of God's arms inviting us to enter into his healing presence? Use your imagination to discern how God is speaking to you.



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COVINGTON, GA

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014

[fpccov.org](http://fpccov.org) 770.786.7321

## 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.

## 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 witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or many other 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  
Curtis Watson

## First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	<i>Caring for Our Children in the Nursery</i>
Alicia Taylor	<i>Dir. of Music &amp; Worship Arts</i>	
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist/ Ambassador Choir</i>	Danielle Schubert
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i>	Beverley Beasley
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Kennedy Lynn

## 2022-2023 Registration is OPEN

*Play Café: A Modern Twist on Mother's Morning Out* is a new ministry at FPC that gives parents both a loving, safe place to take their child a couple of days a week, and a place to connect with other parents about the joys and stressors of parenthood.



**Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00am-1:00pm for ages 3mo - 18mo**

Parental participation is NOT required for child enrollment in Play Café  
Visit [fpccov.org/play-cafe](http://fpccov.org/play-cafe) for more information!

**Sunday, July 24**

**Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**

11:00am Worship

**Monday, July 25**

6:00pm Witness Team Meeting on Zoom

**Tuesday, July 26**

12:00pm Lectio Divina

2:15pm Office Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, July 27**

3:00pm Final Creative Praise Puppet Ministry

5:00pm Session Meeting

**Thursday, July 28**

9:30am Neeley at Merryvale

**Sunday, July 31**

**Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**

9:15am Acolyte Training

9:45am Gospel According to Pixar

11:00am Worship

# Rally Day August 7, 2022

Welcome back as we refresh for a new year

- Back to Sunday School Breakfast
- Backpack drive by Presbyterian Women
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Acolyte Commissioning
- Congregational Meeting
- New Sermon Series

PW Backpack Drive!  
Bring an empty backpack for  
Fairview Elementary!



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Illness

- ✦ Lonnie Lamb - chemotherapy
- ✦ Jack Wheeler
- ✦ Emalee Green, granddaughter of Roger and Tootles Tingler - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Tony Taylor, brother of Alicia Taylor - heart attack
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
- ✦ Anne Cranford - breast cancer
- ✦ Mike Crews, son-in-law of Jack Wheeler - bladder cancer

- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Tootles Tingler
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - lung cancer
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

### Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - home
- ✦ Julia Brubaker - Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

### Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

### Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to: [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)  
 Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for only the confidential prayer circle.

The Session has called a **Congregational Meeting** to be held at the conclusion of the worship service on **Sunday, August 7th**, for the purpose of receiving a report from the Nominating Committee regarding candidates being called to serve as **Elders and Deacons** here at FPC Covington. All members are asked to stay, hear their report, and vote on the proposed candidates.

**The deadline to order tartans is TODAY!**  
**Talk to Alicia Taylor after worship today!**

# 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 bagpipes, field drum, and a blessing of your family tartan

Order from Alicia Taylor by July 24th to receive your family tartan in time.  
 email: [alicia@fpccov.org](mailto:alicia@fpccov.org)  
 call: 770-656-6848

You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering. Text FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to: 73256

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



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

AUGUST 7TH DURING WORSHIP

Bring your backpacks, diaper bags, and brief cases to be blessed before we jump into the new school year!

