

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

September 11, 2022

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



People's Potluck of Ideas:
A Sermon Series inspired by YOU





Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Prelude in D Minor
Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

J.S. Bach
H. Alexander Matthews
Nancy M. Raabe

Prelude

Sometimes a Light Surprises

SALLEY GARDENS

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

Written by Laura Jaquith Bartlett

God calls us from a burning bush.

We are standing on holy ground!

The Spirit calls us to proclaim God's name
to all generations.

We are standing on holy ground!

Jesus calls us from the cross: come and follow me.

We are standing on holy ground!

✦ Hymn of Praise 409

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Community Confession

Adapted from Laura Jaquith Bartlett

**Surprising God,
you have an uncomfortable habit
of showing up where we least expect you:
in a burning bush,
in the face of an enemy,
in a livestock feed trough,
on a rough wooden cross.**

**Turn our lives upside down
with your radical love.**

**Help us fully embrace your holy mystery. Remind us we are standing on Holy Ground.
Forgive us when we fail to see and hear you shining forth in our lives on the mountain
tops and in the valley lows. Amen.**

✦ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✦ **Response to God's Grace 744**

Arise, Your Light Is Come

FESTAL SONG

*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.
Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.*

✦ **Passing of the Peace**



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain
Chancel Choir; Janet Carmichael, soprano

Carolyn Jennings

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Exodus 3:1-17

Message

Mountaintops

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn of Response 136**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

Excerpt from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

PCUSA

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,**

**the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.**

Hearing their cry,

**God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.**

Loving us still,

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

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 Our Gifts

Offertory

Holy Ground
Nicole Howell, alto

Words and music by Geron Davis
Arr. by Lloyd Larson

✦Response 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Gratitude

All are invited to join in our community Prayer of Gratitude by lifting up a one-word prayer of thanksgiving.



Being the Church in the World

✦Sending Hymn 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

HERE I AM (Schutte)

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet



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 and streamed online is covered by One License #A-728738 authorizing its 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.

Children During Worship

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 invited to wiggle and giggle in the pews during worship! Included in worship is a time of "Wondering with God's Children" where children are invited to come forward for a message. Afterward, they are invited to remain in worship or go downstairs with the nursery workers for the remainder of the service. Worship Bags are available for children on the rack outside the Sanctuary in the Narthex.

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley
Usher Chair | Curtis Watson Acolyte | Palmer Wilson



Sermon Notes

We all have questions! We long to have answers and quick fixes. It would be so nice and convenient if we had all the answers to our questions of faith, wouldn't it?

Many of our questions are ones we proactively learn to live into – faith seeking understanding. Living the question is an art. Being okay in the not knowing is an act of trust. Daniel Migliore in his book, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An introduction to Christian Theology* writes, "questions arise at the edges of what we can know and what we can do as human beings. They thrust themselves on us with special force in times and situations of crises ... Believers are not immune to the questions that arise in these situations. Christian Faith causes us to think. As long as Christians remain pilgrims of faith, they will continue to raise questions – hard questions – for which they will not always find answers. Faith seeks the truth of God that wants not only to be known by the mind but also to be enjoyed and practiced by the whole person."

This past month Erin and I asked you to share with us your questions about God, the Bible, and the Christian life. We received a potluck of questions and deep wonderings. The three we will explore together are:

*Can you help me understand joy as a spiritual discipline?
What is God revealing to us through mountain top experiences?
How do we lean into Psalm 46?*

We encourage you to continue asking questions about your faith, your doubts, and your human experiences. Neeley and Erin are here to walk alongside you on your journey of faith!



Worship Music Notes

God Is Here

This text was written by Fred Pratt Green in 1979 (and later revised in 1988 for *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (1990)) at the request of Russell Schulz-Widmar, co-director of music at University United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas, who wrote:

We are in need of a hymn. It would be sung for the first time at the closing service of an 8-month long festival centering round the themes of Worship, Music, and the Arts. We would prefer a meter of 8.7.8.7.D since we could then use your text to introduce the tune ABBOT'S LEIGH to our congregation.

ABBOT'S LEIGH was composed by Rev. Cyril Vincent Taylor on a Sunday morning during the spring of 1941. It was during World War II and Taylor was working in the wartime headquarters of the religious broadcasting department of the British Broadcasting Company located in the village of Abbot's Leigh. The village is across the Clifton suspension bridge from Bristol.

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

This text by Ruth C. Duck was written for a collection of hymns adapted for inclusive language for the Ecumenical Women's Corner of Chicago in 1974. Duck explains, "I was working on adapting 'Rise Up, O Men of God' when this new hymn text came to me, as if the new wine of the faith I wanted to express would not fit into the old wineskin of the earlier text." Born in 1947, Ruth C. Duck was educated at Southwestern-at-Memphis University, now Rhodes College, Chicago Theological Seminary, and Boston University School of Theology. She received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary. Ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1973, she has served churches in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Massachusetts, and currently serves as assistant professor of worship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

FESTAL SONG is a tune by William Henry Walter (1825-1893), who was born in Newark, New Jersey, and was organist at both a Presbyterian and an Episcopal church there. From 1842 on, he served various Episcopal churches in New York City and finally became organist at Trinity Chapel, Columbia University. The university granted him an honorary Doctor of Music degree in 1864. Walter wrote masses, service music, and anthems, but is best known for FESTAL SONG.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Having heard the refrain, John Wesley Work II (sometimes Jr.) wrote the present verses of this hymn shortly after the turn of the century. It was included in the collection *American Negro Songs and Spirituals* (1940). Work was born, educated, worked, and died in Nashville. He majored in history and

Latin at Fisk University, after which he was instructor of Greek and Latin until 1906 when he was appointed chair of the department. Work and his brother, Frederick Jerome, were leading figures in the preservation, performance, and study of leading figures in the preservation, performance, and study of African-American spirituals. They published several collections of slave songs and spirituals, including *New Jubilee Songs as Sung by Fisk Jubilee Singers* (1901) and *Folk Songs of the American Negro* (1907). John Work's treatise *The Folk Song of the American Negro* (1915) was one of the earliest studies of African-American music undertaken by the descendant of an ex-slave. In 1923, Work was named president of Roger Williams University, Nashville, a position he held at the time of his death.

GO TELL IT is an African-American tune usually associated with this text arranged by John Wesley Work III, who continued the work begun by his father and uncle. The younger Work was educated at Fisk University, Columbia University, and Yale University, after which he directed the glee club at Fisk for four years until his appointment as professor of music theory in 1931. Known as a composer and arranger, Work published a comprehensive collection of African-American folk music *American Negro Songs and Spirituals* (1940). The harmonization is by Melva Wilson Costen. Born in 1933 in Due West, South Carolina, she was educated at Johnson C. Smith University, University of North Carolina, and Georgia State University. She has taught music at both the public school and seminary level, and she served as the Helmar Nielson Professor of Worship and Music at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, until her retirement. Costen was chair of the Presbyterian Hymnal Committee (1990).

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

King James II of England declared the author of this hymn, Thomas Ken, the most eloquent preacher among Protestants of his time. Thomas Ken (1637-1711) was born at Little Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, England, but went to live with his brother-in-law after his parents died when he was nine years old. He was ordained in 1662 and served most of his career as a domestic chaplain. Despite his adulation of Ken, King James II had him and six other bishops imprisoned in the Tower of London for not subscribing to the King's Declaration of Indulgence. All seven were later acquitted, and Ken retired to the home of his friend, Lord Weymouth, where he died.

This text of the Doxology by Thomas Ken was included as the final stanza of both his morning hymn "Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun" and his evening hymn "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night." The original phrase "angelick host" was modified to "ye heavenly host" in the 1709 edition. It has become known as the protestant Te Deum. OLD HUNDRETH is from the Genevan Psalter.

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)

The text and tune of this hymn were written by Daniel L. Schutte in 1979, first published in 1981. Schutte wrote the song at age 31 when he was studying theology at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. He was requested to compose, on short notice, a piece for the ordination mass of a deacon, incorporating in the lyrics God's word, of Jesus as the light, and the bread and wine of the eucharist.

Schutte (b. 1947) grew up in Milwaukee and studied at Jesuit seminaries in Minnesota, St. Louis, and Berkeley, California. He was ordained a priest and served in the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwest South Dakota. He is now a layperson. Schutte is a member of the Roman Catholic Liturgy Conference and presently serves as a musician and music director for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Milwaukee. He writes poetry and music.



Worship Art Notes

This Sunday's worship art is a painting titled "Highest of Hills" by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity. This abstracted landscape blends sky and land to envision the world of Isaiah 2:1-5. The painting imagines a new horizon where sanctuary and peace are like the "highest of hills."

In the last days
the mountain of the Lord's temple
will be established as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it."

ISAIAH 2:2

"Highest of Hills" by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | © A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



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 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

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Brenda Howell
- ✦ Warren Liem - ongoing health issues
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother-in-law of Theodosia Wade - recovering from surgery for cancer
- ✦ Mike Crews, son-in-law of Jack Wheeler - bladder cancer treatment
- ✦ Tony Taylor, brother of Alicia Taylor - recovering at home from heart attack
- ✦ Martha Young, grandmother of Cotton Young - lung cancer
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Lonnie Lamb - chemotherapy
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Melissa, friend of congregation - cancer
- ✦ 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 - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ 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
Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated. Please specify if you want the request listed or for only the confidential prayer circle.

First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA

BOWLING FOR ALL AGES



Join us after worship for a strikingly good time!

TODAY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 12:00 PM

AMF American Lanes
885 Flat Shoals Road
Conyers, GA 30094

The bowling cost is \$10 per person and does not include the price for lunch at the bowling alley. Email Erin at erin@fpccov.org to RSVP or to ask any questions about the event!



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.



JAMMIES AND JESUS

Join Neeley and Erin on Zoom
for a 10-minute bedtime prayer.

SUNDAYS 7 PM

Sunday School

Regular Sunday School classes have resumed at 9:45am Sunday mornings.
Children's class (PreK-4th grade)
Tween Class (5th grade and up)
Adult class

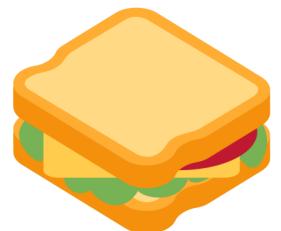
Interested in teaching? Email erin@fpccov.org

Sandwich Ministry!

You are invited to join us for a new ministry September 20th at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall, we will be making sandwiches for our neighbors in Christ experiencing homelessness in collaboration with Street Outreach!

At our first meeting in August we made 50 sandwich meals and helped better the days of those who received the fruit of our efforts.

Sandwich Ministry will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 11:00am for the rest of the year! If you are not able to participate on Tuesdays but would like to be a part of operation sandwich please contact Curtis Watson.



Join Us for the 2022-23 Kick-off Presbyterian Women Meeting!

Presbyterian Women to meet September 13, 2022 at 5:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom!

All women of the church are welcome to join us for salads, dessert & beverages as we gather for a new year of circle meetings!

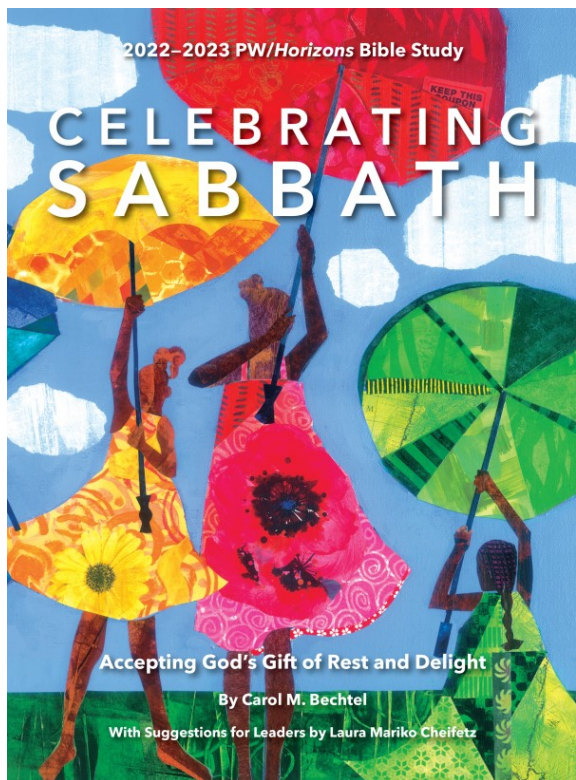
Judy Davis will share Lesson 1 from "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight."

Childcare will be provided!

Current members of Elizabeth Ann Circle are asked to bring a garden, pasta, or fruit salad, and members of Martha and Ruth Circles are asked to bring dessert or beverages.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Contact Dana Hall or Julie MacKenzie for more information.

Dana:
danahall0234@gmail.com
or 770-787-0234

Julie:
jffjul@gmail.com
or 404-933-2560

Sunday, September 11 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Bowling for All Ages
- 7:00pm Jammies and Jesus on Zoom

Monday, September 12

- 2:00pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, September 13

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 2:15pm Office Staff Meeting
- 5:00pm Presbyterian Women Kick-off

In the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

Wednesday, September 14

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 4:30pm Joyful Noise
- 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!
- 6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 15

- 2:00pm Ambassador Choir at FUMC

Sunday, September 18 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship with Communion
- 7:00pm Jammies and Jesus on Zoom

JOYFUL NOISE



Children's music ministry is back! Children **3 years old through 1st grade are invited to Joyful Noise at 4:30pm** to ring bells, sing praise, participate in a rhythm band, and puppetry arts. Our new children's choir **Hallelujah Kids!** will meet **at 5:00pm for 2nd through 8th graders** to learn to ring tone chimes and handbells, sing

FPC Children's Choir for children 3 years old through 1st grade Wednesdays at 4:30pm

praise, participate in a drumming circle, and puppetry arts. We have had our first rehearsals, but all children are welcome to join us at any time!

Ask Alicia Taylor questions at alicia@fpccov.org or at 770-656-6848.

Hallelujah Kids!



FPC Children's Choir for 2nd-8th grade children Wednesdays at 5:00pm