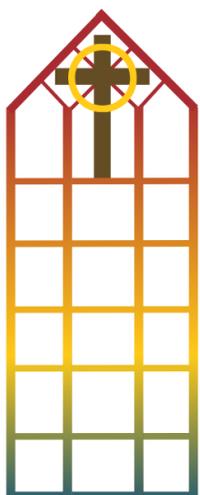


First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA

every perfect gift

NINETEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

2022 FPC
STEWARDSHIP



October 16, 2022



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

In Thee, Lord, Have I Put My Trust
Be Thou My Vision
I Sing the Mighty Power of God

J. S. Bach
Franklin D. Ashdown
J. Wayne Kerr

Prelude

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Joyce Jones

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

Lamentations 3:21-26

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

✦ Hymn of Praise 36

For the Fruit of all Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Community Confession

by Marilyn McKelvey Tucker-Marek

Holy and Righteous God, amidst the violence and wrongdoing of the world, we struggle to live by faith. We treat suffering with contempt, seek power to serve ourselves, and cowardly shrink from prophetic truth. Gather us again to your table as you gathered the generations before us. Save us from the strife we start, and the contention we create. Rekindle within us the gifts you have given, revive our sense of your Holy Spirit. In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

✦ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✦ Response to God's Grace 647

Give Thanks

GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;

give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. (Repeat)

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";

let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" (Repeat)

Give thanks. Give thanks.

✦ Passing of the Peace



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Dan Walden

Anthem

When the Poor Ones

Cuadro el pobre

Text and Music by José Antonio Olivar

and Miguel Manzano, 1970

Trans. George Lockwood, 1980, alt.

When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing, when our lips can speak no words other than true, when we know that love for simple things is better, then we know that God still goes that road with us, then we know that God still goes that road with us.

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Mark 12:41-44

NRSV pew edition page 50

Message

Every Good and Perfect Gift: The Widow's Mite

Rev. Erin Morgan



Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn of Response 712

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

FOREST GREEN

✦ Affirmation of Faith

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

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.

Stories of Stewardship

Bob Tabb

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

O God Beyond All Praising
Krista Firkus, soprano; Alicia Taylor, alto

THAXTED
Music by Gustav T. Holst
Arr. by Lloyd Larson

✦ Response 710

We Lift Our Voices (We Are an Offering)

OFFERING

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.

***Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives;
they are yours: we are an offering.***

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

***We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering; we are an offering.***

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 697

Take My Life

HENDON

✦ Charge and Benediction

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.

Postlude

Allegro from "Harpichord Suite"

Arcangelo Corelli



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, Stan Hall

Acolyte | Holden Evans



Sermon Notes

What is Stewardship? Stewardship is a culture of generosity! Stewardship is a spiritual discipline of responding to God by participating in the mission and values of our church through our time, talent, treasure, and testimony.

"Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world. Tithing is a primary expression of the Christian discipline of stewardship. Those who follow the discipline of Christian stewardship will find themselves called to lives of simplicity, generosity, honesty, hospitality, compassion, receptivity, and concern for the earth and God's creatures. The Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. In worship, the people are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, are claimed and set free by him, and are led to respond by offering to him their lives, their particular gifts and abilities, and their material goods."

PresbyterianMission.org/what-we-believe/stewardship



Worship Music Notes

For the Fruit of All Creation

At a conference of the Methodist Music Society of Great Britain, Fred Pratt Green wrote "Harvest Hymn." The text appeared in the *Methodist Recorder* in August 1970, with a footnote stating permission granted on application to Fred Pratt Green. Within a few weeks he received 125 requests from all over the British Isles. It has truly become a hymn of the world. By 1982, there were already 14 hymnals that included the text. Austin Lovelace used the text for an anthem.

AR HYD Y NOS is a Welsh melody from the 18th century. It was first published in Edward Jones' *Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards* (Dubin, 1784). *The Christian Lyre* (1830) stated the tune was set to "There's a Friend Above All Others," and noted, "This is a favorite piece among the Welsh and

much used in their revivals. It was sent in manuscript from Bristol to a gentleman in New York, who kindly gave it to the Lyre." Many know the tune as the setting for "All Through the Night."

Give Thanks

Henry Smith must have seen life this way: God's side of the equation outweighs whatever is on the opposite side. At least, that's what the words he wrote indicate. God is the 'all' of existence, so that I am called to 'give thanks' six times in the song's opening words. When I'm done here on planet Earth, all that will matter is what lies ahead - in God's presence. That must have been alluring for Henry Smith, who was struggling to find steady work, despite having just earned his college degree. When he says 'the poor' are rich in "Give Thanks," that's an echo from his difficulty in finding work.

Smith's eyesight was also failing because of a degenerative condition that would eventually leave him legally blind, certainly a 'weakness' that he expressed in the song as his eyesight faded. Thankfully, theological training informed him that God's side of the equals sign was what mattered. And other parts of his life further motivated the song that leapt from his heart. He had found someone to love, his future wife. And, he was grateful to be through school, which his deteriorating vision had made difficult, and to be back home in a church he loved in Williamsburg, Virginia.

If God was all Henry Smith had in 1978, he could be praised, and yet he provided even more. It's no surprise that Smith's heart overflowed in a song. And, the song still resounds in Henry Smith's hometown and around the globe today.

When the Poor Ones

Miguel Manzano is a Spanish composer and singer. He was born in Allamor de Cardozo near the border with Portugal. Miguel began his religious musical career at the age of eight as cantor at the Cathedral of Zamora, Spain. He studied solfege, piano, organ, and harmonium with the renowned teacher, Gaspar Arabaolaza. Later on, he began studies at the Higher School of Sacred Music in Madrid, where he studied rhythm and Gregorian modality, as well as harmony and religious polyphony. He furthered his studies of language and musical rhythm at the Catholic Institute of Paris. Miguel's internationally recognized music has been chosen to complete the repertoire of the *National Liturgical Hymnal* of the Episcopal Committee of Spanish Liturgy. At present, he is Professor of Ethnic Music at the Higher Conservatory of Music in Salamanca.

José Antonio Olivar is a writer and journalist with Agencia EFE. The son of a seafaring family, Olivar went through difficult times during his childhood. He lost his parents and four brothers and faced the cruel war orphan Ilastrina. Hosted by his grandmother, he studied at the Seminary of Covadonga and Oviedo and he built a career of great prestige and recognition throughout the country. He won several national awards for poetry and worked as a journalist in popular newspapers and national agencies. He has traveled around the world, interviewing and making friends with the most diverse personalities from all fields of social life, art, and politics.

Rev. George Lockwood was born in 1946 and was a missionary to Costa Rica. He has pastored Spanish-speaking congregations in both Arizona and California and served on the editorial committee for the Methodist hymnal supplement *Celebremos II*. In addition, Lockwood has traveled throughout Central and South America, interviewing church musicians and gathering new hymns from both Spanish and Portuguese cultures, which he then presents at conferences and workshops.

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

Written in 1960, this text by Frank von Christierson was first published in *The New Stewardship Hymns* (1961) by the Hymn Society of America. It is well-known as an anthem arranged by Austin Lovelace. The original first line, "As men of old their first fruits brought" was altered by Christierson to "As saints of old their first fruits brought" for the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1978). The word "those" in the text presented here is from *The Hymnal 1982*. On this text Christierson wrote: "As pastor of two small churches, with small memberships and great financial needs, I have been deeply concerned with stewardship, also because I am deeply concerned about missions and the outreach of the church to 'all the world,' also because stewardship is a very important phase of the Christian life. No one is deeply Christian until he or she is a 'good steward.'"

Born on Christmas Day (1900) in Lovisa, Finland, in a house previously owned by Jan Sibelius, Frank von Christierson came to the United States with his parents when he was five. He is a graduate of Stanford University and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, California, for 14 years and founding pastor of United Presbyterian churches in North Hollywood and Citrus Heights. After retiring, he served as interim of several churches before becoming assistant pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Roseville, where he is now pastor emeritus.

Christierson served the greater church as moderator of San Francisco and Los Angeles presbyteries, vice-moderator of the Synod of California, Utah and Nevada, and chaired committees in several presbyteries. His hymn "Eternal God, Thy Children Bow" was chosen as the official hymn of the Temple of Religion and the Tower of Peace, Golden Gate International Exposition, San Francisco (1939). Christierson's hymns have appeared in seven major denominational hymnals here and in England and have been translated into Norwegian and Portuguese. He was made a fellow of the Hymn Society of American in 1982. In 1984, two of his hymns were sung in the Queen's Chapel at Oxford University.

FOREST GREEN was originally the melody for the English folk song "The Plowboy's Dream." It was arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams and published in *The English Hymnal* (1906) as the setting for "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

We Lift Our Voices (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.

Take My Life

This text was written by Frances Ridley Havergal at Areley House (1874) and was published in *Loyal Responses* (1878, musical ed., 1881) and *Life Chords* (1880) as well as a leaflet called both "Confirmation" and "Self-Consecration." The history of the hymn is in Havergal's manuscripts. She wrote: "Perhaps you will be interested to know the origin of the consecration hymn 'Take My Life.' I went for a little visit of five days. There were ten persons in the house, some unconverted and long-prayed-for, some converted but not rejoicing Christians. He gave me the prayer, 'Lord, give me all in this house!' And he just *did*. Before I left the house, everyone had gotten a blessing! The last

night of my visit ... I was too happy to sleep and passed most of the night in renewal of my own consecration. These little couplets formed themselves and chimed in my heart one after another till they finished with "Even, only, *all* for Thee." Havergal later wrote a book, *Kept for the Master's Work*, based on the hymn.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879) was born in Worcestershire, England and educated in England and Düsseldorf, Germany. She was a poet, musician, linguist, and Bible student. Many of her hymns were printed in leaflets, which were transferred to several volumes. After her death, they were collected into one volume by her sister. Frances had a lifelong correspondence with Fanny Crosby.

HENDON was composed by Henri A. César Malan in 1827 and probably named after a hill located a few miles northeast of St. Paul's Cathedral, London.



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
Samantha Boozer
Kennedy Lynn
Amanda Sotolongo

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Mike Crews, son-in-law of Jack Wheeler - awaiting results of bladder cancer treatment
- ✦ Gary Lott, brother of Tricia Hinton - recovering at home following two brain surgeries
- ✦ Linnea Lott, niece of Tricia Hinton - leukemia treatment
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer

- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother-in-law of Theodosia Wade - cancer
- ✦ Lonnie Lamb - chemotherapy
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Richard, friend of Miriam and Jack Wheeler - leukemia
- ✦ Tony Taylor, brother of Alicia Taylor - recovering at home from heart attack
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's
- ✦ Martha Young, grandmother of Cotton Young - lung cancer

Celebrations

- ✦ Congratulations to Tom and Erin Stillerman on the birth of their daughter, Nora Brook Stillerman on Monday, October 3, 2022.

Independent and Assisted Living

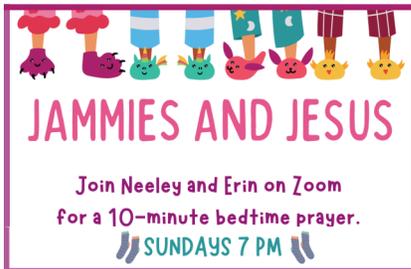
- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ Julia Brubaker - Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

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.



JAMMIES AND JESUS

Join Neeley and Erin on Zoom
for a 10-minute bedtime prayer.
SUNDAYS 7 PM



Newton Community Food Pantry

Our Community Food Pantry is open
Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:00 am - 11:30 am.

Donations are welcome.

Contact: Bernice Bailey 770-784-0037
7125 Turner Lake Cir SW, Covington, GA 30014



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.



CHANGE THE WORLD

**Saturday, Oct. 22
10am-1pm**

Hosted by
Covington First UMC
1113 Conyers St.
Covington, GA. 30014

Change the World Day serves our community by providing resources and information to positively influence and change the lives of persons/families throughout our community. This year FPCC will have two booths at the event, one staffed by the youth of our church with "kid-friendly" items and another structured towards adults to provide information about First Presbyterian. Everyone is invited to help prepare handout bags for this event and to participate in representing FPC at the event.

Please contact Curtis Watson at 404-550-1212 or wats1818@bellsouth.net if you are interested in being a part of this vital service to the community.

We will have our prep day THIS Tuesday, October 18th in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00am!

All are welcome to come and help us get ready for this exciting event!



Pizza & Pumpkins & Paint
OH MY!

Wednesday, October 19th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall
Come paint pumpkins to give to our friends in need.

CPR CERTIFICATION CLASS

Tuesday, October 18th
5:30pm at FPC
\$35/person



RSVP to Catherine,
catherine@fpccov.org

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS	DRINKS AND DISCUSSION
BELIEF AND	OCTOBER 17TH 5:30PM
- BEER -	THE SOCIAL GOAT TAVERN
	CHILDCARE PROVIDED

Stewardship is here!

This year's theme is **Every Perfect Gift**

What gifts will you share this year in the name of the Lord?

Commitment Sunday is October 30th



every perfect gift

Sunday, October 16
Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

- 11:00am Worship - Stewardship
- 7:00pm Jammies and Jesus on Zoom

Monday, October 17

- 5:00pm Worship Team Meeting
- 5:30pm Belief and Beer

Tuesday, October 18

- 11:00pm Change the World Day Prep
- 11:00pm Sandwich Ministry
- 12:00pm Lectio Divinia
- 2:15pm Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm CPR Certification Class

Wednesday, October 19

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

Sunday, October 23
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Due to complications with USPS, some of our annual stewardship letters are running late!

Did you know all our stewardship forms and materials are on our website! You can find it all at fpccov.org/stewardship

This year we have also made fillable PDFs of the Time and Talent form and the Covenant Card! That means you don't need a printer to fill them out. Just download them, click to check boxes or to type, and save it so you can email it to the office! Fillable forms can be downloaded by visiting the stewardship page on our website. Printed forms are also available in the narthex!