



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

JANUARY 17, 2021  
2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

## GATHERING

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*One: The one who calls you together this day  
yearns for each of you and for all people to hear  
and be blessed.*

**All: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.**

*One: Blessed is the One who comes bringing  
trustworthy words for the healing of the world.*

**All: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.**

### GATHERING MUSIC

GREAT GOD OF EVERY BLESSING  
*prayed silently*

AURELIA

*Great God of every blessing,  
of faithful, loving care,  
you are the fount of goodness,  
the daily bread we share.  
How can we hope to thank you?  
Our praise is but a start:  
sincerely and completely  
I offer you my heart.*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

✦ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, you see into each of us  
and know us fully  
as creatures in need of your constant care.  
We confess that we have neither heard your word  
nor followed your will.  
We have failed our nation, neighbors, families, friends, and ourselves.  
Give us ears to hear your wisdom.  
Lead us to honesty and faith  
so that we may begin again with renewed strength;  
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*(silence for personal prayer and reflection)*

✦ **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**(11:00) TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH**

Andrea Paschal

## **THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 3:1-10

**SERMON**

“Speak, Lord, for your  
servant is listening.”

The Rev. Holly Shoaf-O'Kula

## **RESPONDING**

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

*Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.*

✠ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time. It is part of our discipline to observe a day of worship and rest, setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work, celebrating with sisters and brothers the Lord's goodness. We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture, not expecting detailed directions for every decision, but relying on the Word to tell us who God is, to press God's present claim on us, and to assure us of God's grace and comfort. We are charged to pray for ourselves and others with gratitude, boldness, and persistence, confident that God hears and answers our prayers in ways best for us all. Life in God's presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.**

**CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**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**

*Financial offerings can be placed in the plates as you exit or given online.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

SONG OF SIMEON  
Kayla Howard, soloist

Lassus

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SENDING**

**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

**BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

**JUBILATION**

Young

*Please remain seated until an usher dismisses your pew.*

## 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

Our assisted hearing receivers are not available at this time. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Sanitation: Our building is sanitized by B & T Janitorial Service.

Visiting Parents: Our Children's Wing is currently closed, and childcare is not available at this time. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Worship Packets are available in the narthex for children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Please take one per child, and take it home with you after worship.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EPIPHANY STARS** — We encourage you to pick up an Epiphany Star bag outside the narthex if you do not already have one. Please use your own pen to sign your name on the sign-out sheet.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** — If you wish to reserve a Sunday in memory or honor of loved ones or to honor a special event with sanctuary flowers, please email Zoë Andrews (zoea@aikenpresbyterian.org) or call the church office. Several dates are available in February and later this year.

**CALL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT** — Join us for a class focused on discernment of what God is calling us to be and do. In this study, participants have the opportunity to experience God's call as we are introduced to faithful women who persevered as disciples despite the context in which they lived and worked. This class meets on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. Contact Andrea Paschal if you would like to participate. The Zoom link will be sent via email.

**THE STORY OF THE JEWS** — Join us for a class on "The Story of the Jews" with Terry Wimberley on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Email Terry (terryw@aikenpresbyterian.org) if you plan to participate. The Zoom link will be sent via email.

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** — Please look for your envelopes on the table in the narthex. They may also be picked up in the church office during the week. If you would like your envelopes mailed to you, please contact the church office.

**TESTIMONY: VOCABULARY OF FAITH CLASS** — Join us for an online course with Terry Wimberley each Wednesday through February 10 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Participants can join the class any weeks they are available. This course will invite participants to engage with scripture, reformed theology and their own faith journey. Email Terry if you would like to join the course. The Zoom link will be sent via email.

## CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

### STAFF

Pastor/Head of Staff  
Pastor for Compassionate Ministries  
Pastor for Connectional Communities  
Director of Music  
Director of Purposeful Education  
Program Ministry Assistant/Creative Specialist  
Organist/Accompanist

Brian Coulter  
Holly Shoaf-O'Kula  
Terry Wimberley  
Daniel Hamilton  
Andrea Paschal  
Joanna Hamilton  
Kathy Clark

### TRUSTEES

**Class of 2021**  
Ted Girardeau

**Class of 2022**  
Becky Reynolds

**Class of 2023**  
Dave Muhlbaier

### THE SESSION

Clarke McCants,  
Clerk  
Brian Coulter,  
Moderator

**Class of 2021**  
Franklin Buchanan  
Addie Feraldi  
Gayle Gordon  
Rob Gray  
Brad Kuhn  
Amy Shumpert

**Class of 2022**  
Bobby Calfee  
Terry Montgomery  
Andy Ploeger  
Ashby Reynolds  
Vic Sowers  
Hugh Verenes

**Class of 2023**  
Phyllis Britt  
Brenda Guerry  
Barb Magrath  
Frank Townsend  
Lindsay Tucker

### THE BOARD OF DEACONS

**Class of 2021**  
Miranda Anderson  
Susie Ferrara  
Hank Reynolds

**Class of 2022**  
Corey Feraldi  
Burt Starks  
Chick Warner

**Class of 2023**  
Lestine Bush  
Janice Cadwallader  
Jean Covington

*We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation.*