



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 17, 2021
21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

Larkin

CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 104

*One: O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.*

**All: You stretch out the heavens like a tent and set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.**

One: You make springs gush forth in the valleys and flow between the hills.

**All: You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth.**

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

All: Let us worship our generous God!

✦ HYMN 14

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

DIX

✦ CALL TO CONFESSION

✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and Everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. We confess that we overlook the immense gift of your Son, in part because we attach great worth to so many of our possessions. Forgive our lack of gratitude, Lord. Help us properly to value your glorious works, that we and your church here and around the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the proclamation of the true measure of your grace, given in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

✦ MUSICAL RESPONSE 551

LORD, HAVE MERCY

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

✦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦ RESPONSE OF PRAISE 591

HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH

HALLE, HALLE

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Andrea Paschal

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 16:1-8

SECOND LESSON

Mark 10:17-27

SERMON

"Blessed to Bless"

The Rev. Conley Zomermaand

RESPONDING

SILENT REFLECTION

✦ HYMN 451

OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MAY SEE

OPEN MY EYES

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Q &A 27 and 28

One: What do you understand by the providence of God?

All: The almighty and ever present power of God

**by which God divinely upholds heaven and earth and all creatures,
and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years,
food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—
all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by God's gracious hand.**

One: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

**All: We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well,
and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God
that nothing in creation will separate us from God's love.**

**For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without God's will,
they can neither move nor be moved. *Thanks be to God!***

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

DAY BY DAY
Sanctuary Choir Quartet

arr. Schweizer

✦ CELEBRATION OF GIVING

HYMN 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.¹**

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

✦ HYMN 742

WE WILL WALK WITH GOD
Congregation sings after the soloist.

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

✦ INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

✦ BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

AIR AND VARIATION

Beethoven

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

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in joyful celebration of the dedicated, compassionate ministry Holly has offered to our church by the families of Bob Buchanan and the late Barry Buchanan.

Liturgist: Rob Gray

Lay Reader: Chick Warner

Head Usher: Bennett Tucker

Please pass the friendship register on your pew during the offering.

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Large print hymnals, bulletins, and wireless assisted hearing receivers are available from any usher.

Childcare is available during worship for our youngest members ages infant to 5 years old. We ask you to escort your children directly to the childcare rooms before heading into worship. Room 6 will be for ages 0-2 and room 8 will be for ages 3-5. Due to Covid protocol, no snacks will be provided at this time. Families may bring a labeled water bottle if needed.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PICNIC AND FUN IN HITCHCOCK WOODS — Today after worship families with children and youth are encouraged to come to a hike in the woods and bring a picnic lunch. We'll meet at 1700 Dibble Road (the Upper Dibble Road Entrance, closest to the RR tracks) Everyone will hike to the Horse Show Grounds for a picnic. After lunch youth will play Capture the Flag, and children and parents will enjoy crafts and games together.

GLOBAL MISSIONS — The flags in the sanctuary during the month of October represent some of the countries in which the PC(USA) has missions partners.

LOVE OFFERING FOR HOLLY SHOAF-O'KULA — In thanksgiving for her ministry with us, a love offering is being received for Holly. If you would like to participate, please mark 'Holly' in the memo on your check to the church or on your online contribution by October 24.

SEND-OFF CELEBRATION — Join us for a send-off celebration on the West Lawn for Holly on Sunday, October 24, after worship. Food will be provided.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS — Forms for nominating officers for terms beginning in March 2022 are available in the narthex and church office. Please recommend members whom you believe are gifted and suited to serve. The deadline is Wednesday, October 20.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY — Hope is waiting in faith. It is not merely wishing for something to happen or hoping everything will work out if the stars align. Hope is waiting with anticipation—at times, with impatience—for what you know and believe is coming. In Hebrew, the word for rope and hope are the same. Hope is something outside ourselves that tethers us to safety and helps us keep going, even when we can't see our way. Purposeful Education will begin a new set of Sunday School lessons for all ages on Sunday, October 24, through Sunday, November 21, at 9:00 a.m. These are the classes that are taking place in the Education wing: Youth (Rm. 1), Children (Rm. 3), and Adults (Rm. 4).

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ACTS — During October, we are collecting grits, oatmeal, and cereal. Looking ahead, November's item is complete canned meals (e.g. beef stew).

CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

STAFF	TRUSTEES	THE SESSION	THE BOARD OF DEACONS
Interim Pastor/Head of Staff	Conley Zomermaand	Susan Budney, Clerk	Class of 2023 Phyllis Britt
Pastor for Compassionate Ministries	Holly Shoaf-O'Kula	Conley Zomermaand, Moderator	Brenda Guerry
Pastor for Connectional Communities	Terry Wimberley		Barb Magrath
Director of Music	Daniel Hamilton		Frank Townsend
Director of Purposeful Education	Andrea Paschal		Lindsay Tucker
Director of Operations	Chris Jolicoeur-Smith	Class of 2022 Bobby Calfee	Class of 2024 Kim Abney
Program Ministry Assistant/Creative Specialist	Joanna Hamilton	Andrew Guerry	Susan Budney
Organist/Accompanist	Kathy Clark	Terry Montgomery	Mike Loftus
Preschool Director	Mary Maddrey	Andy Ploeger	Paula Luther
Publications Specialist	Anna Derr	Ashby Reynolds	Bailey Shafer
Financial Secretary	Debby Dugan	Vic Sowers	Mary Helen Simons
Administrative Assistant	Zoë Andrews	Hugh Verenes	
			Class of 2022 Corey Feraldi Burt Starks Chick Warner, Chair
			Class of 2023 Lestine Bush Janice Cadwallader Jean Covington
			Class of 2024 Jeana Carter Liz Cox Bob Hinds

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation.