

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Greer, South Carolina

11:00 a.m. Worship



100 School Street Greer, SC 29651 ~ (864) 877-3612 ~ www.fpcgreer.org

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Ah, Holy Jesus* arr. Austin
Resounding Joy Handbell Choir

***Call to Worship**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Hymn No. 468** *In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified* LORD, BE GLORIFIED

Confession of Sin

O God, who is mystery and mercy to all our darkness and who pardons all who truly repent: hear our confession for we have sinned against heaven and in your sight. We have let justice stagnate in the far reaches of our hearts when you created it to roll down like waters. We have held fast to love for our own sake and know not the passion of your cross. We have searched for hope in every wrong place and so hidden from your promised kingdom that is even now upon us. Take no more of this from us. O God, but forgive us and find us bowed down in this season, waiting upon your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response No. 223 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* HAMBURG
When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Assurance of Pardon

***Response No. 624** *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* TOULON
Our hope is in no other save in thee;
our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
that in thy strength we evermore endure.

Moment for Music Ministry Lisa Dillard

***Words of Peace**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Invitation to the Children

Anthem *In Christ Alone* Getty/Townend

Prayer for Illumination

O God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, open your Word and illumine our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Numbers 21:4-9

New Testament Reading John 3:14-21

Sermon "Handling Snakes" Reverend Shelburne

***Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Offering

Offertory *Reflection on Beach Spring* arr. M. Eithun
Resounding Joy Handbell Choir

***Response No. 223** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* HAMBURG

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

***Prayer of Dedication and the Lord's Prayer**

***Hymn No. 839** *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!* ASSURANCE

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude** *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!* Crosby/Knapp

* Those who are able may stand.

Welcome to worship on this Fourth Sunday of Lent. We invite you to record your presence by signing the fellowship pads located in each pew. If worshipping with us online, we ask that you share your presence by emailing Lisa Johnson at lisaj@fpcgreer.org or completing the online attendance form on our website, www.fpcgreer.org/online-attendance.

Thank you to our instrumentalists and vocalists for sharing their gifts in worship today.

Today's bulletin artwork is by Giovanni Fantoni. Entitled, "Brazen Serpent", the piece is sourced from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

The rosebud celebrates the arrival of Mills Bultman Cobb, born on February 29. Congratulations to parents, Sara and Graham, and to big brother, Gee.

Handbell Helpers are needed to move equipment to the bell room after worship.

F3 and GROW for elementary children meets on TODAY at 12:00 p.m. for study, fellowship, and fun.

We had an amazing Youth Sunday last week! Thank you to our Mid and Senior Highs for leading worship and to Reverend Pexa and Lizzie McCallum, our Faith Formation Intern, for helping our young people plan the service.

The Men's Monthly Breakfast is Wednesday, March 13 at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Spring Bible Study meets this Wednesday, March 13 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 104.

Today we officially kick off our Organ Fundraising Campaign. The soon-to-begin installation of the new Cornel Zimmer organ will enrich our worship experience and greatly enhance our music programs. All members and friends of First Greer are invited to take part in this opportunity to advance the ministry and mission of our congregation. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to the Organ Fund, either as a pledge or as a one-time gift. Every donation will make a tangible and lasting impact on this congregation's legacy of inspiring people to faith and service. Thank you for your generous support!

Each week we help feed 33 students at Dunbar CDC and 30 students at Greer Middle School through your donations to the Dunbar Pantry. The pantry shelves need to be restocked with breakfast items, canned vegetables, fruit and pudding cups, juice boxes, snack items, and canned entrees. Donations can be dropped off at the church or you can visit the Amazon wish list on the FPCG website and have your order shipped directly to the church.

The 2024 Border Mission Trip to Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico is September 30th-October 5th. Pre-trip meetings will be held in May and September with dates to be determined. The trip is open to 15 participants, ages 16 and older and the cost is \$400.00 which includes airfare, housing, and meals. A \$100.00 deposit is due at registration. Contact Reverend Pexa for registration forms. The registration deadline is May 1st.

FROM THE CHURCH MILITANT TO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

HUGH STEPHENSON EARNEST

MARCH 6, 2024

"BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIE IN THE LORD."