

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Greer, South Carolina

8:55 a.m. Worship



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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 19, 2025

Second Sunday after Epiphany

8:55 a.m

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Dorsey

***Call to Worship**

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly.

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Hymn No. 772**

Live into Hope

TRURO

Confession of Sin

Eternal God, wellspring of all that is excellent and beautiful, we confess that through another week our eyes have looked too much on things below. We have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your righteousness and peace. We have let justice stagnate in the far reaches of our hearts when you created it to roll down like waters. Forgive us, we pray, and once more open our hearts to your mercy, our minds to your promises, and our hands to our neighbors in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response No. 442

Just as I Am, without One Plea

WOODWORTH

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Assurance of Pardon

***Response No. 447**

We Are Forgiven

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***Words of Peace**

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

Invitation to the Children

Prayer for Illumination

O God, to whom we belong and in whom we live; may we hear your voice speaking to each of us, reassuring us, challenging us, summoning us to dedicated and just living; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:1-10

New Testament Reading

Matthew 5:14-16

Sermon

“Stilling the Song of the Ruthless”

Reverend Shelburne

***Affirmation of Faith**

from *The Confession of Belhar*

We have one God, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope. We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Offering

Offertory

More Precious Than Silver

DeShazo

***Response No. 609**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

***Hymn**

Jesus, Be With Us

Gambrell/Morgan

Congregation, please join on the refrains:

Jesus, be with us, help us each day to follow the gospel and live as we pray.

Send us your spirit and show us your way. Jesus, be with us today.

***Charge and Benediction**

* Those who are able may stand.

Welcome to worship on this Second Sunday after Epiphany. Please indicate your presence today by signing the fellowship pads located in each pew. If worshipping with us online, please email Lisa Johnson at lisaj@fpcgreer.org or complete the online attendance form on our website, www.fpcgreer.org/online-attendance.

Thank you to Gayle Johnson for assisting in worship.

Today's Prayer of Adoration is a prayer written for the Church by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Today's closing hymn is *Jesus, Be With Us*. Composed in 2020, the text and tune were written by Reverend Dr. David Gambrell, associate for worship in the PCUSA Office of Theology and Worship, and arranged by Phillip Morgan, director of music at Central Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY. The hymn's "gospel style" is intended to serve as a reminder that eradicating systematic poverty, dismantling structural racism, and building congregational vitality is "gospel work" - how we proclaim and respond to the good news of Jesus Christ. The author/composer and arranger/performer grant permission for use of the hymn and recording in worship, online or otherwise.

Please note the church office is closed tomorrow, January 20, in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Youth Group resumes this evening at 5:30 p.m.! We will gather for a meal, some games, and a time for small group devotions. Hope to see you there!

Kids Connection will blast off this Wednesday, January 22 at 5:30 p.m. Come join the fun!

The Session has called a congregational meeting for January 26 at the beginning of 11:00 a.m. worship for the purpose of voting on changes to Reverend Shelburne's and Reverend Pexa's terms of call as required by the Book of Order (G-1.0504c).

Are you interested in ringing handbells? Join us on Sunday, January 26 at 1:00 p.m. for a one-hour "One and Done" ringing session. We will play for 11:00 a.m. worship on February 2. Beginners and intermediate ringers are welcome. RSVP to Lisa Dillard by January 20.

Young Ladies' Ensemble will rehearse at 9:45 a.m. on February 2, 9, and 16. We will sing for Youth Sunday on February 23.

Save the Date! Border Trip Recap and Taco Bar Lunch following 11:00 a.m. worship on February 2.

The dedication recital for our new Cornel Zimmer Pipe Organ is Sunday, February 9, at 3:00 p.m. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

Senior Pastor: Reverend Will Shelburne
Associate Pastor: Reverend Ally Pexa
Director of Music: Lisa Dillard
Assistant Director of Music: Pam Turnage
Early Service Music Leader: Maria Kithcart
Director of Operations: Maggie Wentzky
Financial Administrator: Christi Yenser
Administrative Assistant: Lisa Johnson
Faith Formation Intern: Lizzie McCallum
Kitchen Manager: Emily Huff