

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Greer, South Carolina

September 14, 2025



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

Gathering Music

The Cockman Family

*Victory in Jesus
I'm Winging My Way Back to Home
Life's Railway to Heaven*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Acres of Diamonds

The Cockman Family

***Call to Worship**

Sing to God; sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to the Lord who rides upon the clouds.
Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.
O rider of the heavens, the ancient heavens;
listen, God sends out his voice, his mighty voice.
Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel;
he gives power and strength to his people.

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Hymn**

Gospel Medley
I'll Fly Away, Traveling the Highway Home, The Unclouded Day, I'll Fly Away

Confession of Sin

Eternal God, who is the wellspring of all that is excellent and beautiful, we confess that through another week our eyes have looked too much on things below. We understand anew that the glory of our living is not in the things that serve us but in our service to you. Grant us a fresh awareness of your presence that we may repent. Stand us against the measure of your purposes, that we may be stirred from our too easy complacency about ourselves. We have been blind to our duty; we have been ungentle and unkind; we have cherished grudges and withheld forgiveness. Grant us such a vision of your grace, that here our souls, sincerely penitent, may find your pardon and your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response

The Living God

The Cockman Family

Assurance of Pardon

***Response**

I Love You Lord
The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain the second time through.

***Words of Peace**

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

Invitation to the Children

Anthem

When You Touched Me/The Wheel

The Cockman Family

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, lift us out of timidity and fearfulness into confidence, courage, and faith. May we hear your voice speaking to each of us, reassuring us, challenging us, summoning us to dedicated and victorious living; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading Luke 15:11-19

Special Music *The Touch of the Master's Hand* The Cockman Family

Scripture Reading Luke 15:20-32

***Affirmation of Faith** from *A Declaration of Faith, 1977*

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom. Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen. Amen.

Offering

Offertory *Where the Soul Never Dies* The Cockman Family

***Response** *Thank You for Your Blessings* The Cockman Family

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

***Hymn** *Amazing Grace*
verses 1,2, 4, and repeat verse 1

***Charge and Benediction**

***Departing Music** *Were You There/Jesus Hold My Hand* The Cockman Family

* Those who are able may stand.

Welcome to worship on this Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Please let us know of your presence by signing the fellowship pads located in each pew. If worshiping with us online, please share your presence by emailing Lisa Johnson at lisaj@fpcgreer.org or by completing the online attendance form on our website, www.fpcgreer.org/online-attendance.

We are delighted to welcome the award-winning Cockman Family Bluegrass Band, cousins of our Early Service Worship Leader, Maria Kithcart, as they bless both our worship services with their incredible music! The Cockman Family has earned national acclaim, receiving multiple nominations from the Country Gospel Music Association and the International Country Gospel Music Association, and have been honored by the North Carolina Folklore Society and Southern Branch Bluegrass.

Thank you to Carson Garrett, Ryan Greene, and William Shelburne, Jr. for assisting in 11:00 worship.

A “One and Done” handbell opportunity is available for all ages and skill levels. No experience is needed. Join us for rehearsal on September 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the bell room. We will play in worship on September 28. **RSVP TODAY to Lisa Dillard.**

Worship Education Classes for 1st Graders - this fall we will offer three classes about worship and the sacraments. The classes will be held in Room 201 during the Sunday School hour on September 21 and 28 and October 5. All children in the group will take communion together on World Communion Sunday during 11:00 worship. Contact Pastor Will for more information.

Fall Bible Study begins September 24! Join Reverend Dottie Metropol in the Mt. Tabor Room at 1:00 p.m. each Wednesday as we focus on some of the Creeds we say in worship each Sunday. The six-week study will begin with the Nicene Creed, followed by the Apostles' Creed, and end with the Theological Declaration of Barmen. Contact the church office for more information.

Flu shots will be given on September 28 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym. Regular and high doses will be available on a “first come first serve” basis.

The Session has called a congregational meeting for 11:00 a.m. on September 21 for the purpose of acting on a request from Reverend Ally Pexa to dissolve her pastoral relationship with First Presbyterian Church, Greer, in order to receive a new call at First Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

A Celebration of Faithful Ministry

Join us on September 21 as we celebrate and give thanks for the ministry of Reverend Ally Pexa during both worship services. A reception honoring Pastor Ally will be held in the Fellowship Hall following 11:00 a.m. worship.

As a way to say “thank you” to Ally, we will be collecting a love offering that will be presented during 11:00 a.m. worship.

If you would like to contribute to the love offering for Pastor Ally, you may do so via Realm or by writing a check payable to the church and designated “love offering for Pastor Ally”.

Checks may be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office.

The deadline for contributions is this Thursday, September 18.

*please note that donations to this offering are not tax deductible.