

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Greer, South Carolina

8:55 a.m. Worship



100 School Street Greer, SC 29651 ~ (864) 877-3612 ~ [www.fpcgreer.org](http://www.fpcgreer.org)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*Goodness of God*  
Ameka Cruz, solo

Johnson/Ingram/Cash/Fielding

**\*Call to Worship**

Blessed are you, O Lord;  
**with my whole heart I seek you.**  
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
**and observe it with my whole heart.**  
Blessed are you, O Lord;  
**I treasure your word in my heart.**

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**\*Hymn No. 749**

*Come! Live in the Light!*

WE ARE CALLED

**Confession of Sin**

**Almighty and Merciful God, on whom we rely for life and its meaning, we confess that we have sinned against you by failing to hear and accept your promises, by taking for granted your blessings, by relying on ourselves to be both the source and object of our own faith. 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. Grant that we would see the wonder of your love and cry once more with all our hearts, "Serve the Lord with gladness." Send us out with firmer purpose and high resolve, with penitence and power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Response No. 422**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

CREATE IN ME

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Response No. 582**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shine on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

**\*Words of Peace**

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

## Invitation to the Children - Bible Presentation to 1st and 3rd Graders

### Prayer for Illumination

Open our hearts, O God, and set them aflame with a love for the truth and a desire to do your will, that our witness to Christ may burn brightly in lives of joyful discipleship; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Old Testament Reading                      Proverbs 11:24-25                      Pew Bible, pg. 518

New Testament Reading                      2 Corinthians 6:11-13                      Pew Bible, pg. 940

Sermon                      "Open Wide Your Hearts!"                      Reverend Shelburne

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

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. Amen.

### Rally Day Litany of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being;  
**hear our prayer.**

For this place in which we gather for praise and prayer, witness and service, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For giving us the earth and all that is in it;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For the oceans, the rivers, the mountains, and the beloved foothills;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For fall weather, changing leaves, and pumpkin patches;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For sharing all of the earth's bounty and beauty with us;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For missions, for outreach, for evangelism, and for faith formation;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For Sunday school teachers, who give generously of their time; for students, young and old, who come to learn, grow, and mature in their faith; for this community of faith where we can gather to learn that we are your beloved children.

**We are grateful, O God, for the opportunities we have to worship, work, serve, and study together. As we enter a new program year and stewardship season, we pray that you will help us to remember your love for us and your call for us to love one another. May we continue to be good stewards of all that you have given us, remembering that all we have belongs to You. Help us to go about our days with abounding grace, abiding hope, and, above all, love. With deep gratitude, we give you thanks, O God. Amen.**

### Offering

**Offertory**

*Open Our Eyes*

Cull

**\*Response No. 692**

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Invitation and Institution  
Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Lord's Prayer  
Communion of the People  
Prayer

**\*Hymn No. 451**

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

**\*Charge and Benediction**

\* Those who are able may stand.

**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 Thursday, September 18.

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