

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Greer, South Carolina

11:00 a.m. Worship



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



**Anthem** *If With All Your Hearts* from "Elijah" Mendelssohn  
Matias Mariani, tenor

**Prayer for Illumination** William Plumer Jacobs, 1842-1917

**Gracious God, you know the doubts that overwhelm us and the anxieties that distress us. We long for your word to give us light. Lead our minds and hearts into a peaceful and trustful rest in your presence. As you have led us through fear and darkness, so now bring us out into the light that we may dwell with you and abide in you. Hear our prayers for our Savior's sake. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading** John 20:19-31 Pew Bible, pg. 883

**Sermon** "Gathering the Resurrected Community" Reverend Dr. Buz Wilcoxon

**\*Affirmation of Faith** from *What Presbyterians Believe* by Joseph M. Gettys (1907-2016)

**We believe in the sovereign God, the creator and preserver of the universe, who is revealed in scripture as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in the covenant of grace, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. He is the mediator who is revealed in the preaching and teaching of the word, and in the faithful administration of the sacraments. To declare our faith in God is therefore to commit ourselves to discover, to do, and to keep on doing the will of God day by day. To say we believe in God and then to live as though God were neither sovereign nor important is to make a hollow mockery of our faith. We know that all things will be done for the glory of God. In this confidence, let us find peace and rest for our souls, and let us live expectantly as we await the end of our days or the coming of our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Offering**

**Offertory** *I Know that My Redeemer Lives* arr. Callahan

**\*Response No. 232** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication**

*The Lord's Prayer* Malotte  
Matias Mariani, tenor

**\*Hymn No. 246** *Christ Is Alive!* TRURO

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Response No. 236** *The Strife Is O'er* VICTORY

The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

**\*Postlude** Recessional on *Lift High the Cross* arr. Jordan

\* Those who are able may stand.

**Welcome to worship on this Second Sunday of Easter.** We invite you to record your presence by signing the fellowship pads located in each pew. If worshipping with us online, please share your presence by emailing Lisa Johnson at [lisaj@fpcgreer.org](mailto:lisaj@fpcgreer.org) or by completing the online attendance ritual of friendship form on our website, [www.fpcgreer.org/online-attendance](http://www.fpcgreer.org/online-attendance).

**Thank you to** Gayle Johnson for assisting in worship. Special thanks to Matias Mariani for sharing his musical gifts with us today.

**We welcome the Reverend Dr. Buz Wilcoxon to the pulpit today.** Buz grew up in Fairhope, Alabama and attended Presbyterian College (BA) and Columbia Theological Seminary (MDiv & DMin). He served as the associate pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC and as the senior pastor of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in Mobile, AL. In 2022 he began serving as the inaugural Marianne & E.G. Lassiter Chaplain & Dean of Spiritual Life at Presbyterian College. He and his wife, Ryann, are the proud parents of Lohi and Wilson.

**We are honored to welcome Dr. Anita Olson Gustafson to worship today.** She became the 20th president of Presbyterian College in the fall of 2023. A collaborative leader with roots that run deep throughout the PC community, Dr. Gustafson leads the college with a wealth of experience in higher education and a strong passion for the liberal arts. She is the first female president in PC history. Prior to becoming PC's president, she served as interim dean of academic programs and history department chair as well as chair of the PC Launch Program for Vocation, Leadership, and Service.

**The Presbyterian Promise Scholarship** is a commitment by Presbyterian College (PC) to recognize students for their merit and affiliation with the Presbyterian Church. PC seeks to develop students academically and spiritually with this signature scholarship. Students who are members of Presbyterian churches will receive a scholarship for a minimum of \$20,000.00 per year for up to four years—that's an \$80,000.00 commitment to you. For more information, we invite you to visit [www.presby.edu/admissions/tuition-aid/presbyterian-promise/](http://www.presby.edu/admissions/tuition-aid/presbyterian-promise/).

**VBS Registration Is Now Open!** All children, K3-5th grade, are invited to join us June 1-5 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for Snowball Mountain Challenge: Find Your Strength in God. For additional details or to register, visit [www.fpcgreer.org/vbs-information](http://www.fpcgreer.org/vbs-information).

**Join us next Sunday, April 19, for a special service of worship** led by our incredible children and youth. We will have one service at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary followed by a time of fellowship with lemonade and cookies on the front lawn.

**The Men's Monthly Breakfast** is this Tuesday, April 14, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

#### **Notes on Today's Worship Liturgy**

**Joan S. Gray** was the first woman ordained by Atlanta Presbytery (PCUS) in 1978. She has served as pastor of many churches in Atlanta, GA, taught at Columbia Theological Seminary, and was elected Moderator of the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2006. She has published books on church leadership, including the one from which this prayer is adapted, *Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice*.

**William Plumer Jacobs** was pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, SC. In 1875, he founded Thornwell Orphanage for children who lost their parents in the Civil War and then, in 1880, founded Presbyterian College to provide a college education for those children.

**Joseph M. Gettys** was as Presbyterian minister who served as professor of religion and academic dean at Presbyterian College from 1956-1974. He was the interim pastor of 37 churches and the founding pastor of two churches. He was the author of numerous Bible studies and books about the Presbyterian Church, including a summary of the Westminster Standards, from which this affirmation of faith is drawn.