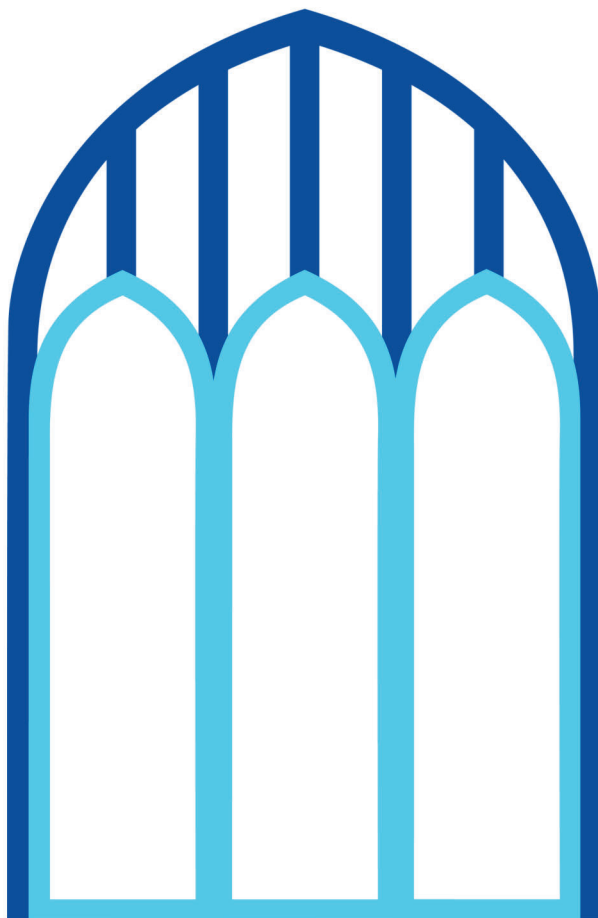


TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 31, 2025 | 11:00 AM



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Servant Church in the City Since 1827

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isaiah 55: 1

Text in **bold** is spoken by all
An asterisk (*) indicates all should stand if able

THE GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Union Seminary*

Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Charlotte Keenoy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing aloud to God our strength!
Shout for joy to the God of Jacob!

God has called us from wilderness into promise,
from thirst into living water,
from emptiness into fullness.
Lord God, your love has called us here.

Come, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for God's table is open and God's welcome is sure.
Lord God, your love has called us here.

*HYMN (next page)


Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here

SURREY

CALL TO CONFESSION

Charlotte Keenoy

Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here




1. Lord God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2. We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3. Lord God, in Christ you call our name, and then re - ceive us
 4. Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5. Lord God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made; your liv - ing like - ness still we bear, though
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains, by
 as your own; not through some mer - it, right, or claim, but
 call us friends; suf - fer and serve till all are fed, and
 joy to share; give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty to



marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed; we come, with all our
 so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by powers and sys - tems
 by your gra - cious love a - lone; we strain to glimpse your
 show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind, your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat, and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do, while love is mak - ing all things new.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the banquet,
you set a table where the humble are lifted up
and the poor, the broken, and the forgotten are honored.
But we confess that our tables are too small.
We choose places of privilege,
and we guard seats for those who look like us,
think like us, and repay us in kind.
We resist humility and close our doors to grace.
Forgive us, O Lord.
Pull out the chairs we have held back,
open our hearts to the guests we overlook,
and teach us again to find our place beside Christ,
who welcomed all in love. Amen.

KYRIE (575)

PARDINI

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI (581)

GREATOREX

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

WORDS OF PEACE

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Minute for Mission: Literacy Mission

Charlotte Keenoy

Allison Johnson

INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN

Allison Shearouse

HYMN 20 (v.1-2)

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

Children kindergarten and younger may go to the Preschool for Extended Session after the children's sermon. First through fifth graders are invited to a special time of worship in the John Knox Room, returning during the Affirmation of Faith. Worship bags are also available in the narthex to help children engage in the service.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Living God,
your word is honey from the rock
and bread for the journey.
By your Spirit, feed us now with wisdom that satisfies,
so that we may hear Christ's call,
walk in his humility,
and share in his joy. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

NRSV

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me
that they went far from me
and went after worthless things and became worthless themselves?
They did not say, "Where is the Lord,
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us in the wilderness,
in a land of deserts and pits,
in a land of drought and deep darkness,
in a land that no one passes through,
where no one lives?"
I brought you into a plentiful land
to eat its fruits and its good things.
But when you entered you defiled my land
and made my heritage an abomination.
The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?"
Those who handle the law did not know me;
the rulers transgressed against me;
the prophets prophesied by Baal
and went after things that do not profit.
Therefore once more I accuse you,
says the Lord,
and I accuse your children's children.
Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look;
send to Kedar and examine with care;
see if there has ever been such a thing.

Has a nation changed its gods,
even though they are no gods?
But my people have changed their glory
for something that does not profit.
Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked; be utterly desolate,
says the Lord,
for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me,
the fountain of living water,
and dug out cisterns for themselves,
cracked cisterns
that can hold no water.

PSALM 81: 1, 10-16 (*read responsively*)

- 1 Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
- 10 **I am the Lord your God,**
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
- 11 “But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel would not submit to me.
- 12 **So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,**
to follow their own counsels.
- 13 O that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!
- 14 **Then I would quickly subdue their enemies**
and turn my hand against their foes.
- 15 Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him,
and their doom would last forever.
- 16 **I would feed you with the finest of the wheat,**
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4: 1, 7-14

NIV

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

SERMON

"The Best Seat in the House"

John Wilson

***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.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold Freidell (1902-1958)

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name, two or three are met together,
thou art in the midst of them; alleluia, alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Father
break the bread and bless the cup, alleluia, alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping, giving, we may true
disciples be. Alleluia, alleluia! we will serve thee faithfully.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

Allison Shearouse

THE SENDING

*HYMN 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

*BENEDICTION

John Wilson

*CHORAL RESPONSE

A Clare Benediction

John Rutter (b. 1945)

May the Lord show his mercy upon you; may the light of his presence be your guide:
May he guard you and uphold you; may his spirit be ever by your side.
When you sleep may his angels watch over you; when you wake may he fill you with his grace:
May you love him and serve him all your days, then in heaven may you see his face.

POSTLUDE

Processional on *Christe Sanctorum*

Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

9:30 A.M.

CHILDREN & YOUTH CLASSES

Babies to Age 3 - Nursery

3's-Kindergarten Class - Room 8

Special Class for Children: Stained Glass Stories
1st-5th Grades- Room 221 & Sanctuary

6th-12th Grade Youth Class- Room 212

ADULT CLASSES

Covenant Class
studying the Gospel of Luke and
using Interpretation Bible Commentary by Fred Craddock
Led by Bob Morgan in Room 115

Sojourners Class
studying Reckless Love by Tom Berlin
Led by Howard Crawford and Peter Foley in the John Knox Room

Timothy Class
using Working Preacher for guiding their Lectionary Study.
Led by Eric McManus in Imlay House

Women's Book Study
meeting monthly and their next gathering will be Sunday, September 7.
Led by Raven Herrington and Cara Schlosser in the Hospitality Room
(upstairs)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS WEEK OF AUGUST 31

Sunday, August 31	9:30 a.m.....Sunday School for all ages 10:00 a.m.....Chancel Choir 11:00 a.m.....Online and In-Person Worship
Monday, September 1	Labor Day Holiday - Church Offices Closed 2:00 p.m.....A Gracious Christmas Crafting
Tuesday, September 2	6:00 p.m.....Scout Troop 7:00 p.m.....Communications Committee
Wednesday, September 3	5:30 p.m.....Literacy Mission Training 7:00 p.m.....Chancel Choir
Thursday, September 4	6:00 p.m.....Grace & Joy Circle 6:00 p.m.....Cub Scouts
Friday, September 5	10:30 a.m.....Centering Prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Forward in Faith Update

The Forward in Faith campaign formally ended June 30, but the fund remains open for new commitments and contributions over the next three years. To participate, contact John Tatum (jtatum2@me.com) or Dan Walters (danielraumwalters@gmail.com). To date, **\$1,272,436** has been pledged. A Construction Committee is now working with our architect on next steps.

Inquirer's Class

Interested in learning more about First Presbyterian? Our Inquirer's Class introduces visitors to our history, ministries, and Presbyterian theology. For details, contact Gay Gunter (404-316-8228, gayhgunter@gmail.com).

New Women's Book Study

A new Women's Book Study begins Sunday, September 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hospitality Room, led by Raven Herrington and Cara Schlosser. The first reading will be *The Inner Ring* by C.S. Lewis. All women are welcome! Childcare and Sunday School available.

A Gracious Christmas Crafters

Crafters are meeting now to prepare items for this year's sale on December 4. Sewing, painting, cutting, planting — all skills welcome! For details, contact Renee McGehee (912-656-5501).

New Literacy Mission

Volunteer tutors are needed for 2nd graders in SCCPSS schools. Tutoring begins September 16, Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Training is Wednesday, September 3, 5:30–7:30 p.m., with dinner provided. For info or to sign up, contact Allison Johnson (912-308-3020, AJSellsSavannah@gmail.com) or Michael Johnson (912-604-0797, SavannahHome4You@gmail.com).

Grace and Joy Women's Circle

Next gathering: Thursday, September 4 at 6:00 p.m. in Imlay House, hosted by Jenell and Ellen. We'll share food, fellowship, and study lesson 2 of "Resilience." Study books are \$14.

Contact Ellen Tate (912-713-7350; emtate1950@gmail.com) or Jenell Griffith (912-656-7181; jenell.griffith@comcast.net).

Wonderful Wednesdays

- **Music, Art, Faith** for ages 3–5th grade: Sept 10 & 24, 4:30–6:00 p.m., upstairs in Art & Youth Music Rooms.
- **Wednesday Dinner** resumes Sept 10 at 6:00 p.m. in Stewart Hall (\$8 adults, \$4 children, \$25 family max). "Made to Create" will be a night of fun, creativity, and connection for all ages.

JUST Benefit Concert

JUST is gathering some of the most talented musicians in Savannah for this incredible fundraising event on Sunday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church! We want you to be there. Every registration to this event will bring us closer to achieving our mission of a more just Savannah. So far, we have worked on affordable housing, public school literacy, and mental health access. \$25 suggested ticket donation helps support the ministry of JUST.

Purchase tickets here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/hope-has-many-voices-just-concert>

FIRST'S MISSION STATEMENT

The life of the church is the response of faith and obedience to the call of God in Christ. Gathered: We worship and sing, study and pray. We enjoy fellowship together. Forgiven by God: we learn to forgive other people. Sent forth: We serve as leaven, salt and light, to be agents of God's love in Savannah and the larger world.

THE SESSION

Class of 2025: Natalie F. Chase, Myra P. Hill, Elizabeth H. Longley, Eric J. McManus, Colin A. McRae, John M. Tatum
Class of 2026: Judith G. Crawford, John H. Hinman III, Brett J. Lundy, Emily C. Salzer, Martha L. Stein, Daniel R. Walters
Class of 2027: Lisa B. Bennett, Jordan N. Chase, Gay H. Gunter, Joshua A. Herrington, Michael W. Johnson, William C. Keightley
Clerk of Session: John M. Tatum
Elder Emerita: Rose M. Donnelly

CHURCH STAFF

Allison B. Shearouse, *Director of Christian Education* | Jonathan M. Murphy, *Director of Music* |
Mallory J. Abshire, *Office Administrator* | Howard T. Crawford, *Director of Facilities* |
Dorothy S. Bunker, *Preschool Director* | Hugh I. Daniels, *Sexton*

MISSIONARIES

Farsijana and Bernard Adeney: *Yogyakarta, Indonesia* | Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather: *Yei, South Sudan* |
Ellen D. Smith: *Warsaw, Poland*.

GREETER: Charlotte Keenoy | **USHERS:** Head Usher: Scott Atchison **Team Members:** Linda Wittish, Rich Wittish, Tom Hetherington | **ACOLYTE:** Collier Cunning | **EXTENDED SESSION:** Jen Cunning and Ellen Tate

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR marks the beginning of the Lord's Day service. The Prelude is a time for quiet preparation and private prayer as the congregation prepares to worship God.

FLOWERS are given by Ron Newsom and family in loving memory of Marilyn Newsom.

SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR has some open dates this summer. If you would like to sponsor sanctuary flowers for one of the following dates please contact Mallory Abshire (finance@savannahfpc.org).

GUEST PREACHER John Wilson has served as an Elder at both Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church in Coronado, CA and Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church in Bryan County, GA. He has taught Middle and High School Sunday School, as well as Children's Church and Youth Group. He has written and delivered more than 100 sermons as a supply worship leader at Richmond Hill, Bryan Neck & Fort Frederica Presbyterian Church. He is a Graduate of Savannah Presbytery's J Richard Bass School of the Laity.

LITURGIST Charlotte Keenoy was ordained as a Ruling Elder 40 years ago and has served 4 churches. At First she is our Greeter and serves on the Worship & Music, Congregational Care and Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team committees. For Savannah Presbytery she sits on the MKPentecost Ecology Fund and Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team committees, as well as represents Savannah Presbytery as an Examination Reader for Ordination candidates. She is a graduate of the Savannah Presbytery School of the Laity.

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ONLINE GIVING Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to First using our secure online portal which can be found at www.SavannahFPC.org by clicking on the **Give Now** tab at the top right corner of the home page or by scanning our QR code using your smartphone's QR reader.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Servant Church in the City Since 1827

520 Washington Avenue | Savannah, GA 31405 | 912.354.7615 | SavannahFPC.org
A Member of the Presbytery of Savannah, the Synod of South Atlantic, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)