

Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

“To the Glory of God, and the Service of People”

September 17th, 2023

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Eleven o'clock

The Church Gathers

The Session invites members to wear masks to worship and other gatherings, if you are more comfortable doing so in a group situation, and of course if you are sick to please stay home.

Chiming of the Hour
Concerns of the Church

Moment for Celebration of Generosity

Carole Thomas

Preparation for Worship

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, first in silence, then as we listen to the prelude.

Prelude

“Lord, Now You Let Your Servant”

Arr. Jerry van der Pol

***Call to Worship**

We observe this day as the Lord’s Day, *giving thanks to God*, who gives justice to the oppressed, *who forgives us and redeems us*, and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

ALL: Come, Let us worship God!

***Prayer of Praise**

***Hymn of Praise (see #115, pg 6)**

“Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”

The Church Confesses

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession:**

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others.

We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us. . . . (silent, personal confession) Amen.

*Kyrie #572 *You are the Lord, Giver of mercy.
You are the Christ, Giver of mercy.
You are the Lord, Giver of mercy.*

*Assurance of Pardon
. . . in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. *Thanks be to God.*

*Corporate Passing of the Peace
Peace be with you. *And also with you.*

*Gloria Patri #579 *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.*

The Church Proclaims God's Word

Prayer for Illumination *Elder Ken Townsend*

1st Scripture Reading: Exodus 14.19-31
The Word of God for the People of God. *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem *"Let Us Go into the House of the Lord"* *Dave & Jean Perry*
 PPC Adult Choir

2nd Scripture Reading: Matthew 18.21-35
The Word of God for the People of God. *Thanks be to God.*

Time with Young Disciples

Sermon *"Synonyms for Stewardship #1"*
 The Reverend Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967*
*In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to Godself. Jesus Christ is God with
humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among
us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the
Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God,
humankind, and the world.*

*In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Many rejected him and
demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the
judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead,
vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.*

*The risen Christ is the Savior for all people and the judge of all people. The reconciling
work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and
resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for people when the gospel is
proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to
people, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates new
life in Christ.*

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community.

*Hymn (See #65, p. 7)

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Offering

Offertory

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

KINGSFOLD

*Doxology #592

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

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (debts/Debtors)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our Debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn of Commitment (See #435, p.8)

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

*Benediction

Postlude

*“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!” Arr. Anne Krentz Organ
(Please remain seated until worship ends with the end of the Postlude)*

Worship Has Ended – Service Begins

**Those who are able please stand in body or spirit.*

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share prayer concerns and celebrations in worship, or on the pew rack cards placing them in the offering plates, or email the church office – admin@pickenspresbyterian.org.

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations List

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. – Philippians 4:6 (NRSV)

(Prayer concern list policy: Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks, after which they may be either renewed for another 4 weeks, or moved to the Long-Term Prayer Concern List)

<u>Name (relationship)</u>	<u>Concern</u>
Janice & Mike (friends of Liza, Donna, and Kerry).....	his health concerns
Mary & Charles Barron	his health concerns
Legacy Partnership Project Team.....	discernment
Moroccan earthquake victims	
Lybian flood victims	

**new this week*

Peace in Ukraine. PDA support: gifts to [DR000156](#) or text PDAUKR to 41444. *Make checks payable to Presbyterian Church USA and put the gift number in the memo line.*

Maui Fire Victims. PDA support: gifts to [DR000165](#). *Make checks payable to Presbyterian Church USA & put the gift number in the memo line.* Or contribute to the Maui Food Bank using this link: [Maui Food Bank](#).

Long Term Prayer Concern List

“Gig” Alexander, Barbara & Joe Christopher, Doug Finney, Jane Gillespie, Scott Kelly, John Owens, Faye Padgett, Patti Rivers, Jo Ann Taylor, Melvin Tolliver (Deb Holtel’s uncle), John & Tiffanie Torrey (David’s brother and sister-in-law)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, and calls after the loss of our dear granddaughter, Isabella Wade. Your thoughtfulness and kind words are greatly appreciated. We are grateful for friends like you at this difficult time in our lives.

Sincerely, Raymond and Margaret Dawkins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessings and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and every day! *If you are visiting, we offer a special welcome and invite you to participate with us in mission and ministry.* Contact the church office to begin receiving our newsletter.

NOTE FOR SUNDAY USHERS: The Worship Committee asks that: *“Scheduled ushers for each week are to arrive no later than 10:40 to hand out bulletins and greet people as they enter the sanctuary.” “Also, please return the offering plates to the table, and not on one of the chairs. Thank you!”*

CHURCH RETREAT: The Christian Education committee assessing interest in a Church Retreat for our PPC church family. If you and your family would be interested in attending a Church Retreat at the Montreat Conference Center in NC, please **fill out the tear-off bottom of next page** and leave in the offering plate.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CDC: Ingles Tools for Schools Program. You must renew your Ingles' savings card each year. In order to support our CDC, please use school code #22903. You can do this online at: <https://tinyurl.com/PickensCDC>.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME: Please join us in All Saints’ Hall at 10:30am for food and fellowship. **Sign up online at:** <https://tinyurl.com/FellowshipSnacks> or see the QR code in the Cliffnotes to sign up.

GENERAL FUND UPDATE:

Offering last Sunday: General Fund: **\$1,258.88**, Building Fund: **\$0.00**.
Total General Offering Year-to-Date: **\$148,702.41**, includes **\$13,842 online**.
Total General Expenses Year-to-Date: **\$188,629.07**.
Contributions Needed Weekly to Maintain 2023 Budget: \$5,316.60.

Serving:	September 17, 2023	September 24, 2023
Pulpit Elder:	Ken Townsend	Tina LaFoy
Sanctuary Guild:	Cindy Wood	Cindy Wood
Ushers:	Allison Ranson & Debbie Teeple	Ken Townsend & Mark Taylor
Refreshments:	TBD	Debbie Hendricks
Camera Operation:	Ginger Chastain	Robert Simms
Communion Servers:		

Lectionary readings for today:

Pulpit Elder: Ken Townsend
 Exodus 14.19-31
 Psalm 114 *or* Exodus 15.1b-11, 20-21
 Romans 14.1-12
 Matthew 18.21-35

Lectionary readings for next Sunday:

Pulpit Elder: Tina LaFoy
 Exodus 16:2-15
 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
 Philippians 1:21-30
 Matthew 20:1-16

Church Activities and Events This Week:Online calendar: <http://73970421.view-events.com>

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, Sept 17	9:30am	Sunday School	All Saints' Hall
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	ASH
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	ASH
	11:00am	Worship Service – 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	ASH
	12:30pm	Session Meeting	ASH
	5:30pm	Youth Fellowship	ASH
Monday, Sept 18	8:30am	Food Pantry	Church Office
	11:00am	Centering Prayer	ASH
	6:00pm	Girl Scouts	Ed Bldg/ASH
Tuesday, Sept 19	9:00am	Jane B Morris Service Fund	Church Office
Wednesday, Sept 20	8:30am	Food Pantry	Church Office
	10:00am	Children's Chapel	All Saints' Hall
	10:30am	Bible Study	ASH
	4:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	ASH
	5:30pm	LPP Team Meeting	ASH
Thursday, Sept 21	12:00pm	DEADLINE – Bulletin & Cliffnotes	All Saint's Hall
	4:00pm	Sailboat Church Prayer Group	ASH
Friday, Sept 22		<i>Office Closed</i>	
Saturday, Sept 23			
Sunday, Sept 24	9:30am	Sunday School	All Saints' Hall
	10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	ASH
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	ASH
	11:00am	Worship Service – 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	ASH
	5:30pm	Youth Fellowship	ASH

SESSION & COMMITTEES**Building and Grounds:** Roy Stoddard ('23) and David McCormick ('25) (Co-Moderators)**Child Development Center:** Jim Mahanes ('22), Roy Stoddard ('23), and David McCormick ('25)**Christian Education:** Cindy Townsend ('24) and Robert Simms ('25) (Co-Moderators)**Administration: Budget:** Ken Acker ('23),**Administration:** Donna Owen ('24),**Finance:** Ken Townsend ('23)**Fellowship and Care:** Tina LaFoy ('24) and Nancy Goldsmith ('25) (Co-Moderators)**Missions:** Roger Gettys ('23) and Rocky Harden ('23) (Co-Moderators)**Worship:** Debbie Teeple ('24) and Starla Taylor ('25) (Co-Moderators)**Trustees:** Allison Ranson ('23), Debbie Carmical ('24), Tim Crocker ('25)**Moderator:** Rev. Dr. David A. Torrey**Phone:** 864.878.9422 ext. 2, 803.317.3331 (cell)**Clerk of Session:** Kay Rentz**Co-Clerk of Session:** Karen Brown

Yes, I/my family would be interested in attending a Church Retreat at Montreat.

How many would attend? _____

What are the ages? _____

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain 115

ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6 D

John of Damascus (c. 675-749)

Trans. John Mason Neale, 1859; alt.

Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900); alt.

1. Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ hath burst His pris - on,

God hath brought forth Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness;
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en.

Loosed from Phar - aoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
Now re - joice, Je - ru - sa - lem, And with true af - fec - tion

Led them, with un - moist - ened foot, Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
Wel - come in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

FORGIVENESS

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal

which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more

sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-

where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.