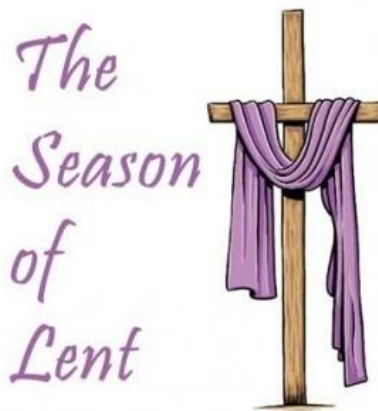


Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

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

March 16th, 2025

2nd Sunday in Lent

Eleven o'clock

The Church Gathers

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Introit

Friendship Pads

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

J. Berthier

Please print your name(s), and contact information, pass the pad, pass it back, note the names of those worshipping with you and greet them by name after worship.

Concerns in the Life of the Church

Prelude

“Abide with Me”

EVENTIDE

***Call to Worship**

(from Psalm 27.1)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; *Whom shall I fear?*

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; *Of whom shall I be afraid?*

ALL: Come, let us worship God.

***Prayer of Praise**

***Hymn #488**

“The God of Abraham Praise”

The Church Confesses

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, as enemies circle and fear grows large, the distance between us feels like absence and we come to believe you are hidden and concealed. Forgive our doubt. Forgive our lack of spiritual seeking. Forgive us when we make our faith all about what you might do for us rather than how we might serve you and work at right relationship with you. . . . (silent, personal confession) Amen.

Kyrie

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.

**You are invited to stand in spirit or in body.*

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

(Please turn to the person in front of you, behind you, and beside you to share Christ's peace with them)

***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 Sharon Stark

1st Scripture Reading Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

The Word of God for the People of God. *Thanks be to God.*

Time with Young Disciples

2nd Scripture Reading Luke 13.31-35

The Word of God for the People of God. *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem "Out of The Depths I Cry" G.F. Handel, Arr. Hal Hopson
PPC Adult Choir

Sermon "Eyes on the Prize" Rev. Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

***Hymn #84** "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

***Affirmation of Faith** (from a Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Recognition of Girl Scout Sunday – Troup #1591

Offering (Use the QR Code to the right for Online Giving)



[GIVE NOW](#)

Offertory "To You, O Lord, I Call"

Robert J. Powell

***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)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord. . . .

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 #101** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

"The Family of God"

arr. Fred Bock

(Please remain seated until worship ends after the Postlude)

The Church Enters the Mission Field

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the name of Jesus the Christ, "Welcome Home" to the House of the Lord. If you are visiting, we offer a special welcome and invite you to participate with us in mission and ministry. If you would like to become a member of our congregation, please speak to the Pastor. Visit our website (www.PickensPresbyterian.org) to register for our newsletter.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Share prayer concerns in worship, on the pew cards (place in the offering plates), or email the church office admin@pickenspresbyterian.org.

(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)

PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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)

CONCERNS

Name (relationship)

Concern

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| *Judith McCormick (David's Mother) | health concerns |
| *Rob Bray (Nancy Goldsmith's brother)..... | house fire |
| *Chase Dyal & Robby "Cricket" Stewart (Utility workers injured @ Oconee substation) | health concerns |
| Shawn Erickson (Ron & Sylvia's son)..... | health concerns |
| Jayden Harden..... | Medical Mission Trip |
| John DeLuca (friend of Darrell Cook)..... | health concerns |
| 6-Mile Fire Victims | |
| Faye Tidwell (Judy & Darrell Cook's In-Laws) | health concerns |
| Toni Webber (Jimmy's care-giver)..... | health concerns |
| Howard Harden (Rocky's brother)..... | health concerns |

CELEBRATIONS

To my beloved PPC family:

The last 16 months have admittedly been challenging, but the support, prayers, and aid of this family has pulled me through so that I am now standing more sturdily. Many thanks to all who have supplied transportation, meals and food, financial assistance, heating and repairs, storm recovery, hugs, prayers, understanding, listening, surprise gifts, and doing things I would not normally think of. I am so fortunate to have become a part of PPC. Blessings and love to all. Jan Sparks

*new this week

Peace in Ukraine. PDA support: gifts to [DR000156](https://www.donorsdrive.org/DR000156).

Humanitarian Aid to Israel/Palestine. Text PDAIP to 41444, or gifts to “**DR000081-Israel/Palestine**”.

US Hurricane Relief (Helene, Milton, +). PDA support: gifts to [DR000169](#).

US Wildfires Relief – Southern CA. PDA support: gifts to [DR000165](#).

*Make all checks payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with DR support number on memo line.

LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERN LIST

Bert Allison, Jeannie Bowen, Katherine Acker Brooks, Barbara & Joe Christopher, Raymond & Margaret Dawkins, Shawn Erickson (Ron & Sylvia's son), **Jane Gillespie, Samuel Hood** (nephew of John & Jana Holland), **Beverly Kelly, Scott Kelly, Drema LaFoy** (Tina's mother) & **Tina, Mary Dawn Mills** (Niece of Ray & Margaret Dawkins), **Susan Steedman** (Sarah Mahanes' Mother) **Melvin Tolliver** (Deb Holtel's uncle), **John & Tiffanie Torrey** (David's brother & Sister-in-law), **Mary Hellen Ward** (sister of Ray Dawkins).

CHURCH EVENTS THIS WEEK: Online calendar: <http://PickensPresbyterian.org/Calendar>

EASTER LILY FUND: Memorials and Honorariums for the Easter Lily Fund will be received this year through Sunday, April 6th, to support our Jane B. Morris Service Fund. Special offering envelopes are in the pew racks. **Memorials and Honorariums will be published on April 13th and 20th.**

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS: Full copies of this year's Lenten daily devotionals, “*Grieving Change and Loss: the unpredictable, non-linear, faith-filled journey toward resurrection*” written by Teri McDowell Ott, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook, and others, are in the Narthex, and a link to the full devotional booklet is in our weekly Cliffnotes.

WARMTH & COMFORT MINISTRY: April Drive: Easter Bows and Easter Cards. **Due by April 10th in Church Office Collection Box. Questions: Contact Tammy Ferguson @ 864-238-4652 or warmthandcomfortfortheelderly@gmail.com**

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME: All Saints' Hall at 10:30am for food and fellowship. **Sign up to provide snacks online at: <https://tinyurl.com/FellowshipSnacks> or via the QR code in the CliffNotes.**

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Last Sunday's Giving: **\$14,206.**

Weekly Amount Needed to meet Budget: **\$6,148.**

2025 Budget: **\$319,714.**

SERVING:

MARCH 16, 2025

MARCH 23, 2025

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Pulpit Elder: | Sharon Stark | Betsey Chalmers |
| Sanctuary Guild: | Debbie Teeple | Debbie Teeple |
| Ushers: | Holder Family | Holder Family |
| Refreshments: | Anna and Alex | Donna and Liza |
| Camera Operation: | Anna Chastain | Carole Thomas |
| Nursery Volunteers: | | |
| Sanctuary Flowers: | <i>In-house Arrangement</i> | Vickie Swayngham |
| Communion Set-up: | | |
| Communion Servers: | | |

Lectionary readings for today:

Pulpit Elder: Sharon Stark
Genesis 15.1–12, 17–18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3.17–4:1
Luke 13.31–35 or Luke 9.28–36

Lectionary readings for next Sunday:

Pulpit Elder: Betsey Chalmers
Isaiah 55.1–9
Psalm 63.1–8
1 Corinthians 10.1–13
Luke 13.1–9