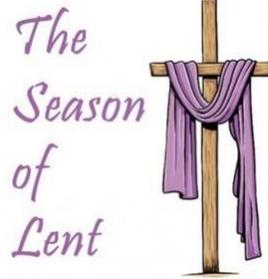


# Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET  
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

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

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

Eleven o'clock

## The Church Gathers

**Chiming of the Hour**  
**Choral Introit**

*“Standing on the Promises”*

**Friendship Pads**

*Please print your name(s), & contact information, pass the pad, pass it back, note the names of your neighbors and greet them by name after worship.*

**Concerns in the Life of the Church**

Louise Hope, Liturgist

**Prelude**

*“Blessed Are We”*

Mike Cutler

**\*Call to Worship**

(Psalm 121:1-2)

I lift up my eyes to the hills — *from where will my help come?*

My help comes from the Lord, *who made heaven and earth.*

*ALL: Come, Let us worship God!*

**\*Prayer of Praise**

**Hymn # insert**

*“The Glory of These Forty Days”*

## The Church Confesses

**Prayer of Confession**

*Gracious God, as we wander through the wilderness this Lent, we are aware of our need for your presence, your love, your guidance on life’s journey. Forgive us for turning away from you. Forgive our doubt and uncertainty that led us to place our faith in worldly comforts that don’t run deep enough and don’t last. We come to your well this Lent desperate and thirsty for Christ’s living water. Quench our thirst, we pray. Grant us your forgiveness and your grace. . . . (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.*

**\*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**

Louise Hope

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading**

Genesis 12.1-4a

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

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

Elder Tina LaFoy

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading** Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

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

**Anthem** "Shall We Gather at the River"

arr. John Carter

**Sermon** "Promises, Promises"

Dr. David Torrey

### ***The Church Responds in Faith***

**\*Hymn # 73** "Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory"

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

The 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.*

**Offering and Change-for-Change Food Pantry Offering**

GIVE NOW



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

**Offertory** "There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood"

arr. Rafael Griffin

**\*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**

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table and The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Holy Lord, Father almighty, . . . we will celebrate victory with him.

*Remembering the Lord Jesus, we break bread and share one cup, announcing his  
death for the sins of the world, and telling his resurrection to all people and nations.*

. . .

**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.*

**Breaking of the Bread**

**Communion of the People** *(As we are one body, let us wait to eat and drink together)*

*"Bless the Lord, O My Soul"*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all God's benefits.*

**Prayer after Communion**

**\*Hymn # 234** "I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes"

**\*Lenten Litany and Benediction**

*Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.*

*Christ, as a shield overshadow me.*

*Christ under me;*

*Christ over me;*

*Christ beside me on my left and my right.*

*This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;  
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.  
This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Christ as a light;  
Christ as a shield;  
Christ beside me on my left and my right.*

**Postlude**

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made” *arr. Dr. Daniel W. Hester*  
(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. We invite you to visit our website ([www.PickensPresbyterian.org](http://www.PickensPresbyterian.org)) to register for our newsletter.*

**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)*

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

| <b>Name (relationship)</b>   | <b>Concern</b>                      |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <small>2/22/26</small><br>*Deborah Roach (retired CDC Teacher).....                              | health concerns                     |
| *Debbie Teeple.....  | health concerns                     |
| *Randy Morgan (friend of Butch & Dianna Morris).....   | health concerns                     |
| *People of Cuba .....  | worsening conditions due to embargo |
| <small>2/15/26</small><br>Troy Toliver (Deb Holtel’s cousin) .....                               | hospice                             |
| Marian Berky .....   | health concerns                     |
| Jane Townsend.....   | health concerns                     |
| <small>2/08/26</small><br>Donna Gessell (Jo Anne’s sister).....                                  | health concerns                     |
| Shirley Gilkison (Deb Holtel’s cousin).....  | health concerns                     |
| Anna Pracel (friend of Darrell Cook) .....   | health concerns                     |
| Samuel Hunter .....  | health concerns                     |
| Luis Diaz (friend of Darrell & Judy) .....   | health concerns                     |
| Ron Few (Carolyn Yarborough’s brother).....  | health concerns                     |
| <small>Continual</small><br>Nigerian Christians<br>Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza<br>*new this week |                                     |

The Christian love and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of **Ruth Price** (Jeff Price’s mother) on her dying to this life on Friday, February 20, 2026.

The Christian love and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of **India Rackley** (Pickens Police Officer) on her dying to this life this past week.

**CELEBRATIONS**

**LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERN LIST**

**Bert Allison, John Blackwood, Martha Brooks, Caroline Bowen, Katherine Acker Brooks, Barbara & Joe Christopher, Margaret Dawkins, Shawn Erickson (Ron & Sylvia’s son), Jane**

**Gillespie, Mike & David Goldsmith, Howard Harden, Samuel Hood** (John & Jana Holland's nephew), **Beverly & Burnett Kelly, Drema LaFoy** (Tina's mother), **Hank Owens, Susan Steedman** (Sarah Mahanes' Mother), **Bev Timerding** (Deb Holtel's sister), **Melvin Tolliver** (Deb Holtel's uncle), **John & Tiffanie Torrey** (David's brother & wife).

**EXTRA GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Peace in Ukraine.** PDA support: gifts to [DR000156](#).

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

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

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

**CIRCLE MEETINGS:** The Sarah Emily (10:00am) & Eve Circles (5:30pm) will meet **Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Eve Circle will study **Lesson 7**, and Sarah Emily will study **Lessons 6 & 7**, in “*Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ*”, by Rhashell D. Hunter.

**FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE:**

**PPC FOOD PANTRY:** Today we will receive the Change-for-Change and Coupon Cans special offering to support the church's Food Pantry and Little Free Pantry.

**The Missions Committee** thanks the Congregation for your support of the Community Soup Day. Including take out orders, we served appropriately 60 cups of soup. We took the remaining food to the Pickens County Shelter of Hope.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS:** This year's Lenten daily devotionals “*Discipleship in a Divided Age: A Lenten Journey through Matthew's Gospel*” written by Teri McDowell Ott, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook, and others. There are full booklet copies in the Narthex, and **there is a link to the full devotional booklet in the Cliffnotes.**

**WARMTH & COMFORT MINISTRY:** Spring Drive: Easter cards, Bows and Ribbons for doors, and word search booklets. **All items should be left in the Collection Box in the Church Office hallway. Questions: Contact Tammy Ferguson @ 864-238-4652 or [warmthandcomfortfortheelderly@gmail.com](mailto:warmthandcomfortfortheelderly@gmail.com)**

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Last Sunday's Giving: **\$2,275.**

Weekly Amount Needed to meet Budget: **\$6,243.** 2026 Budget: **\$324,598.**

**SERVING:**

**TODAY (March 1<sup>st</sup>)**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Elder of the Week:   | Vickie Swayngham   | Ken Townsend  |
| Liturgist:   | Louise Hope  | TBD   |
| Sanctuary Guild:   | Nancy Jo Owens   | Nancy Jo Owens  |
| Ushers:  | Vicki Swayngham, Joe Padgett, Jonathon Holder, Karleyanne Richards | Vicki Swayngham, Joe Padgett, Jonathon Holder, Karleyanne Richards          |
| Refreshments:  | TBD  | TBD   |
| Camera Operation:  | Robert Simms   | Ginger Chastain   |
| Sound Board:   |  |   |
| Nursery Volunteers:  |  |   |
| Sanctuary Flowers:   | Vickie Swayngham   | Vickie Swayngham  |
| Communion Set-up:  | Ken Townsend   |   |
| Communion Servers:   | Jan, Roy, Nancy, Starla, Robert S                                  |   |
| <b><u>Lectionary readings for today:</u></b>   |  | <b><u>Lectionary readings for next Sunday:</u></b>                          |
| Liturgist: Louise Hope<br>Genesis 12.1-4a<br>Psalm 121<br>Romans 4.1-5, 13-17<br>John 3.1-17 or Matthew 17.1-9 |  | Liturgist: TBD<br>Exodus 17.1-7<br>Psalm 95<br>Romans 5.1-11<br>John 4.5-42 |

## **The Glory of These Forty Days (Sung to the tune of MARYTON, #357)**

- 1 The glory of these forty days  
we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, by whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed.
- 2 Alone and fasting Moses saw  
the loving God who gave the law;  
and to Elijah, fasting, came  
the steeds and chariots of flame.
- 3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,  
delivered from the lions' might;  
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became  
the herald of Messiah's name.
- 4 Then grant that we like them be true,  
consumed in fast and prayer with you;  
our spirits strengthen with your grace,  
and give us joy to see your face.