



First Presbyterian Church Macon

200 Years of God's Faithfulness

*First Presbyterian is a Welcoming Church in Downtown Macon
Committed to Knowing Christ and Making Him Known.*

April 12, 2026 · 9:00 · 11:15 AM

Welcome

TO OUR GUESTS

We want to welcome you today! More information about our church is available on our website at fpcmacon.org.

SPIRITUAL CARE

If you would like to speak to someone about what it means to know Jesus Christ or you have any spiritual need or question, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSON

We provide a Bible lesson and music for children in Pre-K through second grade during the services. Children will be dismissed from the service and escorted to their classroom before the sermon. Please pick up your children after the first service or Sunday school on the second floor of Cornerstone and after the second service in the nursery. If this is your first Sunday at FPC, please walk your child to the Bible lesson to check them in.

NURSERY

Nursery is provided for 3K and under from 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. We also provide a mother/infant room located in the nursery with a live video feed of the service, as well as a "cry room" downstairs from the sanctuary for parents of "fussy" children with an audio feed. Ushers are available to direct you.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jeanne Rives, Willie Mae Rives and Evelyn Hannah by members of the family.

YOUR PRESENCE

Please let us know that you're here today by scanning the QR code.



Worshippers read text in bold.

FPC 200TH ANNIVERSARY (1826-2026): A MOMENT FROM OUR PAST

During the late 1850's, x-ray research, early radio experiments, and breakthroughs in steel production prepared the way for modern science. Missions expanded through organizations sending workers to Africa, India, and China. Denominations in America grew rapidly despite rising sectional tensions. Rev. Robert Breck, under whose leadership the church sanctuary had been built, resigned in 1858 to take a new call in Indiana. The congregation marked his departure with a city-wide presentation of a gold watch engraved by members of the city's evangelical churches.

Corporate Worship

*Welcome to First Presbyterian! We are thankful you have chosen to worship with us today.
It is our hope and prayer that through the reading of God's Word, prayer,
the corporate singing and readings, and the preached Word, you
will see Christ clearly and desire to know Him more.*

GATHERING SONG 660 - *O God Beyond All Praising*

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King,
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 8:1-4, 9

O LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
 Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
 to still the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
 and the son of man that you care for him?

O LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

HYMN OF PRAISE 53 - *Praise to the Lord the Almighty*

(Verses 1-2, 4-5)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief,
Spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for e'er we adore him.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - *Heidelberg Catechism 1*

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own,
but belong - body and soul, in life and in death -
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins
with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him.**

****Seating Interlude****

SCRIPTURE OF EXHORTATION

James 4:1-10

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**Merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin.
Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life, our callousness toward the suffering of others,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law.
Transform us by your Spirit, that we may desire what is good, love what you love,
and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

WORDS OF HOPE

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

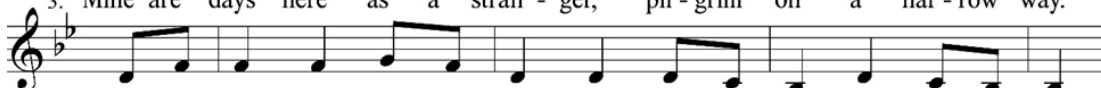
HYMN OF ASSURANCE

Christ is Mine Forevermore

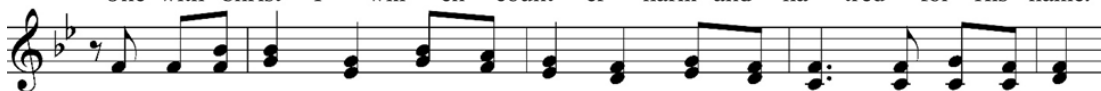
Robinson and Thompson



1. Mine are days that God has num - bered; I was made to walk with Him.
2. *Mine are tears in times of sor - row, dark-ness not yet un - der - stood.*
3. Mine are days here as a stran - ger, pil - grim on a nar - row way.



Yet, I look for world - ly trea - sure and for - sake the King of kings.
Through the val - ley I must trav - el where I see no earth - ly good.
One with Christ I will en - count - er harm and ha - tred for His name.



But mine is hope in my Re - deem - er; though I fall, His love is sure.
But mine is peace that flows from heav - en, and the strength in times of need.
But mine is ar - mour for the bat - tle, strong e - nough to last the war.



For Christ has paid for ev - 'ry fail - ing; I am His for - ev - er - more. *(to v2)*
I know my pain will not be wast - ed; Christ com - pletes His work in me. (to v3)
And He has said He will de - liv - er safe - ly to the gold - en shore. →



**tag:* And mine are keys to Zi - on ci - ty where be - side the King I walk.



For there my heart has found its trea - sure; Christ is mine for - ev - er - more.



Come re - joice now, O my soul, for His love is my re - ward.



Fear is gone and hope is sure; Christ is mine for - ev - er - more. *2x to tag**

PASTORAL PRAYER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Online giving may be done by texting **fpcmacon** to 73256 or visiting the church website at www.fpcmacon.org.

The Majesty and Glory of Your NameTom Fettke

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers:

The moon and stars suspended in space.

Oh, what is man, that you are mindful of him?

*You have given man a crown of glory and honor,
and have made him a little lower than the angels.*

You have put him in charge of all creation:

the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.

But what is man, that you are mindful of him?

*O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of your name
transcends the earth and fills the heavens.*

O Lord, our God, little children praise you perfectly, and so would we.

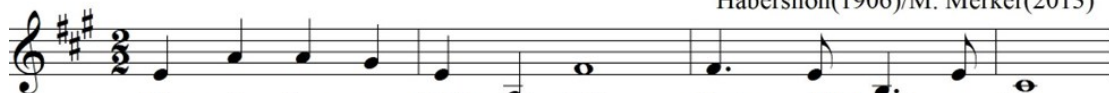
Alleluia. The majesty and glory of your name. Alleluia!

Children K4-second grade are welcome to leave the worship service for a Bible Lesson in Cornerstone (BLC). Children in the 11:15 BLC class may be picked up in the nursery. We encourage children third grade and above to continue in corporate worship with their parents.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

He Will Hold Me Fast

Habershon(1906)/M. Merker(2013)



1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. *Those He saves are His de-light,* Christ will hold me fast;
3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;



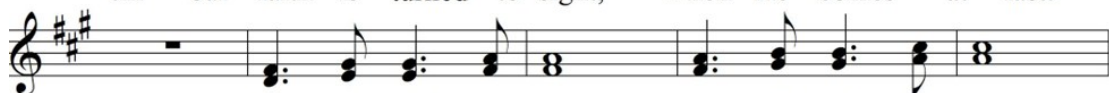
When the tempt - er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast.
Pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast.
Just - ice has been sat - is - fied; He will hold me fast.



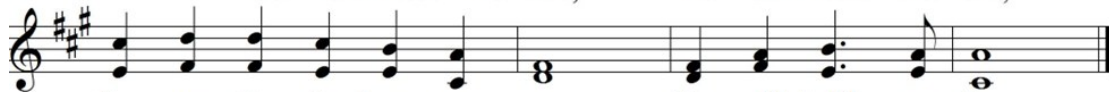
I could nev - er keep my hold through life's fear - ful path;
He'll not let my soul be lost; His prom - is - es shall last;
Raised with Him to end - less life, He will hold me fast



For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me fast.
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
'till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!



He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;



For my Sa - vior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

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PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD - Derek Thomas

A Golden Chain

Romans 8:28-30

BENEDICTION

DOXOLOGY 731

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.

Derek Thomas is our guest preacher today. He is a native of Wales, is the Chancellor's Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary.

In 2023, he retired as the Senior Minister at First Presbyterian Church (ARP) in Columbia, South Carolina. He previously served as the Chairman of the Theology Department at Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson), the Minister of Teaching at First Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Jackson, Mississippi, and the Robert Strong Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary (Atlanta). He is also a Teaching Fellow with Ligonier Ministries and Dean of their D. Min. Program.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Wales, a Masters of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson), and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Wales (Lampeter). He was ordained in the Evangelical Church of Ireland and served Stranmillis Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Belfast for 17 years before moving to the United States.

He has published more than twenty books and contributed to many others. He and his wife, Rosemary, have two grown children and two grandchildren.

PASTORAL STAFF

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Leading in Worship Today
Chip Miller, Senior Pastor
Derek Thomas, Guest Preacher
Michael McGhee, Music Director/Organist
Rebecca Lanning, Choir Director
Tom Rule, Pianist
Chancel Choir

CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

Class of 2026 - Chuck Duggan, Mike Hall, Bobby Newman, Nick Rios, Tony Rodriguez, Blake Sullivan

Class of 2027 - Ves Berry, Kevin Bridges, John Carey, Hal Foshee, Mike Peed, Kim Thompson

Class of 2028 - Adam Blakely, Julian Hutchins, Chris Inhulsen, Bob Johnson, Wynne Pearson, Alfred Sams, Robert Stamps, Will Stanford, Jay Strickland, Bill Taylor

The Diaconate

Class of 2026 - Dave Grant, Darrell Hallman, Jeremy Johnson, John David Miller, Gray Widstrom, Jeff Wilhelm, Calder Willingham

Class of 2027 - Chris Anderson, Cameron Garvin, Jeff Hill, Kevin Lennon, Jim Self, Brian Stone

Class of 2028 - Rickie Baucom, Phil Clark, Michael Garud, John Kitchens, Phillip Leonhard, Troy Nash, Joey Rogers

Trustees

Rob Danner, Bruce Jones, Ray Pearson, Buddy Ponder, Lowry Tribble

YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Class	Description	Topic	Room Location
Nursery & Special Needs		New Testament	Nursery
Children	4K-5th Grade	New Testament	Cornerstone
Middle School Youth	6-8 Grades	God's Promises	Education Building 2nd Floor
High School Youth	9-12 Grades	Christian Doctrine	Education Building 3rd Floor
Young Adults	College/20s-30s	Joshua & Judges	Basement M102
Foundations	20s-30s	Romans	Education Building
Immanuel	Mid 40s-50s	Titus & Philemon	Education Building E102
Shepherds	50s-60s	I & II Peter	Brickyard M102
Trinity	60s+	Equipping Yourself	Education Building E103
Covenant	70s+	Fundamentals of Faith	Education Building E105
Canterbury	70s-80s	Studies in the Psalms	Education Building E104
Connections	Mixed Ages	Acts	Gathering Place
Generations	Mixed Ages	Romans	Basement M100
Pathways	Mixed Ages	Genesis	Brickyard M103

Announcements

200 Years of FPC Macon!

Join us on April 19 as we celebrate 200 years of FPC! Worship services will be held at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m., with no Sunday School that morning. A picnic lunch with time for fellowship and celebration will follow each service in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will make plans to join us for this special day!



We invite members of our congregation to share their reflections of FPC by scanning this QR code and filling out a brief survey.

The Edge | Middle School Conference

Rising 6th - 8th Grade students are invited to join us for the Edge! A 5 day conference at Covenant College on Lookout Mountain in Tennessee. This conference is centered on the Gospel as well as counselor and student relationships
June 15-19 | Cost: \$350. Only 6 spots remaining!



Join us for Wednesday Night dinner on April 15.

Menu: Pub subs, chips, fruit, cookies
Cost: \$6/person or \$25 family max
scan QR oode to register



Senior Recognition Sunday May 10

If you have a graduating high school senior, we invite you and your family to join us for a Senior Brunch and Recognition Service on May 10. Please scan the QR code to register.



The Senior Brunch will take place during the Sunday School hour at 10:10 a.m., followed by Senior Recognition during the second worship service at 11:15 a.m.

Vacation Bible School 2026

Join us June 22-25 (9:00 AM-12:00 PM) as kids (rising 4K-5th grade) explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God and find a safe place in life's storms. Rising 6th-8th graders are invited to serve as Jr. Counselors, and nursery care is available for volunteers.
Scan QR Code to Register



Congregational Meeting - April 26

The Session has called for a congregational meeting after both worship services on April 26 to consider a motion regarding officer elections.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

682 Mulberry Street · Macon, GA 31201 · 478.746.3223 · www.fpcmacon.org