

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 17, 2026

THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on “Savannah”

Ross Anderson

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leila Hall, Liturgist

Leader: At the presence of God, we rejoice:

People: glorifying the One who is Parent of all orphans.

Leader: In the presence of Jesus Christ, we listen:

People: to the Voice who calls us to humbly serve others.

Leader: Through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we speak:

People: making God’s love known to the world-forsaken in our midst.

*HYMN #28 *(see bulletin)*

“O Worship the King”

R. Grant/Arr.: J. Michael Haydn

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Too often in the season of Eastertide, we are quick to roll the stone back over the entrance to the tomb.

Our hallelujahs are robust and loud on Easter Sunday, but a few weeks in, we begin to mistrust the promises of the resurrection. Nonetheless, God stands always ready to restore us to wholeness. With the confidence of God’s beloved, let us confess our sins, knowing that the God who hears us, loves us, and will forgive and renew us.

Let us confess together — first in unison and then in silence. Let us pray...

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Eternal God, you have loved us from generation to generation. You have shown your faithfulness more often than we can recall. The Bible tells us of your steadfast mercy. You even pray for us. Yet we live holding on to past hurts; we are not open to your new creation. We prefer the safety of what we know to the excitement of discipleship. Forgive us, we pray, and make us again as you would have us be...

Our prayers continue in silence...

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: The God of our Lord Jesus Christ blesses us and calls us “kingdom people.”

People: Therefore, in the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Share the peace of Christ with one another.

*HYMN #58 *(see bulletin)*

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Adapted: Richard S. Willis

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Prayer”

Fred B. Binckes

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING:

Psalm 47:1-9

ANTHEM

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Mark Hayes

SECOND READING:

Luke 24:44-53

SERMON

“You Are Witnesses of These Things”

Rev. Rick Douylliez

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***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; 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.

***HYMN #243** *(see bulletin)*

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

Bridges/Thring/Elvey

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go out into the world. and in your words and in your lives bear witness to the Christ who has ascended to be everywhere present.

People: **And as we leave this place, may God give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, may Christ Jesus lift up his hands and bless us and may the Spirit open to us all the riches of Christ’s inheritance.**

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“How Majestic is Your Name”

Mark Hayes

(*) *We stand as we are able*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of my best friend and mama, Marie Johnson.*

Given by Brett Johnson and Lil Bit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELDERS OF THE MONTH: Brooks Sheldon and Melody Jenkins

Monday, May 18 ***Biscuits & Blessings WILL NOT MEET***

Monday, May 18 at 12:30 p.m. CORNERSTONES MEETING

Wednesday, May 20 at 5:15 p.m. SESSION—NEW DATE!!!!

Sunday, May 24 —NEXT SUNDAY IS PENTECOST —*please wear red*

Sunday, May 24 at 12:15 p.m. CORNERSTONES TRIP to see “Fiddler on the Roof”

Wednesday, May 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. OUR TIME— Flint RIVERQUARIUM trip

Sunday, May 31 at 3:30 p.m. Resonance Alternative Worship Service

Wednesday, June 3 at 5 p.m. DINNER AT FIVE, *sign up to join us at Three Crazy Bakers*

JOIN OUR TIDY TEAM

If you have an interest in helping to keep our church clean and tidy, we invite you to join the “TIDY TEAM.” We will meet once a month (on the 3rd Monday at 9AM) to clean and tidy up a specific area of the church on a rotating schedule. Tomorrow, Monday, May 18, we will start in the sanctuary. Please contact Dianne Klar or Dottie Ward (891-5499) if you are willing to join us.

MAY 27TH OUR TIME: FLINT RIVERQUARIUM TRIP

Join us on our trip to the Flint RiverQuarium Wednesday, May 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at 10:45 at the church and we will stop for a bite to eat before heading out to Albany. \$10 per child for ticket & food. Contact Austin to reserve your spot: dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com. Invite your friends!

DINNER AT FIVE

Starting Wednesday, June 3rd, we will meet weekly at a different restaurant while WATCH suppers are on break for the summer. Our first meet-up will be at Three Crazy Bakers on June 3 at 5 p.m. Please let the office know if you are interested: firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com. *Check the bulletin board & lobby tables for the full summer schedule.*

COOL OFF COMMUNITY COOKOUT JUNE 6TH FROM 4-7PM

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 6th, 4 to 7 p.m., for this community-wide, free event for all ages to be held here at First Presbyterian Church! **Beat the Georgia Heat** with us as we enjoy water games and hamburgers & hot dogs. Invite your friends, family and neighbors. It will be an afternoon of fun for the whole family, including a raffle to benefit the local food bank. **WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS! Email Austin at dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com.**

HELPING HANDS BOX: SERENITY HOUSE

Help us this quarter as we collect items to benefit our local refuge for victims of domestic violence. Serenity House needs these items: non-perishable food items, hygiene products, toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, trash bags, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, diapers/wipes, new socks and new women’s underwear.