



LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

***Surrounded by God's grace, we are a family of faith
joined together through Christ, offering meaning and
hope to all by the way we worship, serve and live.***

***10 Simmonsville Rd
Bluffton, SC 29910***

***Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023
10:30am***

LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10 Simmonsville Road, Bluffton, SC 29910

Church Office: (843) 815-6570

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Office hours: Mon-Thu: 8:30am-4:00pm; Friday: 8:30am-Noon

STAFF

Rev. Chris Herrin, Pastor: revherrin@lowcountrypres.org

Office/Christy James: office@lowcountrypres.org

Dr. Robin Lind, Music Director: rlind@lowcountrypres.org

Dr. Karen Ball, Organist—kball@olivet.edu

The Session

Class of 2023

Karen Couser
(843-422-2473)
Diane Mikkelson
(843-368-6865)
Larry Tremitiere
(843-208-2107)
Janit Maguire
(845-527-6409)

Class of 2024

Sandy Benninger
(843-705-5233)
Jerri Hanna
(843-645-0610)
Carolyn Marshall
(805-522-8346)
Anne Redlus
(843-705-6373)

Class of 2025

Jan Alpert
(843- 837-2177)
Kevin MacCarthy
(609-462-3903)
Pam Davis-Webb
(607-215-2289)
Dale Wilkes
(207-299-6693)

Celebration of Worship
Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 19, 2023 - 10:30am

Silent Meditation

“Frankly, there isn’t anyone you couldn’t learn to love once you’ve heard their story.”Fred Rogers

Prelude *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* arr. Karen Ball

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Chris Herrin

Introit *Take My Life* arr. Allan Robert Petker

Call to Worship Wendy MacCarthy

Leader: God's steadfast love extends beyond the farthest star, yet that love is also present among us.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Leader: God's concern is for all creation; for all worlds, yet that care draws us close in these moments.

People: The whole creation is filled with eager longing; bless the Lord, all who live in hope.

***Hymn** *Jesus, Teach Us to Be Neighbors*

Choir sings first verse, congregation join in on remaining verses

**Jesus, teach us to be neighbors, living, loving side by side,
hands for helping one another, arms of welcome, open wide.
Ever learning, ever growing, Jesus, teach us all to be
children of the new creation, joined in true community.**

**Jesus, teach us to be neighbors, giving, serving those in need,
making peace and doing justice, sharing faith in word and deed.
Ever learning, ever growing, Jesus, teach us all to be
children of the new creation, where we are one family.**

**Jesus, teach us to be neighbors, working, praying for the day
when the lamb will be the Shepherd, when our tears are washed away.
Ever learning, ever growing, Jesus, teach us all to be
children of the new creation, singing praise in harmony.**

***Invocation** Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, your creatures cry- creation groans but we turn away; we surround ourselves with noise. We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility: we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy. It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference. Life-giving God, wash us clean of our sin. Restore our imaginations and our hearts. Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins until we love with abandon and our hands reach out in blessing, for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Response:

Hymn #227

*“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”*

***Affirmation of Faith**

Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***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.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Herrin

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings and Change Can Make A Change

Offertory

Jesus Loves Me

arr. Karen Ball

***Doxology**

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #340**

This Is My Song

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

**This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.**

Anthem

A Lenten Prayer

Hal H. Hopson

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:18-24 (pg. 148)

Psalms 28:1-9 (pg. 477)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

"Immediacy of Hope"

Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble

***Hymn #756**

O God of Every Nation

**O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.**

**From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.**

**Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase; when
hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard; with faith
that none can alter, your servants undergird.**

**Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease, when
hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign and
Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.**

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Intrada

by Ovid Young

* Those who are able, please stand.

Welcome to all who worship today. All visitors are welcome to LPC, where we seek to love and serve Christ with all that we are and in all that we do. Let us know of your visit using the visitor card in the pew rack and dropping it in the offering baskets. Care for infants through 4 years old during worship is provided in the nursery during the 10:30am service.

Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble is Executive Director of *This Child Here* and Missionary to the people in Ukraine. Dr. Gamble has degrees from the US Coast Guard Academy (serving five years as an officer), and Columbia and Princeton Theological Seminaries. He has served multiple churches and got involved in Peacemaking in the 1980s, traveling to Nicaragua, and helping coordinate Peacemaking Conferences in Montreat, NC. He has worked in Ukraine with This Child Here since 2006. Following the service, Rev. Gamble will speak about his work in Ukraine and answer your questions. The Mission team invites you to refreshments after the service, before his presentation.

Mr. Rogers Day has been designated by the PC(USA) as March 20th, his birthday, to be celebrated annually in recognition of his work around peace and reconciliation. Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA), best known as a pioneer in the world of Christian formation of young children, shaping and nurturing generations of lives through his TV show, “Mr. Rogers Neighborhood.” Our first hymn was written last year to celebrate and honor his legacy. Text by David Gambell and music by Wil Smith.

Please remember with your prayers:
Kathy Crist Chad Grayson

The flowers today are to the glory of God!

The Choir will offer a Lenten Cantata next Sunday, March 26th, one service only at 10:30am.

The New Member Class will continue today and next Sunday, from 3:30 to 5pm. Meet others new to the church and enjoy conversation about faith and the meaning of membership.

Adult Sunday School - On March 26, our Adult Sunday School class will delve into the history of the hymn *Amazing Grace* and the meaning of grace. Join us in the Parlor at 9:30 am.

Children’s Sunday School for ages 4 – 5 meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday during worship in the nursery area.

Seasons of Psalms Initiative – Join with the congregation as we read through the Psalms this year. Pick up a schedule of readings under the monitor in the Narthex. As you read each Psalm, be sure to read them multiple times, pausing to reflect that it might become more meaningful.

For more information and helpful tips, see our new Seasons of Psalms page on our website, [lowcountrypres.org/seasons-of-psalms](https://www.lowcountrypres.org/seasons-of-psalms).

How to Read and Pray the Psalms - An introductory class led by Rev. Herrin on February 26th following worship, was livestreamed and recorded. It can be viewed on our website at <https://www.lowcountrypres.org/virtual-worship>. It may give you a few helpful tips to enrich your reading. The next Digging Deeper Session/Class on the Psalms (with new content) will be Tuesday, April 18th at 6pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

Men of Purpose, a Men's small group for discussions, just started reading and discussing *Jesus is the Question* by Martin Copenhaver. Rev. Copenhaver will be a Guest Minister at our church on April 23rd. We meet at 9:00am on Saturday morning in the Parlor and we welcome visitors.

LPC's collection for the people of Syria and Turkey ends today. Monies raised will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to address urgent needs and provide humanitarian aid. Write a check to LPC marked "earthquake" and place in offering basket today.

March CCMAC will support *This Child Here* founded by Rev. Gamble to support the people of Ukraine. Rev. Gamble and his team are located in Izmail, Ukraine and welcome displaced families. They provide an array of ministries to the children and adults. Hear more in person following worship today. Rev. Gamble is most appreciative for our on-going support of his ministry.

The cross in the sanctuary can be a part of your Lenten journey. Following worship, you are invited to place written prayers of confession or intercession on the nails; a visible sign of your intention to entrust your life and that of others to God. You may also come during the week to place your prayers there. Paper and pens can be found on the side pew near it.

Sunday Worship Flowers— If you would like to donate the memorial flowers for the pulpit, please sign-up on the Flower Chart in the Narthex.

Spots are open for a Mission Trip to Kentucky, May 7th to 13th with First Presbyterian Beaufort in conjunction with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This area was hard hit by tornadoes in December of 2021. Adult volunteers, whether skilled or unskilled will be doing home repairs, not new construction. Those who are interested may contact Jeneane Ryan at jtryan3523@aol.com or call/text to 630-631-9702.

All are invited to join us for a Palm Sunday Picnic April 2, 2023 at Oyster Factory Park following the second service. We will enjoy box lunches from Jersey Mike's (\$12) and have water available to drink. Come with a chair and stay for lunch or spend the afternoon in the beautiful park. Please sign-up in the Narthex or on our website and select your sandwich choice. Payment will be made at the lunch.

Help needed to Sustain our Livestream Ministry and Operate the sound. Now that the new system is in place, we are ready to train men and women to do the sound or the live stream. Serving in either role, you'll be part of a team who will rotate duties. Thorough training will be provided. We need **your** help and commitment to maintain good sound in worship and keep our live stream ministry going! Speak with Bob Lowry or contact Worship Ministry Elder Co-Chairs: Pam Davis-Webb psdw44@gmail.com, 607 215-2289 or Larry Tremitiere captltrem@gmail.com, 803 -517-6626.

Hospitality –Two volunteers are needed for after 10:30am Palm Sunday, April 2nd and April 30th. Please sign-up on the board in the Narthex.

Easter flower order - Our sanctuary will again be adorned with spring blooms on Easter Sunday. These spring plants are robust and suitable for planting in your garden. We offer 2 varieties, Azaleas and Lilies this year. Order forms are on the counter in the Narthex. Please place your order **by March 27th**. You may place your order form and payment in the Sunday offering or mail it to the church. **The plants may be retrieved after Easter Services, April 9th. **Please select an option "Donate" or "Take Plant"**

LPC is a sponsor of Pulseology Fitness Club's Golden Egg 5K Run/Walk & Easter Event, Saturday April 1st from 8am to noon at the Oyster Factory Park. A portion of the proceeds raised will be donated to Palmetto Animal League. The LPC logo is on their advertising. There will be activities for children including face painting, tie dye, a "Catch the Bunny" Fun Run, and an Easter Egg Hunt, as well as food trucks and PAL pet adoptions. Search for Pulseology Golden Egg 5K Run to get to the website to sign up. If you do run or walk, be sure to wear an LPC T-shirt to be another advertisement. Contact Rev. Herrin if you don't have one. If you'd be interested in "manning" an LPC table, let Chris know that too. Help spread the word! You never know who could be looking for a church home.

We thank everyone for your cash and pledges toward the Fellowship Hall Renovation Campaign. Updated numbers will be provided soon. In the meantime please view progress information on our website: lowcountrypres.org. Fellowship Hall Renovation Committee

The March/April edition of *The Light* is available on our website and printed copies are on the counter in the Narthex.

Sermon Notes: