

## PRAYER LIST

We lift up prayers for those listening Sunday mornings on WISK 98.7, Radio. May they be spiritually fed. Please Pray For - Our Nation, Our Church; Our Presbytery, Our Pastor, Our Staff, Our Officers, Campus Ministry, Our Community and especially:

### MEMBERS AND CHURCH FRIENDS AT HOME &/OR IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Bob & B.J. Bryan	Rev. Bill Gettys	Mary Mackey
Nancy Miller	Gloria Johnson	Pat Hill
Blanche Palmer	Kathy Newkirk	Anne & Malcolm Perry

### MEMBERS REMEMBERED

Jim and Marilyn Marble  
Nancy Miller

### SPECIAL PRAYER FOR:

- Gene Hartsfield, friend of Pat Hill's has Hodgkin's disease.

- Shannon Kennedy (cancer; McFarlands' niece)

- Cuthbert Presbyterian Church - (Elder Tom McFarland has been preaching and leading worship at Cuthbert and we want to lift both Cuthbert and Tom in prayer!)

### MISSIONARIES REMEMBERED IN PRAYER

-Ben & Esther Campbell, Push the Rock Intl. -Tim & Lois Hunter, Spoken Worldwide  
Rev. George Haugen (PC USA Minister), Antioch Partners

Please notify the church office at 924-2162 or [office@americuspresbyterian.org](mailto:office@americuspresbyterian.org) if you would like to add someone to our prayer list and/or request a PrayerGram

Work's Cited

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# First Presbyterian Church

Americus, Georgia



“The Ascension of Christ”

By Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn (1606-1669)

Oil on canvas painted in 1636. Commissioned by Frederick Henry, Prince of Orange (1584-1647)

*The Epistle lesson continues in Ephesians with 4:1-16. The author, purporting to be Paul writing from prison, begins the second half of the letter with an ancient creed of unity in Christ: “one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” The writer shifts from the unity of all to the diversity within the body, through the gift of God’s grace – we all have different gifts for ministry. The author calls for the believers to grow into maturity and to come into the unity of faith, “seeking the truth in love” within the body of Christ.*

*Sunday, August 1, 2021*

*11:00 a.m. Worship*

\*All Are Invited to Stand in Body or in Spirit  
The congregation is invited to respond at the **bold** print

**Prayer to prepare our hearts for worship**

*One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all, take this patchwork collection of persons and quilt together your church. Like old pieces of cloth, take these words and songs and prayers, take our thoughts and inner hungers, and join them all together into a new and living fabric – the purpose of which is to cover and color your world (or at least our corner of it) with grace and love. In Christ. Amen.*

**PRELUDE** Camron Cummings, pianist

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS** Pastor Sommer Bower

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from John 6:35)

*Jesus said, "I am the bread of life.*

*"Whoever comes to me will never be hungry."*

*Whoever comes to Christ will never be thirsty.*

**"Lord, give us this bread, always."**

**May we come to God with hungry hearts;**

**May we come to Jesus with thirsty souls.**

**May we find fulfillment in the body of Christ;**

*May we worship God, knowing the fullness of God's love for us.*

**\*HYMN (Glory to God #35, insert).....**

*"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"*

**JULY/AUGUST 2021 CHURCH CALENDAR**

- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - On Sunday, August 1st our church will have a Congregational Meeting following 11:00am worship for the purpose of the nominating committee presenting their slate of nominees to the congregation. The Nominating Committee has finished its good work and would like to present their nominees for the session class of 2024: **Tom Collins, Carrie Hawkins and Sharon McFarland**. We look forward to all church members staying after worship on Sunday, August 1st for this important congregational meeting!

SESSION (Ruling Elders):

Class of 2021 (rotating off)

Russ Childers

Emily Collins

Darryl Hawkins (clerk)

Class of 2022

Jim Buffaloe

Cynthia Richmond

Earl Williams

Class of 2023

Meda Krenson

Sharon Parks

Joy Thompson

- **GSW PRES HOUSE** - on Friday, July 9th several GSW Pres House board members will be painting and preparing the campus ministry house for the upcoming semester!

- **VACATION DAYS:**

- Kerstin Cherrbboneau vacation days Saturday, July 10th, Thursday, July 29th- Tuesday August 2nd

- Marcia Seymour vacation day Tuesday, July 13th

- Pastor Sommer vacation days Tuesday, July 27th and Friday, July 30th

- **FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY MEETING** = The next FRP presbytery meeting will be in-person on Saturday, August 7th at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Albany, Georgia. The elder commissioner is Meda Krenson

- **RISE AGAINST HUNGER** = Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 2:00pm. Our congregation will host the Presbytery mission event Rise Against Hunger.

- **SCHLEY GATEWOOD MEMORIAL SERVICE** = on Saturday, October 23, 2021 a memorial service will be held at our church in honor of the life and service of Schley Gatewood. Time is TBD.

- ✦Unity over Justice?
- ✦Unity over holiness?
- ✦Any disunity is evidence that the church is immature.
  - \*Careful though, because it is easy to see others as causing the disunity, and they are immature.

### THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS

• Clergy must take some blame for allowing the roles of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher all into the one professional leader - or at some churches a multi-staff operation of trained professionals. The Clergy Guild at the same time laments that lay people aren't more of these roles, but also have helped create a system in which the professionals are rewarded for doing these things, but we are to "equip the saints." for this ministry, not simply keep it to ourselves.

oClergy must be identifying leaders.

oEquipping and encouraging them.

oRelinquishing power.

oGiving keys to others, especially young people (**Kara Powell**) People cannot become mature adults unless those who are mature help them become independent.

•The kind of growth Paul is describing is hard to measure and quantify. It will not show up in your tally of "Professions of Faith." You're not going to get recognition or awards or speaking engagements or book deals for helping people move to maturity. Again, going to Parker Palmer's book, when asked by a younger person about the struggle to find vocation in order to achieve great things, part of his response is: "I never saw my vocational journey in terms of 'achieving great things.' I saw it then as I see it now: a series of probes into my gifts and the needs of the world, trying to discover where they might intersect. Some of those probes took me to light, and others took me into dark places." (*On the Brink of Everything*, p. 40)

oWhat if this is how we saw great churches. They are the ones willing to make a series of probes into their gifts and the needs of their community. Some will work and give life, others may not, and need to be pruned. This takes a constant task of understanding your church and your context. It may not feel like doing "great things," or achieving "measurable effectiveness," but as Palmer says later: "The standard should be 'faithfulness.' Faithfulness to the needs of the world, and to the offering of your gifts... The tighter we cling to the norm of effectiveness, the smaller the tasks we'll take on, because they are the only ones that get short-term results."

## 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly  
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his  
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Jesus said, as quoted in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Blessed are you when you seek the right ways of God; blessed are you when you pursue justice. You are forgiven, loved and restored on this journey of faith. May we go into the reading of scripture and proclamation of the word with full hearts, wise minds, and the spirit of God in you, to love and forgive and bring healing to our broken world. Amen.*

**SCRIPTURE** Ephesians 4: 1-16

Common English Bible

### *Unity of the body of Christ*

Therefore, as a prisoner for the Lord, I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. 2 Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, 3 and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. 4 You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

7 God has given his grace to each one of us measured out by the gift that is given by Christ. 8 That's why scripture says, When he climbed up to the heights, he captured prisoners, and he gave gifts to people. 9 What does the phrase "he climbed up" mean if it doesn't mean that he had first gone down into the lower regions, the earth? 10 The one who went down is the same one who climbed up above all the heavens so that he might fill everything.

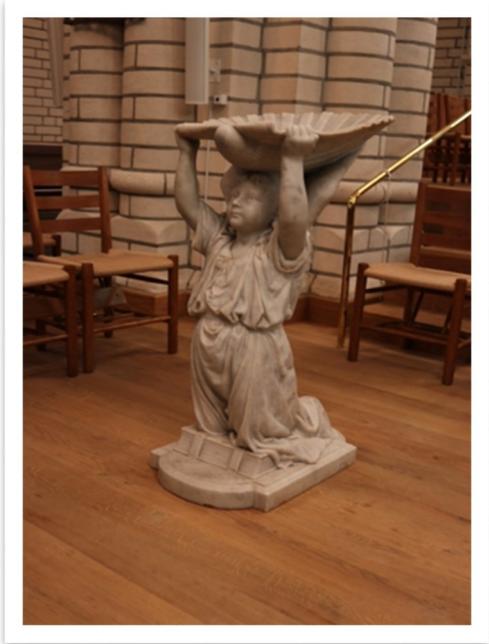
11 He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. 12 His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ 13 until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we aren't supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others. 15 Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, 16 who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

## BIBLE STUDY

- "Two problems that seem to always plague the church concern the nature of its leadership and the elusive character of Christian unity. In this lection, the author skillfully weaves together these two significant themes in terms of Christian vocation and the oneness of the body of Christ." (Beverly Gaventa, *Texts for Preaching, Year B* . p. 453)
- Living within God's victory means something. This begins the "So what?" section of Paul's letter.
- V. 1-10 Live as a people worthy of the call...
  - Live right - gentleness, humility, and patience
  - Accept each other
  - Jesus went down so that he might bring everyone up
    - ✦ "They go low, we go high."
    - ✦ He went low so that all could be brought up.
    - ✦ No one is 'above' getting dirty if Jesus was willing to.
  - Common "calledness" of all believers. God calls us all to a life of wholeness.
- V. 11-16 God gave us work to do...
  - Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers
    - ✦ All related, but slightly different.
    - ✦ Much could be made of these five roles. Unfortunately, the Church seems to have rolled all of these into one - Ordained, Professional Clergy.
  - Equip the saints... until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son.
    - ✦ think Paul would resonate with Park Palmer's quote in his newest book *On the Brink of Everything* , "Wholeness does not mean perfection -- it means embracing brokenness as an integral part of life." and this, "Peace comes when I understand that I am 'only one thing among many.'"
    - ✦ Growth is the goal of Christian faith.
    - ✦ God wants us to mature - to move somewhere, to grow. This is not about ecstatic conversion and enthusiastic experience. This is about a life of moving toward God - sanctifying grace over time.
- An integral part of 'building up' the church, of course, is bringing about and maintaining its unity.

# Bible Study on Ephesians 4



Baptismal Font in the church of Frederikshavn, northern Denmark  
Picture taken by Matthias Schalk

## EPHESIANS 4:1-16

### INITIAL THOUGHTS

- “Therefore” pushes us to review last week. Paul is making a statement here based on what came before.
  - V. 20-21 “Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all we could ask or imagine by his power and work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.”
- Now, after the therefore, is the action:
  - “Our actions are to be godly and that we are to ‘walk worthy of the calling’. To walk worthy defines the type of life we are to live so as to please and honor God for we are chosen to do good works. That is God’s calling, and our calling is to uphold god’s laws. God desires faithfulness and obedience.” (*Abingdon Preaching Annual, 2018* , 2018, p. 103)

## \*HYMN (Glory to God #519)..... “You Are My Strength When I Am Weak”

LORD'S SUPPER

### You Are My Strength When I Am Weak 519

You Are My All in All

Capo 5: (C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (C)

F (G) (Am7) (Em) (C)

\* C Dm7 Am F

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the trea- sure that I

(Dm7) (C) (G7) (C) (G7) (C) (G)

Gm7 F C7 F C7 F C

seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me

(Am7) (Em) (C) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)

Dm7 Am F Gm7 F C7 Bb F

up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G) (C) (G7)

F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C F C7

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)

F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C7 Bb F

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

*\*May be sung as a canon.*

The expression “all in all,” meaning “everything,” owes much of its endurance in English usage to its appearance in 1 Corinthians 15:28, though many phrases leading up to it here have parallels in Hebrew Scripture. The second section echoes the song to the Lamb in Revelation 5:12.

TEXT and MUSIC: Dennis L. Jernigan, 1990  
Text and Music © 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc. (admin. PraiseCharts.com)

JERNIGAN  
8.8.6.D with refrain

MESSAGE..... Pastor Sommer Bower  
"Profoundly Earthed"

**OFFERTORY**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*We give you thanks, O God, for the life and knowledge which you have made known to us through your Son Jesus; yours is the glory for ever and ever. As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now united on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole church soon be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom; May our gifts multiply and bring you glory, for yours is the glory and power, through Jesus Christ, for ever and ever.*  
Amen.

\*HYMN (Glory to God #767, insert).....  
"Together We Serve"  
(verse 1&2)

**COMMUNION**

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper today as a community of faith. The communion elements (juice & bread) can be found at the sanctuary entrance. You are invited to pick up your communion elements prior to worship or an usher will bring elements to you. If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to participate in communion at home. Holy Communion unites us in praise and thanksgiving to God for all God has done to save us, and it feeds us with the living presence of Jesus, crucified and risen.

THE CHURCH

In Christ There Is No East or West 318

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in  
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their  
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -  
4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in

him no south or north, but one great fel - low -  
high com - mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the  
e'er your race may be. All chil - dren of the  
him meet south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.  
one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This text formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.

TEXT: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.  
MUSIC: Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836

ST. PETER  
CM  
(alternate tune: MC KEE, 317)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*HYMN (Glory to God #318, insert)**.....  
"In Christ There is No East or West"  
(verse 1&2)

**\*POSTLUDE**.....Camron Cummings, pianist

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

All church members are invited to remain after worship for a congregational meeting.  
The nominating committee will be presenting their slate to the congregation  
(Tom Collins, Carrie Hawkins and Sharon McFarland) and nominations from the floor  
will be accepted. All nominations are for the session class of 2024.

**Church of Scotland Prayer of Commitment**

Take us from where we are, to where you want us to be;  
make us not merely guardians of a heritage,  
but living signs of your coming Kingdom;  
fire us with passion for justice and peace between all people;  
fill us with that faith, hope and love which embody the  
Gospel; and through the power of the Holy Spirit make us one.

That the world may believe,  
that your name may be enthroned in our nation,  
that your church may more effectively be your body,  
we commit ourselves to love you, serve you,  
and follow you as pilgrims not strangers.

— from the Inaugural Service of Action of Churches Together in Scotland.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

**Together We Serve** **767**

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm7)  
B<sup>b</sup> F Gm Dm7

1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,  
2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,  
3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,  
4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)  
E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm7 Fsus F

in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.  
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.  
re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) (D) (C) (Bm)  
B<sup>b</sup> F E<sup>b</sup> Dm

We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
We of - fer a home to those who will come,  
To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)  
B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm F7 B<sup>b</sup>

ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.  
un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.  
our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.  
re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.

TEXT and MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon, 1996  
Text and Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

SAN ANSELMO  
5.5.11.D