

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LAGRANGE, GEORGIA

Order of Worship for the Lord's Day

8:30 a .m. Worship Service

Sunday, May 11, 2008

MINISTERS

Dr. Douglas DeCelle
Dr. William Conine

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

#WELCOME

#PRELUDE

Lighting of the Candles

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The love of God has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Amen.

*HYMN

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

Hymnal #138

*Placing of the Bible

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** *(To be said in unison)*

**God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit
be our goal and our strength,
now and always. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us draw near to God with sincerity of heart
and full assurance of faith,
our guilty hearts sprinkled clean,
our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us admit our sins to ourselves and before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(To be said in unison)*

**Almighty God,
you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples
creating bold tongues, open ears,
and a new community of faith.
We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us.
We do not listen for your word of grace,
speak the good news of your love,
or live as a people made one in Christ.**

(silence for personal confession)

**Have mercy on us, O God.
Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit,
and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people,
doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven.

May the God of mercy,
who forgives us all our sins,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life.

Friends, believe the good news.

In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *“Glory be to the Father”* Hymnal #579

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,**

**praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

(During this time, let worshippers sign in and pass on the black pads located behind the Bibles in the pew racks. New visitors are invited to fill out a WELCOME VISITOR CARD, found in the pew racks, and put it in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymnal #592

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(To be said in unison)

We give these gifts with the prayer that your cause may never lack for the material resources it needs. Make us willing givers of all you have given us. We pray through Jesus Christ who, though he was rich, became poor for our sake and the world's sake. Amen.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

*HYMN:

"Holy Holy"

Hymnal #140

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON (Page)

Genesis 11.1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3And they said to one another, ‘Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.’ And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.’ 5The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. 6And the LORD said, ‘Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.’ 8So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

ANTHEM

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON (Page)

Acts 2.1-13

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them

speaking about God's deeds of power.' 12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' 13But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

“God's Breath of Life”

Dr. DeCelle

THE EUCHARIST

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(Let the people sing with the choir)

Cantor: The Lord be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Cantor: Lift up your hearts.

Response: We lift them up to the Lord.

Cantor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Response: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
eternal God.
By your Holy Spirit,
you breathed life into human form,
and set us on the earth to praise and serve you.
When we wandered from your ways
and were lost in sin's wilderness,
your truth burned in the hearts of prophets

who called your people to return to the path of righteousness.
In the fullness of time
you sent your Son to be our deliverer.
In every age your Holy Spirit has led us in your ways.
Therefore we praise you.

(Let the people sing with the choir)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

(The minister continues)

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
At his baptism by John,
your Spirit came with gentle wings,
settling on him your blessing.
In the wilderness of temptation,
your Spirit stood by with power.
In his life and ministry,
your Spirit led him to serve the poor,
proclaim freedom from sin's bondage,
open eyes with faith's sight,
and befriend the friendless and the outcast.
In all he did and said,
he announced the coming of your saving might.
By his death on the cross and rising from the tomb,
he broke the power of death,
and led the way to eternal life.
Ascended to rule from on high,
Christ prays for us and promises the coming of peace and power.
Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,
we take this bread and this wine
from the gifts you have given us,
and celebrate with joy

the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.
Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Cantor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

(Let the people sing with the choir)

***Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again***

(The minister continues)

By the fire of your Spirit, O God, forge us into one church,
many and different people, together in Christ's embrace.
Set our hearts aflame with a love for the truth
and the desire to do your will,
that our witness to Christ may burn brightly
in lives of joyful discipleship.
Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.
Through Christ,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC:

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(To be said in unison)*

**Gracious God,
may we who have received this sacrament
live in the unity of your Holy Spirit,
that we may show forth your gifts to all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN: *"Spirit of the Living God"* Hymnal #322

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

***Congregation standing.**

#Ushers may seat worshippers

Bold print is spoken by the congregation

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Lighting of the Candles

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Summer Sunday School

THE PEACE

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**and to live holy and joyful lives,
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PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.' 5The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. 6And the LORD said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' 8So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

ANTHEM

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and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ 12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ 13But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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(Let the people sing with the choir)

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Cantor: Lift up your hearts.

Response: We lift them up to the Lord.

Cantor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Response: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
eternal God.
By your Holy Spirit,
you breathed life into human form,
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When we wandered from your ways
and were lost in sin's wilderness,
your truth burned in the hearts of prophets
who called your people to return to the path of righteousness.
In the fullness of time
you sent your Son to be our deliverer.
In every age your Holy Spirit has led us in your ways.
Therefore we praise you.

(Let the people sing with the choir)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

(The minister continues)

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
At his baptism by John,
your Spirit came with gentle wings,
settling on him your blessing.
In the wilderness of temptation,
your Spirit stood by with power.
In his life and ministry,
your Spirit led him to serve the poor,
proclaim freedom from sin's bondage,
open eyes with faith's sight,
and befriend the friendless and the outcast.
In all he did and said,
he announced the coming of your saving might.
By his death on the cross and rising from the tomb,
he broke the power of death,
and led the way to eternal life.
Ascended to rule from on high,
Christ prays for us and promises the coming of peace and power.
Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,

we take this bread and this wine
from the gifts you have given us,
and celebrate with joy
the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.
Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Cantor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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(The minister continues)

By the fire of your Spirit, O God, forge us into one church,
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Set our hearts aflame with a love for the truth
and the desire to do your will,
that our witness to Christ may burn brightly
in lives of joyful discipleship.
Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory
and we shall feast with all your saints
in the joy of your eternal realm.
Through Christ,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
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