

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## LAGRANGE, GEORGIA

Order of Worship for the Lord's Day

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, May 4, 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

O sing to the Lord a new song;

**sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Sing, and give praise to God's name;

**tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.**

\*HYMN

*"Come, Thou Almighty King"*

Hymnal #139

\*Placing of the Bible

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

**God of light and truth,  
you are beyond our grasp or conceiving.  
Before the brightness of your presence  
the angels veil their faces.  
With lowly reverence and adoring love  
we acclaim your glory  
and sing your praise,  
for you have shown us your truth and love  
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

If anyone sins,  
we have someone who pleads with the Father  
on our behalf—  
Jesus Christ, the righteous one.  
And Christ himself is the means  
by which our sins are forgiven,  
and not our sins only,  
but also the sins of everyone.

Let us confess our sins  
before God and one another.

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

**Dear God: in this moment, help us to quiet our restless thoughts and be attentive to the movement of your Holy Spirit. We invite you to examine our behavior over the last few days and to make us aware of where we need to change. Free us from trying to control the direction of this**

**prayer. Let us neither avoid what must be faced nor exaggerate what we have done wrong. Help us to hear exactly what we need right now.**

*(silence)*

**As we face our worst habits and shabby attitudes, let us be freshly reminded of your tireless love that desires us to be your people--in spite of everything. We pray because Jesus has authorized to call upon you in his name. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news!

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

He himself bore our sins  
in his body on the cross,  
that we might be dead to sin  
and be alive to all that is good.

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen.

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

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us confess what we believe, as we say:

**We believe that God the Father,  
Good Creator and giver of life,  
Calls us to love all creation  
And care for it as respectful stewards,**

**To do justice, to love mercy,  
And to walk humbly with God.**

**We believe that Jesus Christ,  
Sent from God to save and lead us,  
Teaches us to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength  
And to love our neighbors as ourselves,  
So we see God in the poor, oppressed, condemned, and forgotten,  
And embrace all people with God's true compassion.**

**We believe that the Holy Spirit,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
Unites us in God's eternal dance of love,  
Empowers us diversely to serve and love,  
And fills us to overflow with grace, truth, beauty, and life  
As God's agents in this world.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER      *(To be said in unison)*

## OFFERING

*(During this time we asked, members and visitors to sign in on the black pads located behind the Bibles in the pew racks. Once you have signed in please pass it to the next person on your row. We also request new visitors 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)*

**O God, you are worthy of all that we bring, all that we are, and all that we yet shall be. Accept these gifts. Accept also our lives. Let us dedicate our entire future to the kingdom of Christ who gave himself so generously to us. Amen.**

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN

*"Be Still My Soul"*

Hymnal Back Pages

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON (Page)

I Kings 19.1-18

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' 3Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.'

5Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' 6He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. 7The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' 8He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. 9At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' 10He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

11 He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire;

and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ 14He answered, ‘I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.’ 15Then the LORD said to him, ‘Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. 18Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.’

## ANTHEM

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I Peter 4.12-14

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. 14If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“What Are You Doing Here?”

Dr. DeCelle

GO IN GOD’S NAME

\*HYMN

*"For All the Saints"*

Hymnal #526

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

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