

****Charge and Benediction***

Rev. Dr. Scott Rollins

Leader: Go forth from this place, to speak truth to power, to love and serve the least of these, and to seek God’s Spirit and embody that Spirit, in the places where God seems absent. And as you go, may God’s creative energy animate you, may Christ’s liberating mercy surround you, and may the Holy Spirit’s subversive presence empower you, now and forever more, Amen.

****Congregational Benediction***

**Make us one, Lord, make us one;
Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love flow so the world will know
we are one in you**

Postlude

- Greeters*** ***Darlene Miller, Barbara Riehl***
- Ushers*** ***Shelley Miller, Brett Miller, Teresa Brittain, Bedford Chapman***
- Liturgist*** ***Shelley Miller***
- Music*** ***Bob Eubanks, Nancy Wells, George Hill, FCPC Choral Ensemble***
- Bridge Interim*** ***Rev. Dr. Scott Rollins***

Announcements

School Supplies! We are collecting school supplies for Fountain City Elementary, Gresham Middle School and Central High School. The lists can be found at this QR code.



Save the Date! September 17th, Centennial Homecoming. More information to come.

Volunteers Still Needed for Family Promise! We still need volunteers to help us extend Fountain City Presbyterian hospitality to Family Promise families from September 17th through the 24th. The available opportunities include serving as early evening host by giving 2.5 hours of your time, staying overnight with the families (two nights are open), cleaning a bag of linens, helping clean rooms used during the week, and picking up groceries. You can sign up online via the link to sign up is in the Weekly Word or you can contact Tere McDonough (call or text 865-406-6417 or email tmc dono@gmail.com). Thanks to all who have already volunteered! As one child in the program said, “Isn’t it nice Jesus gave us churches to sleep in?”



August 27, 2023

Prelude

Word of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Scott Rollins

Minute for Mission

Susan Espiritu

Call to Worship

Shelley Miller

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth.

All: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, then the flood would have swept us away.

Leader: The God who saved Israel is still at work in the world,

All: hearing the cries of the afflicting and setting God’s people free. Thanks be to God!

****Hymn #655 Sanctuary***

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living
Sanctuary for You.

Ritual of Friendship

Shelley Miller

Members and Guests – Please sign and pass the friendship register located on the center aisle under the pew in front

Call to Confession (Romans 12:3)

Shelley Miller

Leader: The Apostle Paul writes, “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think of yourself with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” In sober judgment and humility, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Shelley Miller

All: Gracious God, you are always present and active among us. We confess that sometimes we fail to recognize and respond to your saving work in the world. We follow what is easy and what we want, and we succumb to doubt and despair when your ways are not clear. Behold, you are doing a new thing; help us to perceive it. Forgive us when we do not respond to your call. Liberate us from our fears and self-imposed limitations. Guide us into the fullness of life and love that you are at work preparing. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

(Time for Silent Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace

Shelley Miller

Leader: Friends, hear the good news: Our God makes a way where there is no way, infusing our world with grace and hope when such goodness feels long gone. We are a people redeemed and restored.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***Gloria Patri**

*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. Amen.*

***Passing the Peace**

Shelley Miller

Leader: Welcome each other. Welcome the stranger. Welcome all who come. As Christ welcomed everyone, no matter what their background, no matter what their social status; as Christ welcomed enemies and friends, outcasts and leaders, foreigners and neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us be Christ to everyone we meet. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Prayer of Illumination

Shelley Miller

Leader: Mysterious God, we trust that you are at work among us, even when you are hidden from our sight. By the power of your Spirit, open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear you, and our arms to embrace your truth, as it comes to us in your Word. Amen.

Psalm Reading Psalm 124

Shelley Miller

Anthem Come To Me

Come to me, all ye heavy laden, Come and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me

For my yoke is easy And My burden is light.
Take My yoke upon you, Take My yoke upon you,
Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me.

And you shall find rest And you shall find rest
And you shall find rest And you shall find rest
And you shall find rest for your souls. For your souls.

Come to me, all ye heavy laden, Come and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me

For my yoke is easy And My burden is light.
Take My yoke upon you, Take My yoke upon you,
Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me.

For I am gentle and humble in heart. For I am gentle and humble in heart.
Come home at last!

New Testament Reading Romans 12:1-8

Rev. Dr. Scott Rollins

Sermon Transformed Nonconformist

Rev. Dr. Scott Rollins

***Affirmation of Faith (from a Brief Statement of Faith)**

Shelley Miller

All: 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 and the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of 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.

***Hymn #424 The Servant Song**

Brother, sister, let me serve you, Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace To let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey. We are brothers on the road.
We are here to help each other Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you In the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you; Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you, Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace To let you be my servant, too.

Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Scott Rollins

All: 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

Call for Offering

Shelley Miller

Leader: By the mercy of God, we are called to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, for this is our act of worship. Our gifts differ, but all can be used to further God's kingdom. Let us receive the morning offering.

Offertory

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

***Prayer of Dedication**

Shelley Miller

All: Generous God, you are the source of all good gifts, and you are the one who taught us how to give. Receive our offering — an act of faith that even our small gifts have power and purpose in your world. Amen.

***Hymn #597 Take My Life and Let it Be**

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne,
it shall be Thy royal throne.