

PRAYER LIST

Please Pray For - Our Nation, Our Church; Our
Pastor, Our Staff, Our Officers, Campus
Ministry, Our Community and especially:

MEMBERS AND CHURCH FRIENDS

HOMEBOUND &/OR IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Bob & B.J. Bryan

Rev. Bill Gettys

Mary Mackey

Nancy Miller

MEMBERS REMEMBERED IN PRAYER WITH PRAYER GRAM ROTATION

Troy Norton

Terry McDonald

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR:

- Nelda Priddy (Camron Cummings' Nana)
diagnosed with lupus)
- Blanche Palmer (has left Rehab and is at home)
- Jim Herron (has left Rehab and is at home)
- Pray for Steve and Beth Spoon (Melanie's
in-laws) - Steve has ALS
- Debra Sams (sister of Joy Thompson)
diagnosed with peritoneal carcinoma
- Shannon Kennedy (cancer; McFarlands' niece)

MISSIONARIES REMEMBERED IN PRAYER

- Benji & Esther Campbell, Push the Rock Intl.
- Lois & Tim Hunter, Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Anne D (India) Retired Presbyterian Missionary

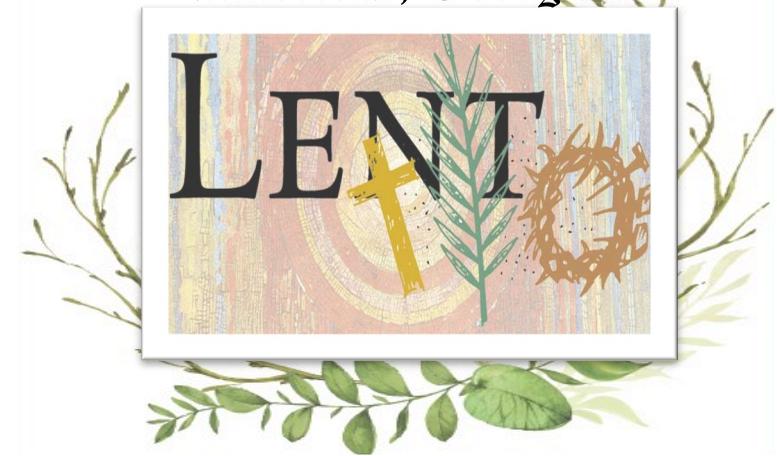
Please notify the church office at 924-2162 or office@americuspresbyterian.org if you
would like to add someone to our prayer list and/or request a PrayerGram.

Works Cited:

"Liturgy created/adapted by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, rev-o-lution.org."

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Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress. Posted on Thematic, Intercessory and Scripture Prayers for
the RCL, Vanderbilt Divinity Library.

First Presbyterian Church Americus, Georgia



*Breath of life,
We think of those who cry out to you today,
of those who long for the morning,
of those who are waiting for the long Lent to end.*

*We pray that our ears will be attentive to their cry,
that we will stand with them,
steadfast together in your love,
bringing life before death.*

Amen.

(inspired by Psalm 130)

WAYS TO WORSHIP:

RADIO

Church Service will continue to be on the radio. You are encouraged to tune in to WISK radio 98.7 or on the radio website www.americusradio.com

FACEBOOK

You can join us for Sunday Worship via Facebook live where you can see and hear Pastor Sommer deliver the message in person. Visit: for live stream at 11:00 a.m. on the church Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/fpcamericus/>

CHURCH WEBSITE

If you can't participate in the 11:00 am live worship stream, after the live streaming is complete, the Worship Service will be on our church website www.americuspresbyterian.org

WAY TO CONTINUE GIVING:

Please mail your offerings to:
First Presbyterian Church
125 S. Jackson St.
Americus, GA 31709

In John's account of Jesus' life and ministry, Mary and Martha had a brother Lazarus and lived in Bethany in John 11:1-45. When Lazarus became ill, his sisters sent word to Jesus, but he delayed arriving until after Lazarus had died. The disciples urged him not to go, because the religious leaders were looking for a reason to kill him, but when Jesus insisted on going, Thomas encouraged them all to go, to die with him. When they arrived, Martha confronted Jesus outside, stating that if He had been there, her brother wouldn't have died. However, Jesus told her he would rise again, and Martha declared she believed in the resurrection and in the Messiah. Nonetheless, when Jesus arrived and finally spoke to Mary, she knelt at his feet, saying what her sister said: if he had been there, her brother wouldn't have died. Jesus broke down, weeping. He went to the tomb, in front of all those who had come to mourn, and called Lazarus out of the grave.

Thinking of these passages in the midst of a COVID-19 outbreak, it seems that we are in an exile from the normalcy we knew. Everything has changed in a matter of weeks, or days. How do we find hope for return? We turn to the Scriptures, to Jesus, and know that what is happening right now, what we are experiencing, is only temporary. The Spirit is eternal. While we wait in exile, we find signs of hope. Neighbors are checking in on each other. Communities are working together to provide lunches for school children. Seamstresses are sewing masks for medical staff. People are sharing resources to provide for artists and others going without pay, and government officials are taking action. We see the signs of hope for us now, and know that we put our trust in God. We pray for those in the labs working on a vaccine and those who have volunteered to help. We pray for doctors and nurses who are on the front lines, caring for those who are sick. We do our part to help flatten the curve by staying home, and maintaining physical distance while reaching out to our friends, family, and neighbors in other ways, and trust that God will see us through.

***HYMN (Blue 370)**.....“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”.....

*Just as I am—without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

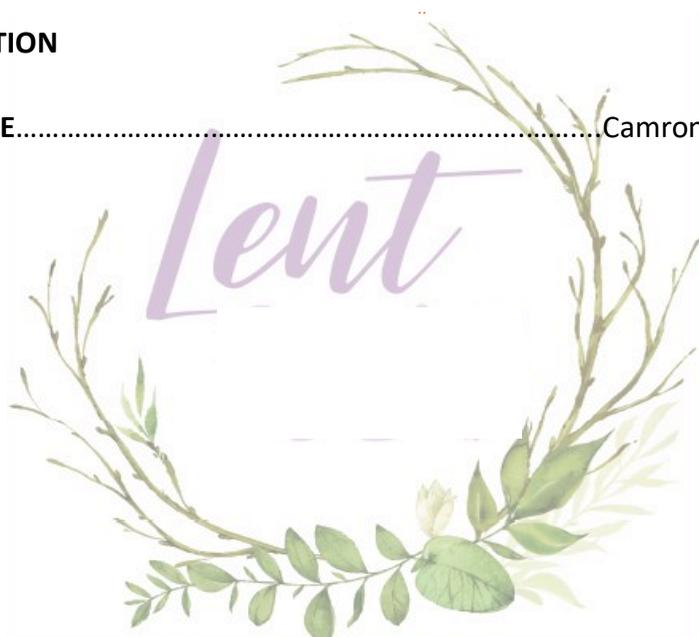
*Just as I am—though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am—Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am—Thy love unknown
Hath broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone—
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**.....Camron Cummings, Organist



Sunday, March 29, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**All Are Invited to Stand in Body or in Spirit*

The congregation is invited to respond at the **bold print**

Listen to us every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. on WISK radio 98.7 on your radio dial. Weekly sermons can also be downloaded from our web site.

www.americuspresbyterian.org

PRELUDE

Camron Cummings, Organist

*Hope is not only a life and death matter, hope is a life in death matter.
Hope finds its greatest challenge, and shines its greatest light, when life
stands in the face of death and affirms that God remains trustworthy. And
Jesus, stricken with a grief born of love, speaks hope into Lazarus's tomb,
calling his friend forth as a sign of God's glory and of our hope.*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

**God calls to us in our isolation
inviting us to rise and greet the day,
to set aside our fears
and hopelessness,
to trust that Jesus is the resurrection
and the life,
and to embrace opportunities
to see the miracles God can do
in our midst
that we might never have imagined
had God not met us at the tomb
of despair.
Let us worship God!**

***HYMN (#151)**.....“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

*Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.*

*Crown Him the Lord of Love; Behold His Hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye At mysteries so bright.*

*Crown Him the Lord of peace; Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end; And round His pierced feet;
Fair flowers of Paradise extend Their fragrance over sweet.*

*Crown Him the Lord of years, The Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail Throughout eternity.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, You created the world out of chaos, and we confess that our world right now is in chaos. It is difficult for us right now to make sense out of what is happening. Illness and death have interrupted our lives. The world human beings created has turned upside down. But You are our constant, O God. You are our compass, O Christ. You are the wind that moves us, O Spirit. Guide us in this time, where we confess we need You more than ever, to be our foundation, to guide our way, and to move us into compassion and love. In the name of Christ, who journeys with us now and always, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY (Blue 592)**.....“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**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

(Ezekiel 37, John 11)

*From your hands, O God,
come the blessings that make life possible,
even the very gift of life itself.
In gratitude and thanks,
receive from our hands this portion of our labors.
By your Spirit’s leading,
may we use these gifts to bless the life of others
with the assurance of love,
the promise of hope,
and the course of justice.
This we do to your glory. Amen.*



28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

MESSAGE.....*"It's Different when it's Friends and Family"*
Pastor Sommer Bower

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(from Lamentations 3:22-25)

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is God's faithfulness. My soul speaks: "The Lord is my portion, therefore, I will hope in God." The Lord is good to those who wait, to the soul that seeks God. In this time of waiting, may we know God's presence and faithfulness endure forever. May our soul speak for us, in putting our hope and trust in God.
We are forgiven, loved, and restored. Amen.*

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (Blue 579)**

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 OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

and also with you

Let us share the peace of Christ with our neighbors.

***HYMN (#333)**.....*"Seek Ye First"*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

And His righteousness, And all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,

Knock and the door shall be opened unto to you.

Allelu, alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Prince of Peace, we pray right now for peace in our hearts. We pray that we may take advantage of the world slowing down as a reminder that the sabbath was created for us, a time of rest. May we lay aside the longing of the world we created to be busy, to do all the things possible. May we lay aside the guilt that we are not doing enough. May we instead embrace this new pace, and find peace. May we keep ourselves from others to reduce harm, to share our love by our actions of self-isolating to prevent the spread of disease.

Prince of Peace, our fears our real. We fear loss of income and jobs. We fear for our own health and safety, and the health and safety of loved ones. We fear what the future may bring. Help us to let go of fear as a force that holds us back, but help us to acknowledge our fear, to sit with it as with a troubled friend. Help us to give ourselves compassion and grace as You once showed Martha and Mary when their brother Lazarus died. Help us to hold on to the hope of resurrection in this life, a new life that may emerge from the circumstances we face now. Guide us into Your ways of peace, for all our hearts. Amen.

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*God of all consolation and compassion,
your Son comforted the grieving sisters, Martha and Mary;
your breath alone brings life
to dry bones and weary souls.
Pour out your Spirit upon us,
that we may face despair and death
with the hope of resurrection
and faith in the One
who called Lazarus forth from the grave. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." 11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."