**Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany**

**February 23, 2025**

THE CHURCH GATHERS

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRELUDE**

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsive***

**Leader: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.**

***People: We are the salt of the earth.***

**Leader: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.**

***People: We are the light of the world.***

**Leader: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.**

***People: The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.***

**Leader: Come, let us love one another with the love of God.**

***All: Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.***

**\*HYMN #** **455  *(Blue Hymnal) All Creatures of Our God and King (1-4)***

**CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison) Adapted from Psalm 51**

**Dear God - Help me to love my enemies. Forgive me for any bad feelings and thoughts I may have had towards them. Although my heart doesn’t feel like offering forgiveness or extending love, I want to follow your leading and calling in my life to do so, and to go beyond my own feelings and emotions in this situation. Create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**The Lord God said: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Brothers and sisters, Hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!**

**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.***

**A WORD FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**A TIME FOR PEOPLE TO PRAY and THE LORD’S PRAYER**

***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.***

**WE GIVE THANK OFFERINGS TO GOD**

**GIVING GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY - *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 THANKSGIVING**

**WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

**SCRIPTURE READING: *Matthew 5:43-48***

**THE SERMON: Dr. William D. Coker**

***“Love Your Enemies”***

**WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A Trinitarian Creed**

**Leader: God is Love;**

***People: God is Love, indeed!***

**Leader: Jesus is Lord;**

***People: Jesus is Lord, indeed!***

**Leader: The Holy Spirit Comforts;**

***People: The Holy Spirit Comforts, indeed!***

***All: Glory be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.***

**\*HYMN # 276 *(Blue Hymnal) Great is Thy Faithfulness***

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Friends, trust God. Believe Jesus. And rely on the peace of the Holy Spirit. In your trials and triumphs, your wars and victories, your beginnings and endings, wait patiently for God, for God is our hope and our salvation. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE - (\*) We *stand as we are able.***



**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **8 Most Significant Words: “Who will you invite to church next Sunday?”**
2. ***#1 Reason to Be at First Pres: Because we know why we’re here – to share the Real Jesus.***
3. ***A new sermon series begins today – “Difficult Sayings of Jesus”***

***Feb. 23 – “Love Your Enemies”***

***March 2 – “You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet”***

***March 9 – “O Unbelieving Generation”***

***March 16 – “Those Who See Will Become Blind”***

***March 23 – “The Kingdom of God Is Within You”***

***March 30 - “Friend, Your Sins Are Forgiven”***

***April 6 – “Whoever Blasphemes Against the Holy Spirit”***

***April 13 - “The Last Shall Be First and The First Shall Be Last”***

1. ***Prayer List:***
2. ***Cathy Martin (Biff’s sister) - She has Pancreatic Cancer. The spot on her Liver has shrunk, and she can now switch to the Chemo Pill instead of Infusion. She has a Cancer Coach who has survived Pancreatic Cancer for the last 26 years, and her husband Brad says he is not leaving his “Wing Man”, like in “Top Gun.”***
3. ***The Need for Unity in Our Country***
4. ***Our New 12 Commitments for Christ***
5. ***Rev. Coker is planning and Ash Wednesday service on March 5th. Please check your email for final details.***

**First Presbyterian Church**

**A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)**

**Our Vision: Always Be Christ’s Disciples**

**Our Mission: To share how Jesus and His love are real**

**through all Church activities.**

**217 Park Ave N, Tifton, GA 31794**

**Pastor – Dr. William D. *“Biff”* Coker**

**229-382-6730;** [**1stprestifton@gmail.com**](mailto:1stprestifton@gmail.com)

**firstprestifton.org**

***.***