

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, January 1, 2023

How to Connect

- Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Dalton. We are glad you are here!
- The session continues to monitor the current medical and scientific research and recommendations from local, state and national resources. Currently, our church observes a "Masks Optional" policy throughout the church campus with the exception of the nursery staff and volunteers. Adult teachers, volunteers, and nursery staff are asked to remain masked when they are involved in children's Christian Education activities. We are back to observing The Peace, passing the offering plate, and joining hands to sing The Congregational Response ("God Be with You 'Til We Meet Again") in our traditional manner. Anyone uncomfortable with these procedures is encouraged to refrain from participation in any or all of these aspects with full knowledge that our congregation is respectful and recognizes that our members have different needs and comfort levels. Please check any of the following for updates and possible changes in our COVID protocol:

First Presbyterian Church, Dalton Communication Channels:

- "First Presbyterian Church Dalton" Our church's public Facebook page.
- "FPC Connect" Our private Facebook page for church members and staff
- "Midweek News" Our newsletter sent online to most members unless a paper copy is requested by calling 706-278-8161.
- Your E-Mail
- Your personal U.S. Postal mailbox
- Find the most current contact information on our members in the church directory. It can be found on our website (www.firstpresdalton.org) under the fellowship tab. Please email the church office for the directory password.
- Regular team meetings will be held at the discretion of team chairs in-person and/or through videoconference. Scheduling will take place through direct communication and will be posted to the newsletter.

WI-FI



Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the church. There are two options available: First Pres Guest 2.4 and First Pres Guest 5. Although these will connect to the same network, 2.4 has more strength while 5 has more range. The location of the device will influence which one will automatically connect. The password for the guest network is **johncalvin.**

Announcements

- The **church office will be closed** January 2. Normal Office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 3.
- Children and Adult Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 8. Pastor Ken will lead the adult class on January 8, followed by Sally Burran on January 15 & 22. Stayed tuned for more details.
- Please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** on Sunday, January 8 in Hollis Hall, immediately following worship. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the church office.
- After the Christmas festivities are over and the thrill of the New Year has passed, our Congregational Life Team will meet after the fellowship lunch on Sunday, January 8 to **take down the greens** and pack up the holiday decorations. Any and all help is greatly appreciated!
- As we begin to focus our mission efforts on the calling of Matthew 25, the mission team would like to ask for your participation in one or all of these projects: The Book Spot at Park Creek School, Little Free Pantry and/or a Martin Luther King Day Service Project. See the Midweek News for more information.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023

PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

In dulci jubilo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

THE GREETING

At the sound of the bells, please prepare your heart and mind for worship.

INTROIT

What Is the Crying At Jordan

St. Mark's Berkeley

What is the crying at Jordan?
Who hears, O God, the prophecy?
Dark is the season, dark our hearts
And shut to mystery.

Lord, give us grace to awake us, to see the branch that begins to bloom; in great humility is hid all heaven in a little room.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ben Johnson

Thus says the Lord: "Behold, I do a new thing! Do you not perceive it? We stand at the gate of the new year, anticipating and watching for the coming of the Kingdom.

The Child is born, the Kingdom is here; let us rejoice! Let us worship God!

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Almighty God, You wonderfully created and even more wonderfully restored our humanity. In Your mercy, let us share the Divine Life of Jesus Christ Who came to be with us in redemptive life. Allow us to glorify You in all that we do, through Him who came to save us and Who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN 145

What Child is This

Greensleves

CALL TO CONFESSION

Cover Art:

"The Adoration of the Shepherds," woodcut by Albrecht Dürer, c. 1504.

Hymn 145 Note:

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

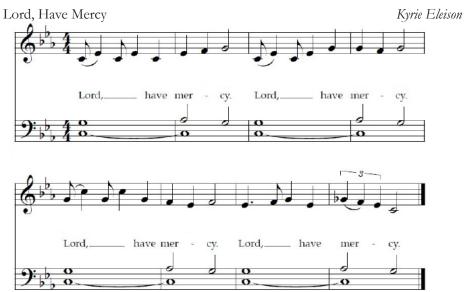
*Where you see this notation, please rise in body or in spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Eternal God, a thousand years in Your sight are like a watch in the night. As You have led us in days past, so guide us now and always, that our hearts may learn to choose Your will and new resolves be strengthened; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

KYRIE



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Joy to the World

Antioch

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me!

William B. Bradbury

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Today's music is reprinted with permision from OneLicense.net. A-722902

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 63: 7-9 NRSVUE

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior
⁹ in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 2: 10-18 NRSVUE

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

- "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."
- 13 And again,
- "I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

S. Paulus (1949-2019)

How far is it to Bethlehem?

Not very far.

Shall we find the stable-room

Lit by a star?

Can we see the little Child?

Is He within?

If we lift the wooden latch,

May we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there
Ox, ass, or sheep?
May we peep like them and see
Jesus asleep?

If we touch His tiny hand,
Will He awake?
Will He know we've come so far
Just for His sake?

Great kings have precious gifts,
And we have naught;
Little smiles and little tears
Are all we brought.

For all weary children
Mary must weep;
Here, on His bed of straw,
Sleep, children, sleep.

God, in His mother's arms,

Babes in the byre,

Sleep, as they sleep who find

Their heart's desire.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23 NRSVUE

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

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

SERMON

"On the Road Again"

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

*HYMN 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"Apostles' Creed"

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

www.firstpresdalton.org/giving/

OFFERTORY

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Burnette

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

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.

Hymn 123 Note:

The "it" of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to "that glorious song of old," the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

Offering Note:

Copy and paste the link under the Offering into your browser to easily submit your online offering.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

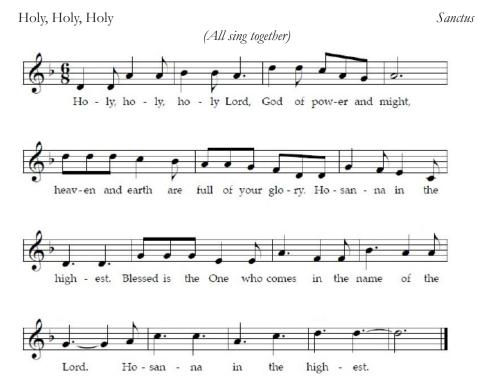
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, you created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful and turned from your ways, you did not forsake us, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and sent prophets to call us back to your way.

In the fullness of time you sent your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity, became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld your glory, Immanuel!

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:



You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him.

In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place.

Hear our prayer, Lord, and as this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Empower us by your Spirit to be joined in Christ's presence in the world even as he is God-with-us. Give us courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love with his love. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

We invite you to come forward for communion via the nearest accessible main aisle and return to your seat the way you came. Communion is served by intinction. Take a piece of bread held by one elder, dip it in the cup held by another, and then, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Gluten-free wafers and individual cups are available on the table.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING 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.

*HYMN 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

Cranham

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Traditional

God be with you till we meet again; By His counsels guide, uphold you, With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

*POSTLUDE

Hymn 144 Note:

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 1

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (&

Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 3

Saturday Sacks

10:30 a.m.

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 8

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (&

Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday Lunch

11:45 a.m.

Taking Down the Greens immediately following

lunch

Connection Team Mtg

12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 10

Grateful Heart AA Mtg 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 11

Missions Team Meeting

5:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 13

Christian Ed Team Mtg 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 15

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (&

Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Monday, January 16

Church Office Closed

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Mary Dover, in rehabilitation at Regency Park;

Greg George, kidney disease and recent surgery;

Noel and Coy Temples, as Coy adjusts to his new setting;

Stan Crawford, multiple health challenges including spinal stenosis;

Kristen Weiss, complications of Crohn's disease.

For Healing and Comfort for Family and Friends of our Members:

Kathy Bridges and Sue Spivey

James Nisbet, cousin, upcoming exploratory surgery;

Roger and Peggy Rollins

The family of Shirley Owens, friend, as they mourn her death;

Sarah McCown

Mark McCown, uncle, with significant loss of sight;

Kaye Clark

Becky Hansberry, daughter, relieved to have had a good scan and improvement with her targeted cancer treatment;

Tate O'Gwin

Jimmy O'Gwin, father, recovering from surgery;

Fran Lewis

Comer Turley, brother-in-law, whose cancer returned and is now being treated with immunotherapy;

Janice Sims

Tanja Hunter, friend, cancer;

Debbie Bragg, friend, receiving cancer treatment.

Friends of First Presbyterian, Dalton

The family of Tom Phillips, as they mourn his death;

The family of Elizabeth, friend of Pam Partain, as they mourn her death;

Karen Johnson and family, mourning the death of Ron Johnson;

Bill Johnson, diagnosed with cancer; and for his wife, Mae Johnson, and his family as they care for him;

Arden Brown, son of Amanda and Chris Brown, has been accepted into a clinical trial for a drug which hopefully will prove to be a cure for Duchennes Muscular Dystrophy;

Wilson Kennedy, Cherokee Presbytery General Presbyter, as he begins his work;

Caregivers and aging parents.

Families affected by COVID-19;

Praises and Continuing Prayers!

Cecilia Passmore, at home;

Jack and Pam Partain, grandparents, and Lucy Partain Brown and Andrew, parents, on the birth of Ann Mead Brown;

Kelly Mahan Allgood, daughter-in-law of Charles and Laura Allgood, has completed her treatments and is doing well;

Paula Morrow, in remission from Leukemia for over a year!

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers	Joy Makers	Faith Explorers
1/1	Ben Johnson	Tommy & Jodi Johnson	The Flower Team		
1/8	Pam Partain	Kathryn Sellers Walter & Jeane Jones	TBD	Alice Ensley & Lively	Jean Strain Jeane Jones

MONTHLY

	Communion (January 1)	Congregational Care	
Prep	Carol Houston	January	Jeane Jones
Servers	Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie, Jeane Jones, Kathy Bridges & Jeff Granillo	February	Joanne Lewis



DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847

Contact FPC

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Adam Burnette, Director of Music: aburnette@firstpresdalton.org
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