



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



First Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 3, 2023

## How to Connect

- Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Dalton. We are glad you are here!
- 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, if they are unvaccinated, are asked to remain masked when involved in children’s Christian Education activities. Some may still opt to wear a mask even if they are vaccinated. Additionally, we have returned 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 this approach 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 Dalton 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 mailbox
- Find the most current contact information on our members in the church directory. It can be found on our website ([www.firstpresdalton.org](http://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 video-conference. 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 Advent Season is here and the **calendar** is once again full! Pick up your copy in the Commons so you don’t miss any events.
- **Presbyterians at the Pub** will now meet twice a month. Join friends from church at Dalton Brewing Company after work on the first and third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. If so inclined, wear your First Pres t-shirts. Non-alcoholic drinks are available. All are welcome, including children!
- Please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** on Sunday, December 10 in Hollis Hall, immediately following Worship. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the church office.
- Please join us for a **Family Advent Festival** on Sunday, December 10 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Hollis Hall immediately following lunch. Everyone is invited to gather for a festive time of refreshments, singing, homemade craft projects, and take home “Goodie Bags” for children.
- This year the Christian Education team is offering 3 different **Advent devotional** options. There will be one for individuals, one for families, and new this year, an online digital guide. Hard copies of the books will be available in the Commons and you can find a link to the digital guide in the MWN.

*(Announcements continued at the end of the bulletin.)*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE GREETING

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

## INTROIT

From Heaven Above To Earth I Come

G. Pride

*From heav'n above to earth I come  
To bring good news to ev'ryone  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To all the world and gladly sing.*

*To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild  
This newborn child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.*

## \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(from Isaiah 2:4)

Mike & Priscilla Brown

We light the candle of hope as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised in days to come,  
the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;

**nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.**

## \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We are here, O Lord, having left You last Sunday on Your throne of glory. We now stand in the company of Mary and Joseph, awaiting the birth of a child. The shepherds are in the fields and the magi are still packing their bags. But something is stirring in our hearts and in our world. Help us to atune ourselves to Your gracious activity. Remind us that the old gospel story is always new, always fresh to those who, like us, travel to Bethlehem. May this holy season of Advent, the time of waiting and preparation, guide us to Your glory and the promise of Your peace. Amen.

## \*HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### Cover Art:

Watkins, Carleton E., 1829-1916. Solar Eclipse from Mount Santa Lucia, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-link.pl?RC=56320> [retrieved November 28, 2023]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carleton\\_Watkins\\_\(American\\_-\\_Solar\\_Eclipse\\_from\\_Mount\\_Santa\\_Lucia\\_-\\_Google\\_Art\\_Project.jpg\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carleton_Watkins_(American_-_Solar_Eclipse_from_Mount_Santa_Lucia_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg))

The Advent Candle liturgy is from Isaiah 2:4.

### Hymn 88 Note:

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

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

## The Meaning of

### Advent:

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

-from the website of the PC(USA)

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

James Hoskins

*(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)*

**Guide us in this time of Advent, O Lord. May we not be so distracted by lights and tinsel that we forget to look long and hard at our lives. Help us to take the time we need to prepare ourselves for the arduous journey across the desert wastes until we behold, at last, the shining star of Your kingdom. Fit us, anew, for service and love that, leaving the old behind, we may find ourselves refreshed and re-created at the manger. Amen.**

## THE KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

*Kyrie Eleison*



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

## \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## 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

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 64: 1-9

NRSV

- <sup>1</sup> O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —
- <sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil —  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence
- <sup>3</sup> When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
- <sup>4</sup> From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.
- <sup>5</sup> You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
- <sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- <sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity
- <sup>8</sup> Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

I Corinthians 1: 3-9

NRSV

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# ANTHEM

Advent Message

M.How  
(1931-2022)

*Come Lord Jesus, Amen, come Lord Jesus  
O come quickly, come Lord Jesus*

*The voice of Him that crieth in the wilderness,  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,  
Make straight in the dessert,  
A highway for our God.*

*Come Lord Jesus,  
Yea come quickly, come Lord come  
Amen, come Lord come.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13: 24-37

NRSV

<sup>24</sup>“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

## SERMON

“But In Those Days...”

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

## \*HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Hyfrydol*

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Nicene Creed”

**We believe in one God, The Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again; in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE OFFERING

[www.firstpresdalton.org/giving/](http://www.firstpresdalton.org/giving/)

## OFFERTORY

### \*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.**

## 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.**

### Hymn 82 Note:

With its opening “Come,” this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent Season (from the Latin *adventus* = “coming”). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

### Offering Note:

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

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of all things. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. You set us in this world to love and serve you, and to live in peace with all that you have made. When we turned from you, you did not turn from us. When we were captives in slavery, you delivered us to freedom, and made covenant to be our God. You spoke to us through prophets who looked for that day when justice and peace shall reign over all the earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with heavenly hosts, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

*Schubert*

*(All sing together)*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord. God of power and might.  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord. God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory;  
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You sent him into this world to satisfy the longings of your people for a Savior, to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering. We rejoice that in his death and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host.

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. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

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 elements are available from the left aisle.*

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



# PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & 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 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

*Aberystwyth*

## \*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

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### Hymn 97 Note:

This unusual dialogue hymn alternates between the voice of a traveler and that of a watchman, setting up an exchange that creates parallels between the coming of dawn and the birth of Christ. The tune is named for a Welsh town whose name means “mouth of the bending river.”

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
12/3	James Hoskins	Mike & Priscilla Brown	The Flower Team
12/10	Jean Lowrey	Kathryn Sellers	The Flower Team

### MONTHLY

Communion (December 3)		Congregational Care	
Prep	Katie O'Gwin	December	Annelle Scott
Servers	Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie, Bob Hubbs, Susan Bisson & Steve Sides	January	Sue Neely

## PRAYERS

### **For Healing and Comfort for our Members:**

*The Elder Nominating Committee*, as they continue their work;

*Charles Allgood*, as he battles lung cancer;

### **On Going Concerns for our Members:**

*The Pastor Nominating Committee*, as they faithfully continue our search for a new pastor;

*Cecilia Passmore* and her parents, *Kristen and Chance*, as they settle into their new home in Dawsonville to be closer to family;

*Nancy Rhine*, in assisted living located near her daughter;

Noel and *Coy Temples*;

*Stan Crawford*, multiple health challenges including spinal stenosis;

### **Friends of First Presbyterian, Dalton**

*Gene Smith*, father of Rhonda Smith, who is in declining health;

*Nikki Collins and her family*, as they go through the difficult experience of losing their home in a house fire;

*The peace of Israel*;

*The families of victims of substance abuse*;

*Kathy Householder*, friend of Debbie and Mary Dennard, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer;

*Arden Brown*, son of Amanda and Chris Brown, as they seek a cure for DMD;

*Caregivers and aging parents*.

### **Praises and Continuing Prayers!**

*For Tate O'Gwin*, who received a very encouraging report following colon cancer surgery at Vanderbilt University Hospital recently. He continues to recover at home;

*Josh and Sukanya Hendrix*, on the birth of their daughter, Maya Anjali;

*Becky Hansberry*, daughter of Kaye Clark, who has moved to Atlanta, and is continuing her cancer treatment at Emory.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...

- During Monday's in Advent at noon, join Pastor Ken for **Soup & Scripture** as he leads the discussion, focusing on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's, *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*. Don't forget to bring your sack lunch!

- During the weeks of Advent, the **Adult Sunday School** class will explore what it means for us to welcome the God we didn't expect, the God who climbs down to us because we couldn't climb up to God. Join us each week as together we ready ourselves to welcome the Christ Child. Ready or not, God is on the way! Join us next Sunday, December 10, in Hollis Hall at 9:15 a.m. as we continue to explore, *Heaven and Earth, Advent and the Incarnation* by Will Willimon.

• **The Christmas Joy Offering**, December 3-24, supports church workers and their families in the PC(USA) who need critical financial assistance. Our congregation has the opportunity to make an impact. We can be the difference between financial hardship and a blessed breath of relief. You can place your donation in the offering plate or you can give online. Envelopes are available in the Commons.

• The Mission Team is making 40 **Christmas food baskets** for families in need. We are going to meet Friday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m. in Hollis Hall to assemble the food into baskets. Everyone is invited to come and participate! After assembly, we will deliver the baskets to Park Creek and Antioch Elementary schools.

• **Salvation Army Bell Ringers** needed! First Presbyterian Church will ring the bell at Food City on Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. We need 8 volunteers each day to ring the bell for one hour. Please call Peggy Rollins to sign up! 706-280-5365

• The **ladies of the church** are all invited to Kathryn Sellers's house on Tuesday evening, December 12, from 4:00- 6:00 p.m. for a little seasonal socializing. Everyone should bring a small appetizer to share, and we will enjoy a couple of hours of each others' company and holiday spirit!

## THE ADVENT WREATH

The season of Advent embraces the four Sundays leading to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of remembrance as our hearts and minds turn again to the birth of Christ. It is also a period of reflection, repentance and preparation in anticipation of Christ's promised return. Advent means "coming," and for Christians we mark the progress of the season in the content of our messages, the emotions of our music, and the symbolism to be found in our worship, including the lighting of the candles of the Advent Wreath.

The wreath itself, in its circular shape and evergreen construction, speaks to the endless love of God for God's people and the everlasting life promised in Jesus Christ.

The four candles are often ordered and understood as follows: purple for hope found in prophetic anticipation; purple for the faith of the Holy Family as they traveled to Bethlehem; pink for the joy of the shepherds; and again purple for the angels of peace who sang at Christ's birth.

May the light of each candle serve to rekindle within us the hope, faith, joy and peace of the season, and, with the lighting of the Christ candle, may their collective illumination express anew the glowing radiance of our Lord, the true light of all the world.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, December 3

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship - Advent I

FPC Sanctuary (& Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Girl Scouts

3:00-4:30 p.m.

### Monday, December 4

Soup & Scripture  
noon-1:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, December 5

Grateful Heart AA Mtg  
8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, December 6

Choir Rehearsal

6:00-8:00 p.m.

### Thursday, December 7

Presbyterians at the Pub  
5:00 p.m.

Knitting Group

5:30-7:30 p.m.

### Friday, December 8

Book Spot @ Park Creek  
7:30 - 8:15 a.m.

Salvation Army Bell  
Ringing

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### Saturday, December 9

Salvation Army Bell  
Ringing

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 10

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship - Advent II

FPC Sanctuary (& Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday

Fellowship Lunch

11:45 a.m.

Family Advent

Workshop

1:00-3:00 p.m.



### **Contact FPC**

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