



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 31, 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) 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 **church office will be closed** through January 1. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2. Please contact Pastor Ken for any pastoral concerns.
- All are invited to stay after worship today to help **take down the greens**. Thank you in advance for your help!
- The **Adult Sunday School Class** will start a new study focusing on the book *Real World Faith* by Walter Bruggemann. Join us in Hollis Hall, beginning January 7 at 9:15 a.m., as together we explore what it means to practice and deepen our faith in the real world and in our daily lives.
- Please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** on Sunday, January 14 in Hollis Hall, immediately following Worship. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the church office.
- **Soup & Scripture** will resume on Monday, January 22, 2024.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

PRELUDE

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

From Heaven Above To Earth I Come

arr. 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.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jodi Johnson

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!
And also with You!
Give thanks to the Lord for all God's goodness!
And praise Him in the sanctuary!

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, light of the hearts that seek You, life of the souls that love You, strength of the thoughts that seek You: to turn from You is to fall, to turn to You is to rise, to abide in You is to stand forever. Although we are unworthy to approach You or to ask anything at all of You, grant us Your grace and blessing for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your redeemer. Amen.

*HYMN 127

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Holy and merciful God, in Your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings and our offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for all that we have done to displease You. Forgive our sins and help us to live in Your light and walk in Your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Cover Art:

Murillo, Bartolomé Esteban, 1617-1682. Holy Family, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=46610> [retrieved December 19, 2023]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bartolom%C3%A9_Esteban_Perez_Murillo_-_The_Holy_Family_with_a_Bird_-_

Hymn 127 Note:

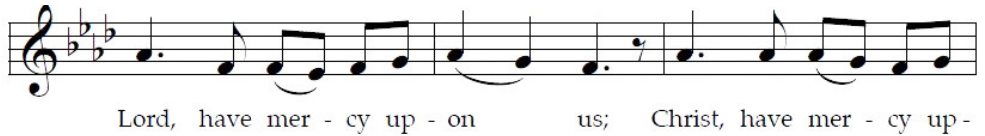
This blues-tinged setting of a familiar Christmas carol participates in a longstanding African American practice of adapting Anglo-European texts, as is done here by incorporating a repeated internal line and by appending a refrain that expands that line's language and imagery.

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

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

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

NRSV

- ^{61:10} I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Today's music is reprinted with permission to reprint/podcast/stream music in this service is obtained from One License with license #A-722902. All rights reserved.

- ^{62:1} For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- ² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

NRSV

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Agnus Dei

G. Bizet
(1838-1875)

Adam Stark, tenor

*Agnus Dei! Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere, nobis.*

*Agnus Dei! Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis, Dona pacem.*

(Translation)

*Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

NRSV

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy

Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"So Said Simeon"

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

*HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

*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.

Hymn 121 Note:

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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.

THE OFFERING

www.firstpresdalton.org/giving/

THE 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.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World

Antioch

*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

Offering Note:

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

Hymn 134 Note:

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4–9 in Christian terms, titling it “The Messiah’s coming and kingdom.” So “the Lord” here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847

Contact FPC

101 S. Selvidge Street Phone: 706-278-8161

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie, Interim Pastor: mckenzie.ken@att.net

Jean Strain, Director of Christian Education: jstrain@firstpresdalton.org

Hye Jeong Kwon, Director of Music: hkwon@firstpresdalton.org

Erin Witt, Office Manager: office@firstpresdalton.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
12/31	Jodi Johnson	Tommy & Jodi Johnson	TBD
1/7	Emma Lively	TBD	TBD

MONTHLY

Communion (January 7)		Congregational Care	
Prep	Carol Houston	December	Annelle Scott
Servers	Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie, Michelle Lively, Jeff Granillo and Larry Cooper	January	Sue Neelly

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

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 and Palestine;

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;

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.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 31

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (& Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Taking Down the

Greens

11:30 a.m.

Monday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 3

No Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 4

Presbyterians at the Pub

5:00 p.m.

Knitting Group

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 7

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (& Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 9

Saturday Sacks

10:30 a.m.

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10

Choir Rehearsal

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 11

Knitting Group

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 14

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (& Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

