



Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 7, 2024

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 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 Adult Sunday School Class has started a new study focusing on the book *Real World Faith* by Walter Bruggemann. Join us Sunday mornings in Hollis Hall 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.

• As we begin to focus our 2024 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.

• On Saturday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m., The DEO Clinic, in partnership with FPC, is hosting a concert featuring **High Fidelity Bluegrass Band**. They are a rising bluegrass band that draws their inspiration from classic styles from the much loved 50s and 60s era. Volunteers are needed for this event. Please contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering. Go to http://woodsongsdalton.com for ticket information.

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

Emma Lively

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

And God Said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day and the darkness he called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. Let us worship God.

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God, You have created and continue to create. As we offer this time of our lives, send Your creating spirit among us. Shape and mold us after Your most holy will, so that all we are and all we do may give glory to Your kingdom. Amen.

*HYMN 140 Once in Royal David's City

Irby

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

Cover Art:

Tissot, James, 1836-1902. Journey of the Magi, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https:// diglib.library.vanderbilt. edu/act-imagelink. pl?RC=56277 [retrieved January 4, 2024]. Original source: https:// commons.wikimedia. org/wiki/File:Magi_tissot.jpg.

Hymn 140 Note:

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

We stand at the riverbank, O God, just as Your Son, our Lord did so many years ago. Do we dare to go in and have our sins cleaned in the healing waters of Your grace? Do we dare to fulfill all righteousness and give our days over to You? Forgive, we pray, our hesitancy and fears. Help us to take that first step into redemption and restoration. Calm our darkness and bestow Your light for our salvation. Amen.



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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 1: 1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Leanna Granillo, Sarah McCown, duet

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 19: 1-7

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

ANTHEM

Pie Jesu

A. L. Webber

(b. 1948)

Translation

Merciful Jesus, merciful Jesus,

Father, who takes away the sins of the world

Grant them rest

Lamb of God, Lamb of God,

Father, who takes away the sins of the world

Grant them rest.

Everlasting

Rest

Pie Jesu, pie Jesu, Qui tollis peccata mundi, Dona eis requiem

Agnus Dei, Agnus Dei, Qui tollis peccata mundi Dona eis requiem

> Sempiternam Requiem

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 1: 4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

NRSV

found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." 5On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Acts Scripture Lesson:

¹While Apollos was in

Corinth, Paul passed through the interior

regions and came to

Ephesus, where he

NRSV

NRSV

Hymn 150 Note:

The first three stanzas here use an as/so structure to draw parallels between the coming of the Magi and the spiritual lives of the singers, summed up in the prayer of the fourth stanza. Even though this adapted German tune was named for him, the author did not care for it.

The Nicene Creed:

"The Nicene Creed was the first and in fact is the only creed used ecumenically by the vast majority of Christians throughout the world. For more than fifteen hundred years, it has been the hallmark of orthodoxy." - from the PC (USA) Book of Confessions.

The Nicene Creed is particularly important because it settled a long-running debate about how Christians could reconcile the divinity of Jesus with Jewish monotheism. The creed claims that Jesus is "of one Being with the Father." In Advent, therefore, we expect the coming of God in the flesh-"true God from true God."

Offering Note:

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

SERMON "A Voice, a River and a Dove"

*HYMN 150 As with Gladness Men of Old

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

Dix

"The 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/

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

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.

Old 100th

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

(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. 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 elements are available from the left aisle. Hymn 151 Note:

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

Schubert

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

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 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

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

Kings of Orient

Traditional



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
1/7	Emma	Annelle Scott &	Joanne
	Lively	Kathryn Sellers	Lewis
1/14	Julie	Larry & Sharon	Margaret
	Tharpe	Cooper	Venable

MONTHLY

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

MISSIONS

The Book Spot		Little Free Pantry Pal	
1/5	Kathryn Sellers & Don Hoffmeyer	January	Peggy Rollins
1/12	Priscilla Brown & Don Hoffmeyer	February	Mary Hubbs

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;

Upcoming Events 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. Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch 11:45 a.m. Monday, January 15 Church Office Closed Tuesday, January 16 Grateful Heart AA Mtg 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 17 Congregational Life Team Meeting 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30-8:00 p.m Thursday, January 18 Womens Book Club TBD Presbyterians at the Pub 5:00 p.m. Knitting Group 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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