



Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 3, 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

- Immediately following Worship, Sunday, March 10, please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** in Hollis Hall. Please RSVP to the church office if you'd like to attend. After lunch stay for the Connection Team meeting and see how you can help.
- All are welcome each Monday at noon in Hollis Hall for **Soup & Scripture**. The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus' most profound and memorable teachings. During Lent, we will explore these unique teachings using *Sermon on the Mount: A Begininers Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven* by noted author and scholar Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. Join us and the discussion!
- Throughout Lent, the Christian Education Team invites members of our congregation to write a brief, one-page reflection on some aspect of Lent. Your reflections will be posted daily to our Facebook FPC Dalton Connect page, #LentenReflections2024. Please send your submissions to Jean Strain.
- This year we invite you to give to "One Great Hour of Sharing". We will receive collections for this special offering through Easter. See the Midweek News for more information.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

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

Ah, Holy Jesu

R. A. Nelson (1927-2014)

Ah, holy Jesu, How hast Thou offended? That man to judge Thee hath in hate pretended? By foes derided, by Thine own rejected, O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon Thee?

Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone Thee.

Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied Thee. I crucified Thee!

Ah, holy Jesu, since I cannot pay Thee, I will adore Thee Lord.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Brown

The heavens declare the glory of God!

The skies proclaim the work of His hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech,

Night after night they reveal knowledge. Let us worship God!

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, giver of all good gifts, come among us, we pray, and give us Your wisdom. As we proclaim Christ crucified, may we also declare the coming glory of Easter. Give us courage to reflect, repent and renew our service to You and to each other. Fill us with Your life-changing grace today and always. This we ask through the power of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 8

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Melita

CALL TO CONFESSION

Cover Art:

Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, 1606-1669. Christ driving the moneychangers, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https:// diglib.library.vanderbilt. edu/act-imagelink. pl?RC=54708 [retrieved February 27, 2024]. Original source: http:// commons.wikimedia. org/wiki/File:Rembrandt_Harmensz._ van_Rijn_024.jpg.

Hymn 8 Note:

The year after this text was written for a student sailing to America, it was included in the most influential British hymnal of the 19th century. The tune especially composed for it preserves the ancient Roman name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked, now called Malta.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Like the money changers at the temple, O God, we have exchanged Your love for things that do not satisfy our needs. We have traded love for hatred, peace for warfare, acceptance for prejudice and understanding for stereotypes. Forgive us our poor stewardship of each other and Your world. Overturn the tables of our destructive commerce and set our souls on the path to Your kingdom. This we ask by the renewing power of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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



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.

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 19 NRSV

- The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
- There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
- ⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

- ⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.
- ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
- the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
- the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
- Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
- But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
- ¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
- Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

I Corinthians 1: 18-25 NRSV

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

None other Lamb

J. Roff (1910-1993)

None other Lamb, none other Name, None other Hope in heav'n or earth or sea, None other Hiding place from guilt and shame, None beside Thee.

My faith burns low, my hope burns low;
Only my heart's desire cries out in me,
By the deep thunder of its want and woe, Cries out to Thee.

Lord, Thou art Life though I be dead, Love's Fire Thou art, how ever cold I be: Nor heav'n have I, nor place to lay my head, Nor home, but Thee.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 2: 13-22 NRSV

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you

show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

SERMON

Not What We Expected

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

*HYMN 429

As a Chalice Cast of Gold

Inward Light

*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/

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.

Hymn 429 Note:

This prayerful text is based on Mark 7:1–8,14–15,21–23, where Jesus teaches that external religious observances are much less important than purity of heart. The tune was composed at the same time as part of a collaborative effort to create new hymns for a seminary community.

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.

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.

It is right, indeed it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; male and female you created us.

When we sinned and turned away, you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. By his death on the cross, he made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world and freed us from the bondage of sin. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory. In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious 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. Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Recalling your great goodness to us, loving God, in Jesus Christ: in his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise. Blessing, honor, and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.*

*"The Great
Thanksgiving" adapted
from A New Zealand
Prayer Book, Harper
One, 1997.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Kingsfold

Traditional

*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

Hymn 182 Note:

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10–14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5).

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 3

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (&

Facebook livestream) 10:30 a.m.

Monday, March 4

Soup & Scripture noon

Tuesday, March 5

Saturday Sacks 10:30 a.m.

Grateful Heart AA Mtg 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6

Choir Rehearsal 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 7

Presbyterians at the Pub 5:00 p.m.

Knitting Group 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 8

The Book Spot 7:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 10

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m. Worship

FPC Sanctuary (&

Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday

Fellowship Lunch

11:30 a.m.

Connection Team Meeting

12:30 p.m.

Monday, March 11

Soup & Scripture

noon

Tuesday, March 12

Grateful Heart AA Mtg 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13

Choir Rehearsal 6:30-:800 p.m.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
3/3	Mike	Walter and Jeane Jones &	Margaret
	Brown	Margaret Venable	Venable
3/10	Nancy	Mike & Priscilla	Becky
	Hallsworth	Brown	Jolly

MONTHLY

Communion (March 3)		Congregational Care	
Prep	Jeane Jones	March	Priscilla Brown
Servers	Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie, Margaret Venable, Alice Ensley & Sarah McCown	April	TBD

MISSIONS

The Book Spot		Little Free Pantry Pal		
3/8	TBD	March	Alice Ensley & O'Gwins	
3/15	TBD	April	Laura Allgood & Priscilla Brown	

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Wayne Alderman, as he mourns the death of his sister, Ruth;

Rob Lively and family, as they mourn the death of his grandfather, Frank Reed;

John McPherson, as he recovers from shoulder surgery;

Jeff Granillo and family, as they mourn the death of his uncle, Dennis Moore;

Noel Temples and family, as they mourn the death of Coy Temples;

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 enjoy their new home in Dawsonville to be closer to family;

Nancy Rhine, in assisted living located near her daughter;

Stan Crawford, multiple health challenges including spinal stenosis;

Friends of First Presbyterian, Dalton

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!

John and Erin Swinney, on the birth of their daughter, Palmer;

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



Contact FPC

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