



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Fifth Sunday After Easter

Sunday, April 28, 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](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

- Kelli Johnson, opened by regional band Spatial Effects, will be performing at FPC today at 2:00 p.m. The concert will benefit the **Little Free Pantry**. We encourage you to bring a canned good, boxed meal item, or personal hygiene product. Volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office if you can help. Go to [woodsongsdalton.com/tickets](http://woodsongsdalton.com/tickets) for ticket information. You don’t want to miss this concert!
- The Congregational Life Team will once again host **Lemonade on the Lawn**. Join the congregation for light refreshments after Worship today.
- Church Women United would like to invite the ladies of the church to their **2024 May Friendship Day** on Friday, May 3. The event will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church beginning at 11:00 a.m. The lunch will feature speaker Robert Hill from Greater Works and the food will be potluck style. They ask that you bring items for the Greater Works food pantry. Please contact Laura Allgood or Jeane Jones if you have any questions.

# SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 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

O Taste and See

R. V. Williams  
(1872-1958)

*O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:  
Blest is the man that trusteth in him.*

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Spivey

Hear, O Israel,

**The Lord is our God! The Lord is one!**

You shall tell your children on this day, "It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt."

**And it shall be to us as a sign on our hands and a memorial between our eyes that the law of the Lord may be in our mouths,**

For with a strong hand the Lord has brought us out of Egypt.

**Therefore, we shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year. Let us worship God!**

## \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**O God of the Hebrews, Your mercies extend to all who call upon You.**

**Send, we pray, Your presence into our hearts that our mouths may declare**

**Your praise and our hands perform deeds which glorify Your Name. Amen.**

## \*HYMN 826

Lift High The Cross

*Crucifer*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**How quickly we forget, O Lord, Your kindness and compassion through the ages. You have been faithful and we have been faithless. You have been steadfast and we have been faltering. You have extended mercy and we have engendered hatred. Renew and reform us, we pray, so that we may be true examples to Your world of Your loving kindness. This we ask through Jesus Christ, the firstborn fruit of Your miraculous Love. Amen.**

### Cover Art:

Philip Catechizes the Ethiopian Eunuch, 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=58595> [retrieved April 23, 2024]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/5712497198/>.

### Hymn 826 Note:

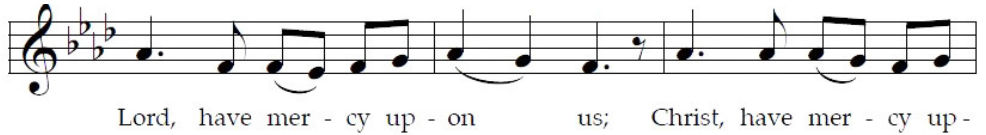
This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

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

## KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

*Kyrie Eleison*



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

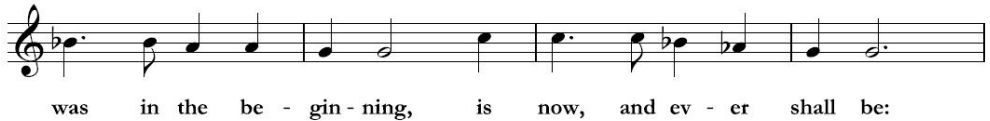
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

## \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Glora Patri

*S Selvidge Street*



## 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

Acts 8: 26-40

NRSV

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)

<sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of

the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” [<sup>37</sup>And Phillip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

I John 4: 7-21

NRSV

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

<sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and

whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

## ANTHEM

Give Me Jesus

arr. J.Hairston (1901-2000)  
& H. R. Wilson (1901-1968)

Amanda Karge, solo

*In de morn-in' when I rise, Give me Jesus.  
Give me Jesus. You may have all dis worl', give me Jesus.*

*Just about de break of day, Give me Jesus.  
Give me Jesus. You may have all dis worl', give me Jesus.*

*Oh, when I come to die, Give me Jesus.  
Give me Jesus. You may have all dis worl', give me Jesus.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15: 1-8

NRSV

<sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

## SERMON

"The Branch Manager"

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

## \*HYMN 720

Jesus Calls Us

*Galilee*

### Hymn 720 Note:

Like many hymns that adults have come to cherish, this text based on Jesus' calling of the disciple Andrew was written for a 19th-century collection of hymns for children. The popular tune used here was composed for these words more than a quarter of a century later.



## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“The Scot’s Confession”

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his glory.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in 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/](http://www.firstpresdalton.org/giving/)

## THE 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*

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### \*HYMN 726

Will You Come And Follow Me

*Kelvingrove*

### \*CHARGE & 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

**The Affirmation of Faith** is an excerpt from the Scots Confession. The Scots Confession was an act of Scottish Parliament in 1560 to unify standards of faith and confession in the church throughout Scotland. Led by church reformers—among them John Knox, the father of Presbyterianism—the document borrows from the Reformed theology of John Calvin to clarify traditional reformed emphases like the sovereignty of God, the importance of scripture, and the formation of a church distinguished from Roman Catholicism.

#### **Offering Note:**

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

#### **Hymn 726 Note:**

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer’s response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer’s time of ministry.



## **Contact FPC**

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Erin Witt, Office Manager: [office@firstpresdalton.org](mailto:office@firstpresdalton.org)

### **Mailing Address:**

PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722



# VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

## WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
4/28	Sue Spivey	Nancy Hallsworth & Kathryn Sellers	Margaret Venable
5/5	Steve Farrow	Nancy Hallsworth & Walter Jones	TBD

## MONTHLY

Communion (May 5)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Julie Tharpe	April	Mary Hubbs	April	Laura Allgood & Priscilla Brown
Servers	Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie, Walter & Jeane Jones and Ted Hogshead	May	Jeane Jones	May	Wayne & Judy Alderman

## PRAYERS

### For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

*Charles Allgood*, as he battles lung cancer;

### Ongoing Concerns for our Members:

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

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

### Friends of First Presbyterian, Dalton

*Kenyon Tribble*, friend of Sue Spivey and Kathy Bridges as he recovers from a broken vertebrae;

*Margaret Spivey*, sister-in-law and aunt to Sue Spivey and Kathy Bridges, as she battles Breast Carcinoma;

*John Hinkle*, who was recently diagnosed with bladder cancer;

*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 and the well-being of Ukraine;*

*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!

Our incoming pastor *Nicole and her family*, as we plan together their move to FPC;

*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.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, April 28

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (& Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Lemonade on the Lawn

11:30 a.m.

DEO Clinic Concert

2:00 p.m.

### Monday, April 29

Soup & Scripture

noon

### Tuesday, April 30

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 1

Missions Team Meeting

5:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

6:30-8:00 p.m.

### Thursday, May 2

Knitting Group

5:30-7:30 p.m.

### Sunday, May 5

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (& Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

### Monday, May 6

Soup & Scripture

noon

### Tuesday, May 7

Saturday Sacks

10:30 a.m.

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 8

Congregational Life

Team Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

6:30-8:00 p.m.

