



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 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 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

- Please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** on Sunday, April 14 in Hollis Hall, immediately following Worship and meet our new pastor, Nicole Jiskoot, and her family. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the church office.
- Thank you to all that contributed to this year’s **“One Great Hour of Sharing.”** Through your donations, we are sending \$960 to the general fund. Thank you so very much for your generous offerings!
- Kelli Johnson, opened by regional band Spacial Effects, will be performing at FPC Sunday, April 28 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 for ticket information. You don’t want to miss this concert!

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 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

Be Not Afraid

J. Berthier
(1923-1994)

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathryn Sellers

Behold, our God is light!

There is no darkness in God!

So, let us walk in the light!

Let us abandon the works of darkness and live as those who see clearly!

Let us worship God.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We praise You, O God, for the light You shed on our paths. Enter into our souls in Your illuminating way. Strengthen within us the faith which is already ours and lead us to the source of Your light and love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN 247

Now the Green Blade Rises

Noel Nouwelet

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Sometimes, O God, the new seems too good to be true. We stand in the light of Easter, unsure of Your resurrection grace. Help us to receive Your loving kindness and trust in Your forgiveness, even when we cannot understand it. Mark us with faith which seeks understanding, but above all else, rests in Your forgiveness and hope. Amen.

Cover Art:

Caravaggio, Michelangelo Merisi da, 1573-1610. The Incredulity of Saint Thomas, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54170> [retrieved April 2, 2024]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Incredulity_of_Saint_Thomas_by_Caravaggio.jpg.

Hymn 247 Note:

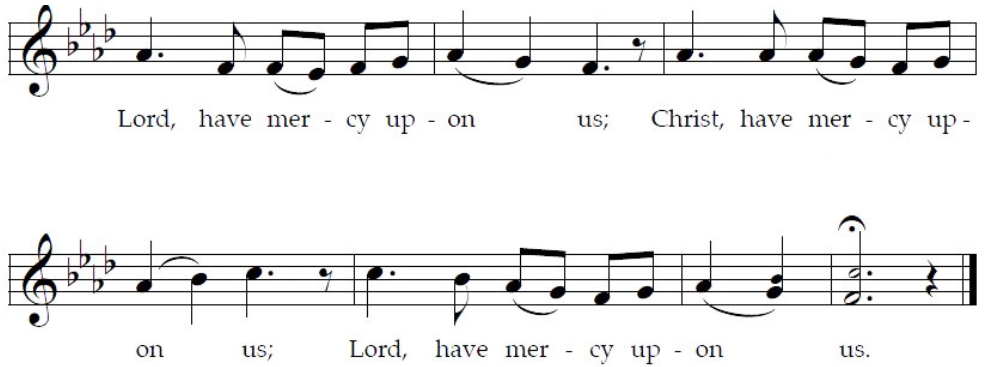
Although there were some traditional Easter carols, this hybrid one has been created by grafting a 20th-century English text onto a late 15th-century French tune. The allegory of the dying and rising grain as a parallel for Christ's Resurrection is probably based on John 12:24.

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

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Kyrie Eleison



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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 Selwidge Street



Glor - y be to God the Fath - er, and to the Son: and to the Hol - y Ghost; As it
was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be:
world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

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

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SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 133: 1-3

NRSV

- ¹ How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
- ² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
- ³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

I John 1:1-2:2

NRSV

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Forth He Came at Easter

D. H. Williams
(1919-2002)

*Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, Like wheat that springeth green.*

*In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
Thinking that never he would wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, Like wheat that springeth green.*

*Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, Like wheat that springeth green.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20: 19-31

NRSV

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

“What Kind of Peace is This?”

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

*HYMN 248

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna

Hymn to Joy

*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.

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 248 Note:

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: “Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection.”

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.”

Offering Note:

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

****The Great Thanksgiving:**

The Great Thanksgiving is an ancient form of communion prayer that dates to the earliest days of the Church. Although it appears in different settings, it always contains a retelling of the “story” of salvation that we join as we partake in the life of Christ through the communion meal.

Excerpt from
*Worshiping God Together:
A Guide for Children and
Their Parents:*

When we pray before the Lord’s Supper we do three things. First, we celebrate and give thanks for all the good things God has done for us. Second, we remember and give thanks for Jesus — how he lived, died, and rose again to save us and give us life. Third, we pray that the Holy Spirit will feed us through this meal, so that we can grow strong in faith and be faithful followers of Jesus.

Blessed are You, God, faithful and strong. All Your works, the height and depth, echo the silent music of Your praise. In the beginning Your Word summoned light, night withdrew, and creation dawned. Then, as if ages had passed unseen, waters gathered on the face of the earth and life appeared. When at last the days had ripened and the earth was grown full in abundance, You created in Your image man and woman, the stewards of all creation. You gave us breath and speech, that all the living might find a voice to sing Your praise, and to celebrate the creation You made and called good:

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.**

All-holy God, how wonderful is the work of Your hands! Because sin rose up to leave a fault-line, even in the earth, You stepped forward to enter into a covenant of peace that can renew the whole creation. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, as a father joyfully welcomes his own, You embraced a people as Yours, filling them with a longing for peace that will last, a justice that will never fail. Through countless generations Your people hungered for the bread of freedom. From them You raised up Jesus, Your Son, the living bread, in whom ancient hungers are satisfied. He healed the sick, though He Himself would suffer; He offered life to sinners, though death would hunt Him down.

But with a love stronger than death, He opened wide His arms and surrendered His spirit.

Eternal God, let Your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine that we may have communion in the body and blood of Christ, and that in Him we may become one. 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

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 236

The Strife is O'er

Victory

*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

Hymn 236 Note:

The Latin text from which this hymn has been translated may well be older than its earliest printing in a 17th-century collection published in Cologne. It is set to an adaptation of a portion of the Gloria Patri section from a 16th-century choral version of the Magnificat.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 7

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
FPC Sanctuary (&
Facebook livestream)
10:30 a.m.

Monday, April 8

Soup & Scripture
noon

Tuesday, April 9

Saturday Sacks
10:30 a.m.
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

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

Sunday, April 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
11:30 a.m.
Worship Team Meeting
12:30 p.m.

Monday, April 15

Soup & Scripture
noon

Tuesday, April 16

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17

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

Thursday, April 18

Women's Book Club
noon
Presbyterians at the Pub
5:00 p.m.
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
4/7	Kathryn Sellers	Larry & Sharon Cooper	Mary Hubbs
4/14	Rob Lively	TBD	TBD

MONTHLY

Communion (April 7)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Kathryn Sellers	April	Mary Hubbs	April	Laura Allgood & Priscilla Brown
Servers	Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie, Sarah McCown and Jeff & Leanna Granillo	May	TBD	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

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!

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.

Cover Art Note: “A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” -- John 20:26-28

“Caravaggio offers us a profound theology of innocence through the Beauty of his art. Known for his gritty realism, Caravaggio has Jesus grasping the hand of the apostle Thomas and thrusting it deep within the wound at his side, powerfully aligning Jesus’ and St. Thomas’ hands to form a lance. St. Thomas’ face expresses profound surprise as his finger thrusts deep into Jesus’ wound. Perhaps, the surprise has to do with his unbelief. It could also be surprise at the realization that he, too, is also pierced. Indeed, St. Thomas appears to clutch his side as if he becomes aware of a wound at his side as well. And we who wince at this gritty depiction feel a wound at our side as well.” (Aponte, 104)



Contact FPC

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