



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Sixth Sunday After Easter

Sunday, May 5, 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

- The Mission Team has purchased 20 seats for the Dalton Whitfield NAACP **Juneteenth Celebration & Gala** on Saturday, June 15 @ 5:00 p.m. If you’d like to reserve your seat, please email the church office. Tickets are first come, first serve.
- The school year is winding down for **Saturday Sacks** and we’d love your help! Join the packing group at First United Methodist Church on May 7 and May 21 at 10:30 a.m. in the hallway outside Famber Hall. Thank you for volunteering your time for this important ministry.
- All are welcome to attend the upcoming **Congregational Life Team Meeting** on Wednesday, May 8 at 10:00 a.m., in the Martin House library. Come see all the ways you can get involved in the life of FPC.
- During Worship, on Sunday, May 19, we will **recognize our 2024 graduates**: Alex Andrews, Amanda Karge, and Ian Lively. Please join us as we celebrate their accomplishments!

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 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

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love.

**Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love.**

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

Let us worship God!

## \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Guide us, O Lord, in the path of discipleship, so that, as You have blessed us, we may be a blessing for others. Help us to bring the promise of the Kingdom near by our words and deeds. Amen.**

## \*HYMN 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Hyfrydol*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**We have sinned, O Lord, missing the mark of Your will and wounding the earth and each other. Disputes separate us. Violence marks us.**

**Hatred scatters us and we are alone. Call us, by Your grace, to abandon all those things which diminish us. Strengthen us to live in Your love and to freely scatter the seeds of compassion which shall bring us, at last, to the fullest fruition of Your Kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, our loving Lord, Amen.**

### Cover Art:

Swanson, John August. The Procession, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imageLink.pl?RC=56558> [retrieved April 29, 2024]. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

### Hymn 366 Note:

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.

\*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 98

NRSV

- <sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.
- <sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
- <sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.
- <sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
- <sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- <sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.
- <sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.
- <sup>8</sup> Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy
- <sup>9</sup> at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

I John 5: 1-6

NRSV

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Love Comes From God

A. Pote  
(b. 1945)

*My friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God,  
And ev'ry one who loves is a child of God and knows God.*

*No greater love have you than this, than to lay down your life for a friend.  
Jesus has said, "Love one another as I have loved you."*

*My friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God,  
And ev'ry one who loves is a child of God and knows God.*

*But they who do not love do not know God, for God is love.  
He sent his only begotten Son, so that we might live through him.*

*My friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.  
For love comes from God, and God is love.*

*Peace be with you, my friends.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20: 19-31

NRSV

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.<sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

<sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

"The Greatest Commandment"

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

## \*HYMN 722

Lord, Speak To Me That I May Speak

Canonbury

**Hymn 722 Note:**  
Two great truths inform this text: first, that the testimony of experience is powerful and persuasive; and second, that no one should venture to minister on one's own strength rather than God's. The tune reflects a 19th-century practice of adapting piano pieces as hymn tunes.

## \*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/](http://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.**

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

### 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.

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 546**

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

*Sicilian Mariners*

**\*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**

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**Hymn 546 Note:**

This hymn of corporate benediction is one of several using the same first line. It was written by a Baptist pastor who dedicated his entire ministry to a small church in rural Yorkshire. The tune used here was first transcribed from Sicilian sailors in the late 18th century.

## Upcoming Events

### 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-:800 p.m.

### Thursday, May 9

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

### Sunday, May 12

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

Connection Team  
Meeting  
11:30 a.m.

### Monday, May 13

Soup & Scripture  
noon

### Tuesday, May 14

Grateful Heart AA Mtg  
8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 15

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

### Thursday, May 16

Women's Book Club  
noon  
Knitting Group  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
5/5	Sue Spivey	Walter Jones	Jeane Jones
5/12	Tate O'Gwin	Mike & Priscilla Brown	Laura Allgood

### MONTHLY

Communion (May 5)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Julie Tharpe	May	Jeane Jones	May	Wayne & Judy Alderman
Servers	Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie, Walter & Jeane Jones and Ted Hogshead	June	Becky Jolly	June	Valerie George

### 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

*Kemyon 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.

**Cover Art Note:** Artist's Reflections: ... There are sacred places throughout the world for all beliefs, places that have special meaning in the lives of people who journey to get there. They experience a centering, a healing, and a safe place to remember and to hope. The journey or procession takes us out of our ordinary lives to experience a transcendental or universal connection. The outward walk reflects an inner journey. We have taken the steps to move to another space in the journey of our lives.

In the Buddhist tradition, the mandala is used for spiritual centering. I see a form of mandala in the PROCESSION. As in the mandala, there is a complexity of images where all elements and ideas are drawn to the center. These images encircle the people. This picture gives us a connection, setting us apart from the extraneous happenings and distractions that surround our lives. It helps to focus our attention. It can provide us with the opportunity to stand back and review each of the scenes in ways that help us engage in contemplation and calm reflection on our complex lives. It becomes a metaphor for our own experiences.

The great procession is a celebration of life and faith where the rich and poor march in unison; the strong carry the weak, and the weak humble the proud; those who know the dance teach those who are just learning; and a child lifts high the banner for all to follow in joy, in peace, in love. This is the reality, the spirit I want to make real in this work.

JOHN AUGUST SWANSON makes his home in Los Angeles, California, where he was born in 1938. He paints in oil, watercolor, acrylic and mixed media, and is an independent printmaker of limited edition serigraphs, lithographs and etchings.

His art reflects the strong heritage of storytelling he inherited from his Mexican mother and Swedish father. John Swanson's narrative is direct and easily understood. He addresses himself to human values, cultural roots, and his quest for self-discovery through visual images. These include Bible stories and social celebrations such as attending the circus, the concert, and the opera. He also tells of everyday existence, of city and country walks, of visits to the library, the train station or the schoolroom. All his parables optimistically embrace life and one's spiritual transformation.

John Swanson studied with Corita Kent at Immaculate Heart College. His unique style is influenced by the imagery of Islamic and medieval miniatures, Russian iconography, the color of Latin American folk art, and the tradition of Mexican muralists.

His art is in no way "naïve." It is detailed, complex, and elaborate. Unlike many contemporary artists, John Swanson works directly on all phases in producing his original prints. His serigraphs (limited-edition screen prints) have from 40 to 89 colors printed, using transparent and opaque inks creating rich and detailed imagery. For each color printed the artist must draw a stencil on Mylar film. This stencil is transferred to the silk screen for printing the color ink on the serigraph edition. The resulting serigraph is a matrix of richly overlaid colors visually striking and technically masterful.

Mr. Swanson's art is represented in the permanent collections of many museums, including three museums of the Smithsonian Institution: The National Museum of American History, The National Museum of American Art and The National Air and Space Museum. He is also included in the print collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Harvard University's Fogg Museum, the Tate Gallery and Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. His painting THE PROCESSION is one of relatively few works by contemporary artists to be selected for the Vatican Museums' Collection of Modern Religious Art. In 2008, an extensive collection of John August Swanson's works were purchased by Emory University's Candler School of Theology to hang on the walls of their new 76,349 square foot building. He was awarded The Dean's Medal for his art's transformative effect on the campus. With over 55 works hung, this is the largest open public display of the artwork of John August Swanson. [from the artist's website]



### **Contact FPC**

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