



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



First Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 1, 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 Christmas Joy Offering**, December 1-22, supports church workers and their families in the PC(USA) who need critical financial assistance. Our congregation has the opportunity to make an impact. We can be the difference between financial hardship and a blessed breath of relief. You can place your donation in the offering plate or you can give online. Envelopes are available in the Commons.
- **Salvation Army Bell Ringers** needed! First Presbyterian Church will ring the bell on Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m at the Food City on Walnut Ave. We need 8 volunteers each day to ring the bell for one hour each. Please call Peggy Rollins to sign up! 706-280-5365.
- Attend our **Christmas Cantata**, *The Star Arising*, by Joseph M. Martin, on Sunday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m. Through the scripture readings and music, experience the celebration of light and joy that shares the good news of Jesus’ birth during this annual Lessons & Carols service with candlelight. The choir will be joined by area instrumentalists to form a small Chamber Orchestra. A prelude will begin at 4:45 p.m.
- The Advent Season is here and the **calendar** is once again full! Pick up your copy in the Commons so you don’t miss any events.

*Announcements are continued in the back of the bulletin.*

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORLD

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### THE GREETING

*At the sound of the bells, please prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

### INTROIT

Let Us Gather and Praise the Lord!

Bronwyn Edwards

*Let us gather and praise the Lord.*

*O sing praises to the Lord.*

### \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(from Isaiah 2:4)

The Swinney Family

We light the candle of hope as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised in days to come,  
the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;

**nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.**

### \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near.**

**Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with  
confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord.**

**Amen.**

### \*HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*

Stanzas 1,2,6 & 7

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Robert Smalley

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

**Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin,  
as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no  
grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us  
in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our  
salvation. Amen.**

#### **Hymn 88 Note:**

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

The Prayer of Confession is from Psalm 25.

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

## The Meaning of Advent:

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

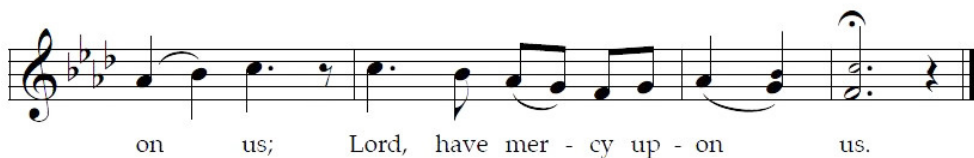
-from the website of the PC(USA)

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## THE 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*Veni Emmanuel*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## 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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

NRSVUE

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# ANTHEM

Star of Promise

Joseph M. Martin

(b. 1959)

*Star of promise, glorious sight, Morning Star of golden light;  
Shine your truth on us we pray. Turn our shadows into day.  
Hail the coming of the morn! Hail redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Star of promise, wondrous sign, sacred light of love divine;  
Bring us wisdom, lead us on. Teach us all your glorious song!  
Hail the coming of the morn! Hail redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Star of promise, wondrous sign, as we greet the morning skies.  
Help us dream of things above: hope and peace and joy and love.  
Hail the coming of the morn! Hail redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

NRSVUE

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

"HOPE"

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## \*HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*St. Louis*

### Hymn 121 Note:

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Apostles’ Creed”

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### Offering Note:

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

## 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.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You formed us in your image and set us in this world to love and serve you. 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:

Refrain

The musical score consists of three systems of staves. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The music is in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The vocal line features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed in Jesus Christ, your Son. You sent him into this world to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering, dying an unjust death.

We rejoice that in his dying and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host. 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

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & 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.

### FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

#### Hymn 93 Note:

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

#### \*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*Truro*

#### \*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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# VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

## WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
12/1	Robert Smalley	Joanne Lewis & Kathryn Sellers	The Flower Team
12/8	Sue Spivey	Steve & Carol Houston	The Flower Team

## CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
12/1	Michelle Lively	Rob & Michelle Lively	Jean Lowrey & Priscilla Brown
12/8	Jeff Granillo	Laura Goins & Leanna Granillo	Eric Haugen & Jeff Granillo

## MONTHLY

Communion (December 1)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Katie O'Gwin	December	Susan Bisson	December	Peggy Rollins & Alice Ensley
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Bob Hubbs, Walter & Jeane Jones	January	Sue Neelly	January	Eric & Lena Haugen

## PRAYERS

### For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

*Bob Hubbs*, who will be receiving some long-awaited medical treatment;  
*Janice Sims*, as she prepares to undergo a heart catheter procedure on December 4;  
*Jenny Crawford*, who is recovering at home from knee replacement surgery;  
*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;

### For Friends of First Presbyterian, Dalton

*Linda Leslie*, friend of Sue Spivey, who is battling Pancreatic Cancer;  
*Patsy Townsend*, friend of Janice Sims, who is at home recovering from walking Pneumonia;  
*Randall Dockins, Jr.*, friend of Janice Sims, who is at home recovering from open heart surgery;  
*Jerry*, friend of Pam Partain, who is undergoing chemotherapy;  
*Becky Hansberry*, daughter of Kaye Clark, who is receiving chemotherapy treatment for lung cancer at Emory in Atlanta.

*Those affected by Hurricane Helene and Milton, especially the friends, families, and loved ones who are close to our hearts, as well as those whom we cannot name, but whose needs are known well by God;*

*Paula Morrow, friend of Sarah McCown and of the church, whose Leukemia has relapsed and is awaiting a plan for a bone marrow transplant;*

*Margaret Spivey, sister-in-law of Sue Spivey and Aunt of Kathy Bridges, who is receiving radiation treatment for breast cancer*

*Mark A. Spivey, brother-in-law to Sue Spivey, who was hospitalized in Norfolk, VA following a fall and a stroke;*

*Martha Bracey Henson, cousin of Mary Hubbs, who continues to receive treatment for a brain tumor;*

*Emily Bringardner, friend of Kathy Bridges and Sue Spivey, who has returned home and is having physical therapy for her hip surgery. Her Parkinson problems continue;*

*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 is home from New Mexico and doing well;*

*Arden Brown, son of Amanda and Chris Brown, as they seek a cure for DMD; Caregivers and aging parents.*

### **Praises and Continuing Prayers!**

In gratitude for the generosity of all who donated to our Hurricane Relief Love Offering, may God use our gifts to bring hope and stability to Western North Carolina;

In praise to the God who was and is and is to come, open our hearts during our Stewardship Campaign, that we may prayerfully consider pledging our gifts, time, and talents in the coming year.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...**

- All ladies are invited to the **Church Women United Christmas Brunch** on Saturday, December 14 starting at 11:00 a.m. in Hollis Hall.
- Please join us for the **Sunday Fellowship Lunch** on Sunday, December 15 in Hollis Hall, immediately following Worship. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the church office.
- Please join us for a **Family Advent Festival** on Sunday, December 15 in Hollis Hall in combination with our Fellowship Lunch. Be on the lookout for more details.
- The Mission Team is making 40 **Christmas food baskets** for families in need. We are going to meet Wednesday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. in Hollis Hall to assemble the food into baskets. Everyone is invited to come and participate! After assembly, we will deliver the baskets to Park Creek and Dawnville Elementary schools.
- The **ladies of the church** are all invited to Jodi Johnson's house on Thursday evening, December 19, from 4:30- 6:30 p.m. for a little seasonal socializing. We will enjoy a couple of hours of each others' company and holiday spirit!

## THE ADVENT WREATH

The season of Advent embraces the four Sundays leading to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of remembrance as our hearts and minds turn again to the birth of Christ. It is also a period of reflection, repentance and preparation in anticipation of Christ's promised return. Advent means "coming," and for Christians we mark the progress of the season in the content of our messages, the emotions of our music, and the symbolism to be found in our worship, including the lighting of the candles of the Advent Wreath.

The wreath itself, in its circular shape and evergreen construction, speaks to the endless love of God for God's people and the everlasting life promised in Jesus Christ.

The four candles are often ordered and understood as follows: purple for hope found in prophetic anticipation; purple for the love of the Holy Family as they traveled to Bethlehem; pink for the joy of the shepherds; and again purple for the angels of peace who sang at Christ's birth.

May the light of each candle serve to rekindle within us the hope, faith, joy and peace of the season, and, with the lighting of the Christ candle, may their collective illumination express anew the glowing radiance of our Lord, the true light of all the world.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, December 1

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship - Advent I

10:30 a.m.

### Monday, December 2

Morning Prayers

11:30 a.m.

The Lunch Bunch

noon

### Tuesday, December 3

Saturday Sacks

10:30 a.m.

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, December 4

Choir Rehearsal

6:00-8:00 p.m.

### Thursday, December 5

Presbyterians at the Pub

5:00 p.m.

Knitting Group

5:30-7:30 p.m.

### Friday, December 6

Salvation Army Bell

Ringin'

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

### Saturday, December 7

Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Salvation Army Bell

Ringin'

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 8

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship - Advent II

10:30 a.m.

Christmas Cantata

*Lessons & Carols with  
Candlelight*

Prelude (4:45 p.m.)

5:00 p.m.



### **Contact FPC**

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