



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 2, 2018

Visiting?

- **Welcome** to First Presbyterian Church! Whether you're visiting from out of town or new to the area, we are glad you are here.
- If you have any **questions** about our church, please ask our greeters and ushers (the folks who handed you a bulletin), or visit our website www.firstpresdalton.org.
- If you would like to know more about our church, fill out a **Let's Get Acquainted** card and place it in the offering plate during worship.
- **Childcare** is available for children (infant-3) in the nursery (Room 109) from 9:15-11:45 a.m.. Preschool-aged children (3-7) meet in the Joy Makers class during the Sunday School hour (Room 201). During worship we welcome children from this age group to come forward for the Children's Message and then return to their classroom for Worship and Play. All children are welcome to stay throughout worship. In order for our staff and volunteers to care for your children, please fill out a children's ministry sticker for you and your child. Stickers are in the narthex, the Commons, or the nursery.

How to Connect

- Come to worship—we're here every week!
- Fill out a Let's Get Acquainted card and place it in the offering plate to receive information about the church.
- Ask to join our newsletter list (signup available through the website) to keep up with church events.
- Contact the office to join a Dinner Group and meet new friends outside the church.
- Have a meal on us immediately following worship on the second Sunday of the month.
- Visit concerts, lectures, and other events hosted by the church.
- Ask about upcoming mission or fellowship opportunities.
- Come to church early and visit Sunday School (9:15 a.m. every Sunday).
- Join the church! (Indicate you would like to join on a Let's Get Acquainted Card or speak with the Pastor following worship.)
- 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. The password is **firstpres1847**.



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

- Advent is here! Please join us for a **Chili Cook Off and Advent Workshop** today beginning at 5:00 p.m. in Hollis Hall. There will also be a **Labyrinth Walk** in the Sanctuary on the first three Tuesdays in December from 5:00-7:00 p.m. See the Midweek News for more details.
- We are collecting **new and gently used sweaters and jackets** for any age to honor the legacy of Fred Rogers, ordained Presbyterian minister and host of 'Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. There will be a basket in the Commons for collection. The City of Refuge will receive our donations on Monday, December 3.
- The Session has called a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, December 9 immediately following worship to review Rev. Will Scott's terms of call.
- The **Christmas Pageant** will take place Sunday, December 16 during worship. You are then invited to a Congregational Lunch immediately following worship. There is no cost for the lunch, but reservations are required. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

PRELUDE

Chorale Fantasia on 'Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern' D. Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

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

Advent Responsory

B. Landman
(b. 1958)

I look from afar and lo, I see the pow'r of God coming,

And a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him, and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another.

Go ye out to meet him, and say:

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(from Isaiah 2:4)

We light this candle 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.**

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.

The Call to Worship is from Revelation 22:20.

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of all things. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

*HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. But we have not listened to their call. We listen to our own ideas and dreams. We follow only when it's convenient. We do not live as you created us to be. Forgive our sins, Lord. Give us grace to hear your word again and to abandon all that keeps us from you—that we may greet the coming of Christ our Redeemer with joy and thanksgiving, now and forever. Amen..

THE KYRIE

Kyrie from 'Advent Mass'

R. Lehman

(b. 1960)

(Organ)

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

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.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LITANY OF PARTING

Congregation: **God be with you there.**

Children: God be with you here.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Away in a Manger

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Mueller

*(At this point in the service,
we invite preschool-aged
children to follow their
teachers to the second floor
elementary classroom in the
Martin House for
“Worship and Play.”)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 45:18-22

NRSV

¹⁸ For thus says the LORD,
who created the heavens
(he is God!),
who formed the earth and made it
(he established it;
he did not create it a chaos,
he formed it to be inhabited!):
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

¹⁹ I did not speak in secret,
in a land of darkness;
I did not say to the offspring of Jacob,
“Seek me in chaos.”
I the LORD speak the truth,
I declare what is right.

²⁰ Assemble yourselves and come together,
draw near, you survivors of the nations!
They have no knowledge—
those who carry about their wooden idols,
and keep on praying to a god
that cannot save.

²¹ Declare and present your case;
let them take counsel together!
Who told this long ago?
Who declared it of old?
Was it not I, the LORD?
There is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
there is no one besides me.

²² Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Rejoice, O Jerusalem, Behold, Thy King Cometh

H. Willan
(1880-1968)

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand.
Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.
Behold, the Lord shall come and all His saints with Him;
And in that day the light shall be great.
Rejoice, O Jerusalem, behold, thy King cometh. Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12

NRSV

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan,⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance.⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Turning”

Rev. Joan Gray

*HYMN 282

Come Down, O Love Divine

Down Ampney

*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.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Prelude on Gibbons’ “Song 24”

H. Willan
(1880-1968)

*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, God of creation. From the beginning of all things you made a world, and filled it with your children. When people turned aside from you, you called prophets to lead them back in your way. You led Abraham, the father of nations, into your friendship. You led the children of Jacob out of slavery in Egypt into the promised land of covenant love. You created a people, Israel, so that all the nations of the world would be blessed through them.

For so great a love, for so great a promise, we join our voices with brothers and sisters gathered around your table throughout the world, and gathered around your throne in heaven above, who sing to the glory of your name:

(All sing together)



(Organ)

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, Holy God. And blessed is Jesus Christ your son—who, in the fullness of time, took on flesh: a light to the nations, good news to all people. Through his birth and life, his death and resurrection, through his reign on high, we confess him Lord of your creation and all your people.

We thank you for the gift of his Spirit: who calls us into this community, who unites us in Christ's body, the church, who gathers us to this table to share in the life of Christ, our Lord.

Remembering your great and loving kindness, we take this bread and wine from the gifts you have given us, and we celebrate with joy the hope that all people share in Jesus Christ, our redeemer. Accept our sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, especially on behalf of those who have no bread to share, or those who, throughout the world, are strangers to your covenant love.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and wine: that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be, for us, the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

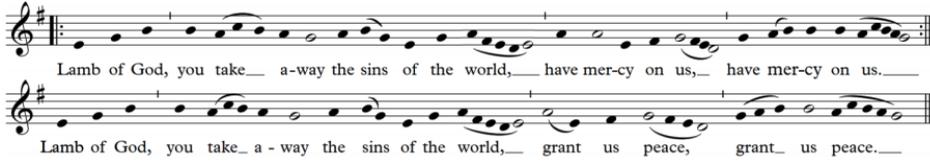
Teach us to give as it has been given to us; to love as you have loved us; and to recognize the humanity we share with all our brothers and sisters, the humanity we share with Jesus Christ, your Son. We pray in his holy name. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

AGNUS DEI

After the words of institution the pastor will invite the elders forward to prepare the communion. The congregation will sing an Agnus Dei.

After the Agnus Dei the pastor will invite you to come forward to receive Communion.



COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Creator of the Stars of Night

Conditor Alme Siderum

Sung by the Choral Scholars

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.*

*When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.*

*At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.*

*To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit Three in One,
Praise, honor, might and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.*

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.

*HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Star of the County Down

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

(We invite the congregation to join hands as we sing the Closing Response.)

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. Tear a piece of bread from the loaf held by one elder, dip it in the cup held by another, and then, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Gluten free wafers are available on the table.

*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

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'

A. Carter
(b. 1939)

Volunteer Schedule

Worship

Date	Lay Readers	Ushers	Open/Close	Flowers	Sound Board	Deposit
12/2	Sue Spivey	Charlie & Mac Thomas	Nancy Rhine & Kathryn Sellers	Kaye Clark	Jeff Granillo	Bob Hubbs
12/9	Greg Epps	Nathalie Sanders & TBD	John & Carin Mosteller	TBD	Jeff Granillo	Bob Hubbs

Children

Date	Children's Church	Nursery (Asst.)	Joy Makers
12/2	Walter & Jeane Jones	Katie O'Gwin	Story
12/9	Jo Beth Thompson & Nancy Rhine	Jo Beth Thompson	Choir

Monthly

Communion (December 2)		Congregational Care		Fourth Sunday Fellowship Refreshments
Prep	Julie Tharpe	November	Jeane Jones	Mary Hubbs
Servers	Rev. Will Scott, Katie Scott, Jean Lowrey, & Michelle Lively	December	Mary Hubbs	Kathryn Sellers

Prayers

For Greg George, as he undergoes treatment for kidney disease;
 For Carl Rollins, brother of Roger Rollins, as he stays at Dalton Place;
 For Rev. Susan Reggin, as she undergoes treatment for cancer;
 For First Presbyterian Church of Cohutta;
 For Laurie White, Fran Lewis' sister, with thanksgiving that the immunotherapy continues to fight her cancer;
 For Sanford Dover;
 For Martha Patton, sister of Patricia Rivers, as she recovers from a stroke in Atlanta;
 For Dick Lowrey, as he deals with Multiple Systems Atrophy, an atypical form of Parkinson's Disease;
 For Meccia Little, cousin of Jim and Susan Bisson, in her battle with brain cancer;
 For Johnnie Bakkum at Summit Place, Beaufort, South Carolina;
 For Natalie Raygor during her Master of Divinity program;
 For Sally Wester at home;
 For caregivers;
 For aging parents.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 2

Missions Team Meeting
 3:00 p.m.
 Chili Cook Off & Advent Workshop
 5:00 p.m.

Monday, December 3

Morning Prayers
 9:30 a.m.
 Bible Study
 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 4

Labyrinth Open
 5:00-7:00 p.m.
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5

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

Sunday, December 9

Sunday School
 9:15 a.m.
 Fellowship
 10:00 a.m.
 Worship
 10:30 a.m.
 Congregational Meeting
 11:30 a.m.

Monday, December 10

Morning Prayers
 9:30 a.m.
 Bible Study
 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 11

Labyrinth Open
 5:00-7:00 p.m.
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12

Saturday Sacks
 11:00 a.m.
 Choir Rehearsal
 6:00-8:00 p.m.



Contact FPC

Phone: 706-278-8161

Rev. Will Scott, Pastor: wscott@firstpresdalton.org

Trent Whisenant, Director of Music: twhisenant@firstpresdalton.org

Erin Witt, Office Manager: office@firstpresdalton.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 489

Dalton, Georgia 30722