Welcome to
First Presbyterian Church
Spartanburg, SC



Service for the Lord's Day
April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

8:45am Chapel

11:00am Sanctuary

✙ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Welcome and Invitation

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Voluntary *Processional* William Mathias

Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week, when we enter again into the drama of the triumphal entry, trial, last supper, and crucifixion, remembering together the suffering love, poignant prayers, and prophetic teachings of our Lord.

✙Call to Worship

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!
Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!
Blessed is the One who comes with healing and compassion.
Blessed is the One who comes with forgiveness and mercy.
Lord, rest your hand of healing on our hearts today.
Gracious Jesus, let us walk with you today. Amen.

✙Hymn 196 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

Prayer of Confession

O God,
we stand at the gate, hesitant and uncertain;
we are reluctant to answer your invitation;
we are slow to embark on the journey toward your reign.
Forgive us, we pray.
Grant us the help we need to be your people -
the courage to join you in the procession,
the selflessness to lay our cloaks before you,
the freedom to lift our palms to your glory,
and the knowledge that by your grace we are forgiven . . .

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The one the builders rejected has become our cornerstone.
Christ offers us forgiveness and fullness of grace.
Friends, hear and believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

✙Response

Hymn 437 Wayfaring Stranger

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

✞Passing of the Peace

As we have known the peace of forgiveness, let us share that peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us greet one another as we share the love and peace of Christ.

Life of the Church

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The Word for Children

At the 11am service, children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship; those second grade and older will return to the pews.

Prayer for Illumination	*You Are My Refuge, Faithful God*	Morning Song
First Reading		Matthew 21:1-11
Second Reading		John 19:30
Sermon	*Why the Cross Matters: Triumph*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

(8:45)	*God So Loved the World*	John Stainer
(11:00)	*What Wondrous Love is This*	arr. Michael Burkhardt

✞Doxology

Hymn 606 — Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Scripture tells us that we are able to love ourselves and to love others because we have first been loved by God. So, too, we give of ourselves and our resources out of gratitude to God for what God has already graciously given to us. We give because God has first given to us.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Sung Responsively)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up, lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us all give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

Sharing of the Elements

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Communion Music

There in God's Garden — Shades Mountain

Prayer After Communion

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✞Hymn 216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus — St. Christopher

Having been fed by Word and Sacrament, we go out to share that nourishment in the ordinary intersections of our daily lives. The Lord's Day service is the indispensable event that identifies the church with its Lord and equips it to identify with those whom the Lord has called us to serve.

✞Charge and Benediction

✞Benediction Response

Hymn 215, verse 1 — Wondrous Love

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

Closing Voluntary

Epilogue on "St Theodulph" — Healey Willan

Front Cover: "Palm Cross" by Colin Paterson (https://www.flickr.com/photos/colinpaterson/2336993403).

Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from Abingdon Worship Annual.

Participating in Today's Worship Services

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Rev. L. Craig Foster
Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Rev. Ansley B. Page

Holt Andrews
Marcia Andrews
Chancel Choir
Genesis Choir

The Palms in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Betty and J.D. Trout
by the family.

Children's Worship

We believe that children learn to worship by regularly attending church with their families. During the 11:00am Traditional Worship Service, all children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for *The Word for Children*. Afterwards, children 3K - 1st grade are welcome to attend Children's Worship in the Clark Building with Ms. Kara. During this time, they worship with song and prayer, hear a Bible story, and enjoy art and play. May they know the love of God and the joy of church! After worship, families are asked to pick their children up from Room 202 of the Clark Building. *Nursery available in Room 105 (Toddler) and Room 108 (Crib).*

Sunday School Schedule - 9:45am

Children and Youth

Children - *All Rooms are in the Clark Building*
Nursery – Room C105 and Room C108; Preschool (3K-5K) – Room C110
1st & 2nd Grades – Drop Off in Room C201; Pickup in Room C202
3rd & 4th Grades – Drop Off in Room C201; Pickup in Room C203
5th Grade – Room C206

Youth - *All Youth Rooms are on the Second Floor of the Family Life Center*
Middle Schoolers in the Middle School Room (F201) and High Schoolers in the High School Room (F202)

Adults

Abide – Room 2200; **Bible Alive!** – Room 2208 & on Zoom; **Emmaus** – Room 2207; **LIFT** – Room 2201

Life of the Church

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Pastoral Concern?

If you need to contact a Minister for a Pastoral Concern, call **864-208-2142** day or night. The minister on-call will answer your call as soon as possible.

Interested in Joining?

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian, come to the Parlor on the second Sunday of the month - **Sunday, April 9** - at 10:30am. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you. Questions? Contact Rev. Joanne Hull; 864-208-2125 / jhull@fpcspartanburg.org.

Gym Hours

Mon-Thursdays:	7am-8pm
Fridays:	7am-2pm
Saturdays:	8am-12noon

Chapel Open

The Chapel is open for Prayer Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, for you to come and sit and pray in the stillness of God. You may place any personal prayer needs in the Chapel prayer box and a member of our staff will pray over your requests.

Blue Worship Bags

are available in the Narthex and Tower Room (Traditional Worship) and in the back of Fogartie Hall (MorningSong) for your child to use during worship. After worship, please return the crayons and bags to the baskets. The activity sheet is for your child to keep as a reminder of today's scripture and message.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 2

8:45am *Traditional (Chapel) and MorningSong* (Fogartie Hall) Worship*
**Children will participate in a Procession during the Children's Time.*
9:45am *Sunday School*
10:30am *Blessing of the Palms and Procession (Montgomery Commons)*
11:00am *Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)*

Maundy Thursday, April 6

5:30pm *Dinner (Fogartie Hall) - RSVP for Dinner; See Below**
6:30pm *Worship (Fogartie Hall)*

Good Friday, April 7

12:00pm *Mid-Day Prayer Service (Chapel)*
7:00pm *Tenebrae Worship Service (Sanctuary)*

Easter, April 9

6:30am *Sunrise Worship (Columbarium)*
Fellowship following the service will be held in The Perrin Room.
8:45am *Traditional (Sanctuary) & MorningSong (Fogartie Hall) Worship*
10:00am *Fellowship with Hot Cross Buns (Front Lawn)*
11:00am *Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)*
All Day *Cross of Flowers (Front Lawn)*
The Cross of Flowers is an annual First Presbyterian Easter event. Members and guests are invited to place flowers on the rough-hewn cross on the lawn of the church, as they come to worship on Easter. This cross, full of spring flowers, represents the new life we receive through Christ's resurrection.

Lenten Sermon Series

Jesus' last words spoken from the cross embody the fullness of the human experience - suffering, abandonment, forgiveness, distress, and ultimately triumph and reunion with God. The *Seven Last Words* sermon series invites us to spend Lent exploring again what the cross reveals to us about the nature and character of God and why the cross matters for our lives and faith today.

Maundy Thursday Dinner*

Dinner is at 5:30pm in Fogartie Hall. We will worship around tables following the dinner. Pre-registration for dinner is required (by end of day on Monday); online payment is preferred (fpcspartanburg.org/waf).
Reservations are not needed for Worship.

The Great Presbyterian Picture Push

Let us Snap Your Smile! We are updating church member photos in our Online Pictorial Directory – "Shelby". **Our goal is to get a recent picture of every member in Shelby by mid-April**. On Sunday mornings, we have photo stations set up in the FLC Lobby and in the Perrin Room for us to take pictures of you and/or your family. No need to dress up – come as you are! Additional photo times will be held during WAF (dates and times are posted on the web). Already have a great family photo? Submit your photo online using this QR Code.

Welcome Class - April 16

On Sunday, April 16, we will have a special Welcome Class, 12:00-2:00pm in the Large Private Dining Room. Lunch will be included. If you are interested in joining or learning more about First Presbyterian Church, please RSVP to Joanie Shackleton (jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-208-2132); this will help us with planning. Thank you.

VBS Registration

This year's Vacation Bible School will be held on June 5-8. Registration is Open to All! Use the QR code to register your rising 4K to rising 6th grader(s). Don't miss out; get your kiddos registered! Cost is $20 per child; $50 family max. Questions? Contact Kara Clark (kclark@fpcspartanburg.org).

Women's Retreat - August 2023

First Presbyterian Church has reserved spaces for 28 women to go to the **Montreat Women's Connection, August 11-13**. We have also reserved the entirety of the charming, historic, (and air conditioned!) Glen Rock Inn for our group, right in the heart of Montreat, with ample gathering space for participants to enjoy together. Meals will be in Assembly Inn. For more information about the conference, use this QR Code:

Joy Fellowship Trip JOY Fellowship Trip

The JOY Fellowship will travel to Chimney Rock Village and Burntshirt Winery for lunch and wine tasting on Thursday, April 20. We hope you will join us! Contact Joanie Shackleton (jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-208-2132) to reserve your spot on the bus.

Save the Date: Homecoming - Sunday, April 30

Rejoicing in Our Story On Sunday, April 30, we will worship together as a church family at 11:00am. Special Guests: Dr. Todd B. Jones; Dr. David A. Renwick; Dr. Thomas E. Evans.

Schedule: 9:45am: Panel with Former Pastors; 11:00am Worship; 12:00pm Lunch on the Lawn (see your April First News for more details)

Calendar

Sunday, April 2
Palm Sunday
The Great Presbyterian Picture Push
8:45am Traditional Worship (Chapel)
8:45am MorningSong Worship (Fogartie Hall)
9:45am Sunday School
10:30am Palm Procession (Montgomery Commons)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

April 6
Maundy Thursday
5:30pm Dinner (Fogartie Hall)
6:30pm Worship (Fogartie Hall)

April 7
Good Friday
12:00pm Mid-Day Prayer Service (Chapel)
7:00pm Tenebrae Worship (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 9
Easter
The Great Presbyterian Picture Push
All Day Cross of Flowers (Front Lawn)
8:45am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
8:45am MorningSong Worship (Fogartie Hall)
10:00am Fellowship (Front Lawn)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Looking Forward

April 19
Last Wednesdays at First
April 23
Confirmation Sunday
April 30
Homecoming Celebration!
May 5-7
Dan Forrest Music Weekend
May 21
Baccalaureate Sunday
May 28
Day of Pentecost
June 5-8
Vacation Bible School

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Jesus' compassion is characterized by a downward pull. That is what disturbs us. We cannot even think about ourselves in terms other than those of an upward pull, an upward mobility in which we strive for better lives, higher salaries, and more prestigious positions. Thus, we are deeply disturbed by a God who embodies a downward movement. Instead of striving for a higher position, more power, and more influence, Jesus moves, as Karl Barth says, from 'the heights to the depth, from victory to defeat, from riches to poverty, from triumph to suffering, from life to death.' Jesus' whole life and mission involve accepting powerlessness and revealing in this powerlessness the limitlessness of God's love."

- Henri Nouwen

Ministers: All Members of the Church

We are a community of believers committed to "Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together through Word and Deed."

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship and Communications

Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care and Deacons

Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Pastoral Associate for Engagement

Holt Andrews
Pastoral Musician

Marcia Andrews
Associate Director of Music; Organist

Kara Clark
Director of Children's Ministries

Carrie Coleman
Youth Leader

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Pano Stathakis
Director of Hospitality

Kris Graham
Director of the Weekday School

Lisa Cunningham
MorningSong Band Director

Lee Raines
Facilities Administrator

Jim Pitts
Campus Safety and Services Manager

Lynise Clarke
Church Financial Officer

Monteigne Campbell
Office Manager and
Admin to the Senior Pastor

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Ian Ritchings
Administrative Assistant
Missions, Young Adults, Communications

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin to Music

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Red Cartledge
Custodians

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
393 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302
864/583-4531
www.fpcspartanburg.org