



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
COVINGTON, GA



**seeking:**  
Where are  
you headed?

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2, 2023

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*Solemn Processional (From Cello Sonata in F Major)* B. Marcello  
*All Glory Laud, and Honor* Melchior Teschner  
*Processional March* William H. Harris

## **Prelude**

*Trumpet Tune on ST. THEODULPH* Michael Helman

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Palm Processional**

Hymn 197 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* ELLACOMBE

## **Opening Litany**

Pam Stillerman, Randy Layton,  
Michael Wilson, and Pat Harper

## ✠ **Hymn of Praise 196**

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

## ✠ **Call to Confession**

Christ comes to the center of our busy, conflicted lives. He comes in triumph and humility. He comes in glory and in mercy. He comes knowing the best of who we are, and he comes knowing our worst. Trusting in God's grace, let us make our confession.

## ✠ **Community Confession**

**Christ our Redeemer, try as we might, we do not follow your example.  
We do not empty ourselves, we do not humble ourselves, we are not**

**obedient. You simply ask us to follow where you lead us but we have failed to do even that. Forgive us. Heal us, and help us follow. Amen.**

✠ **Hymn of Response 572**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

SANCTUS (Pavlechko)

✠ **Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Family of faith, there will be days when we withhold our praise.

There will be days when we dare not follow.

There will be days when we ignore God's call,  
when we choose comfort over courage,  
and ourselves over others.

But even on those days, even on our worst days, we belong to God.

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**Nothing can separate us from God's love.**

**We are loved, forgiven, and sent out to serve.**

**Hosanna!**

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

✠ **Passing of the Peace**



*Proclaiming the Word*

**Wondering with God's Children**

**Special Music**

*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*  
Holden Evans, piano

Simeon B. Marsh

**Anthem**

*Hosanna to the Son!*  
Hallelujah Kids! Choir and Carillon Bell Choir

Jody W. Lindh

# Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Pew Bible New Testament page 23

## Message

*Seeking: Where Are You Headed?*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



## *Responding to the Word*

### ✦ Hymn of Response 198

*Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

ST. DROSTANE

### ✦ Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who walks headfirst into the world's suffering,  
who lights a candle in the darkest night,  
who pulls back the curtain so we can see the stars.**

**We believe in a God who does not shy away from the truth,  
who is bold in seeking justice,  
and humble in taking power.**

**We believe in a God who sees our hurt and wraps love around it,  
cocooning us in hope,  
tethering us to one another.**

**We believe in a God who is always carrying us from the pain of the world  
into the hope of a new day.**

**That is where God is headed. That is where we follow. May it be so.  
Amen.**

### 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.**

## Offering Our Gifts

### Offertory

*Lead Me to Calvary*

Wm. J. Kirkpatrick

Arr. by Tedd Smith and Don Hustad

### ✦ Response 200

*A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd*

CHRISTIAN LOVE

***A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare,  
and hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air.***

***Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged with passing praise,  
remind us, God, as this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.***



## *Being the Church in the World*

### Invitation to Holy Week

#### Solo

*Ride On To Die*

Michael Card

Adriane Ivey, alto

### Exit in Silence

*You are invited to reflect in a time of silence and stillness following the final solo.*

*We ask that you leave the sanctuary in silence so as not to disturb the reflections of others.*



# *Worship Practices*

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## **Serving Today**

**Tech Team** | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

**Usher Chair** | Curtis Watson

**Acolyte** | Paisley Lane

**Liturgists** | Pam Stillerman, Randy Layton,

Michael Wilson, Pat Harper

## **Children in Worship**

Children are always welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pews at FPC! There are Worship Bags for children on the rack outside the Sanctuary. During worship children are invited to join us at the front of the Sanctuary for a time of Wondering with God's Children. Afterwards, children planning to go to the nursery will be escorted downstairs by Pastor Neeley or Pastor Erin. They will sign in your children in the nursery so you can sign them out when you pick them up! This is to help you stay in worship and us get them to the nursery safely. If you need help finding the nursery, you are invited to ask an usher to point the way.

## **Friendship Registers**

Friendship Registers are back! In each pew there is a pad with a black cover that we invite everyone to fill out. If the Friendship Register is nearest to you, please fill it out and pass it down the pew so it can reach everyone. When you pass it on, we invite you to introduce yourself to your pew friends! We encourage visitors and newcomers to connect with us by filling out the Friendship Register so we can be sure to send you a message to thank you for joining us.

## **Sound System**

Please know we recognize the need for improving our sound system. We have new microphones and we are evaluating new settings while we plan for better solutions. Currently, we encourage congregants who are hearing impaired to move closer to the front near the main speakers.



## Worship Art Notes

This week's worship guide cover is a silk painting with digital drawing and collage by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity titled *Power Play*. It was inspired by Matthew 21:1-11.

Following is the artist's statement.

In their book, *The Last Week*, theologians Marcus Borg and John Crossman assert that there were actually two parades occurring simultaneously in Jerusalem on this day. From the east, Jesus entered on a donkey. From the west, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, entered with an imperial guard. They write: "*Jesus' procession proclaimed the kingdom of God; Pilate's proclaimed the power of empire. The two processions embody the central conflict of the week that led to Jesus' crucifixion.*"

This image is a meditation on these opposing processions and the embodiment of power. Pilate processes with a pompous display of armor, accompanied by soldiers. For him, power is displayed by superiority, elitism, and weaponry. Later in the week, he will use his power to satisfy the crowds willing Jesus to be crucified, despite not finding any offense to justify it (read John 18 & 19). He uses his power for violence, to appease the status quo.

Jesus enters the city on a donkey with her young colt in tow. He wears no armor, only soft linens. In this image, I imagine if the composition were expanded, Jesus would be kneeling, humbling himself before his disciples as he washes their feet. In Jesus' processional, members of the crowd lay down their coats as a display of humility and honor. This foreshadows the way Jesus will take off his outer robe and tie a towel around his waist to wash his friends' feet. Jesus embodies power through a posture of vulnerability, through caring for those who desperately need love.

Which parade you would join in Jerusalem has a lot to say about your definition of power. If you are quick to place yourself in Jesus' parade, I encourage you to pause and consider these questions honestly: When have you aligned yourself with systems or people who have used their power for violence or to uphold the status quo? When have you embodied power through vulnerability and love for your neighbor?

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity





1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014 | [fpccov.org](http://fpccov.org) | 770.786.7321

### Our Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church Covington is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.

### Want to Get Involved?

Reach out to become a more involved member of the church! We always have something happening that we would love for you to be a part of. You could be an integrated member of our church by volunteering with witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or many other activities. Contact the office and we'll point you in the right direction!  
Email: [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or call: 770-786-7321

### Officers

**Reaching Out**  
Curtis Watson *Witness (2024)*

**Engaging**  
Charles Ardis *Christian Ed (2025)*  
Pat Harper *Worship (2024)*  
Nichole Howell *Worship (2025)*  
Mary Catherine Whisnant *Christian Ed (2024)*

**Belonging**  
Doug Bolton *Welcome (2025)*  
Louly Hay Kapp *Marketing (2023)*  
Bob Tabb *Finance (2023)*

**Connecting (Deacons)**  
Tom Crews *Pastoral Care (2025)*  
Dana Hall *Faith & Fellowship (2025)*  
Eleanor Scarborough *Pastoral Care (2023)*  
Darcel Tabb *Faith & Fellowship (2024)*

**More**  
Billy Fortson *Personnel (2024)*  
Stan Hall *Facilities (2023)*  
John McCarthy *Clerk of Session*  
Ed Perkerson *Strategic Planning (2023)*

### First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Alicia Taylor	<i>Dir. of Music &amp; Worship Arts</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist/ Ambassador Choir</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i>	Laina Lalane
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Amariah Ray
		Kyla White



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Illness

- ✦ Jean Carol Mundy
- ✦ Megan Almond, granddaughter of Pat Harper
- ✦ Linda Trenthan, friend of congregation
- ✦ Lucas and Morgan, friends of Faye and Joel Kitchens - complicated pregnancy issues
- ✦ Terri Sherril, friend of Beth and Danny Vining - shoulder surgery
- ✦ Dan Walden - knee surgery
- ✦ Jennifer Idrobo, friend of Jonny Atkins - bone marrow biopsy
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis - dementia
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael

- ✦ Ellen Clary, ex-wife of Bill Clary - ovarian cancer
- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis - dementia
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Linea Lott, niece of Tricia Hinton - leukemia treatment
- ✦ E.W. Sims, great-uncle of Robert Lane
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

### Celebrations

- ✦ Congratulations to Darcel and Bob Tabb on the birth of their ninth grandchild, Leo Alan Tabb!

### Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

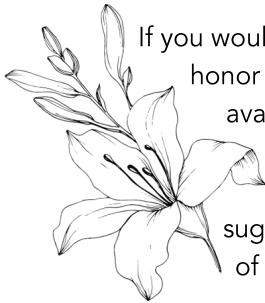
### Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Jean Carol Mundy - Atlanta with her daughter
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Gene Wallace - Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

### Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to: [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)  
Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

## LAST DAY for Witness Easter Lilies



If you would like to make a donation this Easter to honor or memorialize a loved one, fill out the form available at [fpccov.org/lent](http://fpccov.org/lent) or in the Narthex.

**The deadline is TODAY Sunday, April 2nd** and a minimum donation of **\$12** is suggested. Donations we collect over the cost of the flowers will fund outreach projects.

**FEET AND HAND WASHING**  
for  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**April 6th in the Narthex**  
6:15-6:45pm and 8:15-8:30pm  
An offering from the FPC Pastors

You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering. Text FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to: 73256

Or point your camera at the QR code to give online.



# MAUNDY THURSDAY

## TENEBRAE

### A SERVICE OF DARKNESS

*April 6th 7:00pm*

Communion will be served. Childcare provided.

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# GOOD FRIDAY

*April 7th 12:00pm*

in the Sanctuary of  
First Presbyterian Church Covington  
Lunch in the Fellowship Hall to follow

# EASTER SUNDAY at FPC

*April 9th*

**SUNRISE SERVICE**

**FRONT LAWN**

**6:30AM**

*April 9th*

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

**SANCTUARY**

**11:00AM**

**FLOWERING OF THE CROSS**

**FRONT LAWN**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**NARTHEX 10:00AM**

# SOUL FEAST



APRIL 12



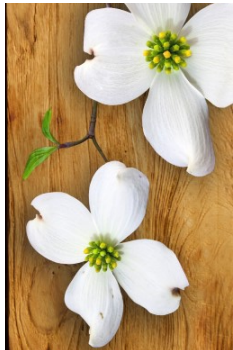
**ON THE MENU:  
BREAKFAST FOR DINNER**

Feed your body and soul with FPC in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15pm.

RSVP by Tuesday, April 11th at 12:00pm to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or 770-786-7321

Our April Soul Class:  
**Thriving Congregations**

Join us following Soul Feast at 6:00pm to hear from our Thriving Congregations Cohort!



FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

Bring fresh flowers to fill the Easter cross starting Saturday, April 8th in the front yard of the church

Saturday, April 15th  
8:00am at Town House Café  
RSVP to Neeley by April 13th

**Men's Prayer Breakfast**



**Blossoms & Beans**



The Ambassador Gardening Club

Meeting on Thursday, April 13th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the FPC Fellowship Hall

Contact Jeff MacKenzie with questions 404.897.3815  
Leave a message and he'll call back!

Remember Earth Day is this month! Take some time to think about the Earth and visit with other gardeners at the Ambassador Gardening Club!

**Sunday, April 2**

**Palm Sunday**

11:00am Worship—Palms to Passion

**Monday, April 3**

RSVP Deadline for Grief Share

**Tuesday, April 4**

10:00am Elizabeth Ann Circle

10:30am Martha Circle

12:00pm Lectio Divina

2:15pm Staff Meeting

4:30pm Welcome Team Meeting

**Wednesday, April 5**

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday, April 6**

**Maundy Thursday**

6:15pm Foot and Hand Washing

7:00pm Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness

8:15pm Foot and Hand Washing

**Friday, April 7**

**Good Friday**

12:00pm Worship with GUMC at FPC

Lunch to follow

**Saturday, April 8**

Flowering of the Cross begins

**Sunday, April 9**

**Easter Sunday**

6:30am Easter Sunrise Service

10:00am Refreshments in the Narthex

11:00am Worship—Resurrection of the Lord

**Monday, April 10**

Office Closed



Led by Pastors Erin and Neeley

**Mondays, from April 17 - May 22  
at 6:00pm-7:30pm in the Parlor**

Cost for class: \$20  
(includes personal workbook)

Register by April 3 by contacting Neeley [neeley@fpccov.org](mailto:neeley@fpccov.org)