



Maundy
Thursday
March 28,
2024

Wandering
Heart



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

✠ You are invited to stand in body or spirit



Gathering as God's Beloved People

Prelude

Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin
Hymn

J.S. Bach
Douglas Wagner

Words of Welcome

✠ Hymn of Praise 202

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

○ WALY WALY

During this hymn please move to take a seat at the table. When you come to your seat you will see that you have either a yellow place card with a ○ or a blue place card with a ▼. This color and symbol will indicate which response reading group you will be part of below. Bolded responses with no symbol should be read by all.

***An upper room did our Lord prepare for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there to celebrate their risen friend.***

***A lasting gift Jesus gave his own: to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down, he by his cross shall lift us up.***

***And after supper he washed their feet, for service, too, is sacrament.
In Christ our joy shall be made complete: sent out to serve, as he was sent.***

***No end there is! We depart in peace. He loves beyond our uttermost:
in every room in our Father's house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host.***



At the Table

Gathering at the Table

Readers: Ansley Holder, Cindy Moon

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and said,

"Where do you want us to prepare for you the Passover meal?"

He replied, "Go into the city, to a certain man, and say, 'The teacher says, "My time is near. I'm going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" The disciples did just as Jesus instructed them.

They prepared the Passover.

Let us pray together and give thanks for

Gracious God, we give you thanks for all which is set out before us.

Send your Holy Spirit to fill each of us with thanks and praise. Guide us as we remember that your Anointed One, on the night before he suffered, instituted the sacrament of his body and blood. Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life. Amen.

Here are the commandments of Jesus

- **Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.** *(Matthew 22:37)*
- ▼ **You must love your neighbor as yourself** *(Matthew 22:39)*
- **Do not pay back violence with violence.** *(Mathew 5:39)*
- ▼ **Do not withhold forgiveness.** *(Matthew 6:15)*
- **Do not hate or curse your enemies.** *(Matthew 5:44)*
- ▼ **Do not pray like the hypocrites or make a show of your faith.** *(Matthew 6:1)*
- **Do not ignore the needs of the poor.** *(Mathew 19:21)*
- ▼ **Do not put the letter of the Law over the heart of the Law.** *(Matthew 15:10)*
- **Do not be afraid.** *(Matthew 28:10)*

Jesus said, "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love.

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

This is my commandment: Love each other."

This is our commandment. To love each other.

Jesus said, "No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends... I give you these commandments so that you can love each other."

Before Jesus and his disciples gathered for the meal, there was one who had taken matters into his own hands. For thirty pieces of silver, Judas had agreed to hand Jesus over to the chief priests. From that moment on, Judas was looking for the right time to betray Jesus.

"I assure you, one of you will betray me."

I'm not the one, am I, Lord?

"The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl."

Judas said, "It's not me, is it, Rabbi?"

"You said it."

Community Confession

Let us confess together:

Merciful God, we confess that we have betrayed you.

We have denied you. We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Silent Personal Confession

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Hear the good news: when Christ gathered with his disciples to remind them of his love, he knew that he gathered with the one who betrayed him, the one who would deny him, and all who would abandon him. This proves that Jesus loved them, even when they failed him, and he loves us still today. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Hymn of Response 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.***



The Sacrament of Communion

Breaking of the Bread

On the night in which he was betrayed, and while they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you"

And when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, shared it with his disciples and said,

Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.

Passing of the Bread and the Cup

Each table will have one loaf to share. Your table host will start by handing it to the person next to them and tell them,

"this is the body of Christ."

Then you are invited to pass the bread. When all have eaten their piece of bread, the remaining bread may be placed back at the center of the table.

The your table host will start by taking the pitcher of grape juice, pouring out a cup and handing it to the person next to them. Give it to them and tell them,

"This is the cup of forgiveness."

After doing so, we invite you to then pass the pitcher until all have been received the cup.

You are free to eat more bread and drink more juice if you wish.

The table host is happy to assist you.

Prayer After Communion

Please return to the pews during the hymn of response following this prayer.

✠ **Hymn of Response 516** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* KINGDOM
***For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
By the promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.***

✠ **Scripture Reading** *John 13:1-12* Pew Bible page 107

✠ **Hymn of Response 203** *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* CHEREPONI



After the Meal

After the Meal

Readers: Jo Anna Fish, Robert Chini

Then after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Tonight you will all fall away because of me. This is because it is written, 'I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions.' But after I'm raised up, I'll go before you in Galilee."

Peter replied

"If everyone else stumbles because of you, I'll never stumble."

Jesus said to him, "I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times."

"Even if I must die alongside you, I won't deny you."

All the disciples said the same thing.

○ **I won't deny you**

▼ **I won't deny you**

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to his disciples "Stay here while I go pray over there." When he took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. Then he said to them, "I'm very sad. It's as if I'm dying. Stay here alert with me."

As Jesus prayed in anguish, none of the disciples could stay awake. A moment before they all pledged their undying loyalty. Now they couldn't stay awake to

pray in Jesus' time of need. Finally, it was time.

After finding them asleep again, Jesus said,

"Get up. Let's go. Look, here comes my betrayer."

While Jesus was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. His betrayer had given them a sign.

"Arrest the man I kiss." Just then he came to Jesus and said, "Hello Rabbi." Then he kissed him.

Jesus said "Friend, come do what you came to do."

Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him. One of those with Jesus reached for his sword. Striking the high priest's slave, he cut off his ear.

Then Jesus said to him, "Put the sword back into its place. All those who use the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I am not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve Legions of angels right away? But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen?"

Then Jesus said to the crowds

Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as if I were a thief?

Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me."

Then all of the disciples deserted Jesus, and fled.

Get up. Let's go. Look, the hour is at hand. It is time to depart from this place.

Tomorrow is another day to remember and reflect on all that Jesus did and gave for us. Go now and remember Jesus' last commandment: to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go in peace, transformed by Christ's commands.

This is our commandment: To love each other. We will go in peace and wait. We will try to stay awake .

✦ **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 27:45-51

Pew Bible page 33

✦ **Response 221**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE

Stripping of the Chancel

✦ **Exit in Silence**



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell
Acolytes | Parker Firkus Usher Chair | Curtis Watson



Worship Practices

Use- One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. *Messages and data rates may apply when using Text to Give. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel | Graphic Design-Lauren Wright Pittman | "Golden Hour"-Nicolette Peñaranda | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org | Liturgy-Potluck Liturgy by The Fat Pastor

Worship Art- This Lenten season we are displaying art in the Narthex and in the Sanctuary by the children and youth of FPC and the children of Southern Heartland Art under the instruction of Elise Hammond. Our worship guide cover today is "Golden Hour" by Nicolette Peñaranda.



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First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Catrina Crowe
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Jahnyiah Greene
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	Laina Lalane

Officers

Reaching Out	
Luke Usry	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Curtis Watson	<i>Witness (2024)</i>
Engaging	
Charles Ardis	<i>Faith Formation (2025)</i>
Pat Harper	<i>Worship (2024)</i>
Nichole Howell	<i>Worship (2025)</i>
Mary Catherine Whisnant	<i>Faith Formation (2024)</i>
Belonging	
Doug Bolton	<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome, Worship (2026)</i>
Billy Fortson	<i>Finance, Personnel (2024)</i>
Connecting (Deacons)	
Janet Carmichael	<i>Pastoral Care (2026)</i>
Tom Crews	<i>Pastoral Care (2025)</i>
Dana Hall	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2025)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2024)</i>
More	
Jodi Atkins	<i>Strategic Planning (2026)</i>
Kenny Compton	<i>Facilities (2026)</i>
John McCarthy	<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Danny Vining	<i>Personnel (2026)</i>

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.

Holy Week at FPC



Good Friday

March 29 | 12:00pm
at Grace United
Methodist Church
Sermon by
Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30
10:00am | Playground
ALL are welcome!

FLOWERING of the CROSS

Beginning March 30
on the front lawn of the church
Bring fresh flowers to fill the
Easter Cross

Join us

Easter Sunday

March 31

Sunrise service

6:45am | FPC Memorial Garden
Please bring your own folding or lawn
chairs to the Sunrise Garden service

Traditional service

11:00am | Sanctuary &
on Facebook Live