



March 29, 2026

# PALM-PASSION SUNDAY



First Presbyterian  
Church Covington, GA

✠ *You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit* ❖

# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Charles C. Converse  
*Were You There? (with Amazing Grace)* Arr. by Dick Torrans  
*Morning Has Broken* Arr. by Paul Mickelson  
Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

## **Invitation to Worship**

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Prelude**

*Hosanna!* Jason W. Krug  
Handbell Choir

## **Welcome & Announcements**

*At this time all children are invited to go to the narthex for our Palm Processional*

## **Call to Worship**

*We ask all to please remain seated during our call to worship and our processional hymn*

Will you follow?

Will you lay down your coat? Will you lay down something important?

Will you shout "Hosanna"? Will you join the parade?

Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse?

Will you cut down a palm branch? Will you wave it in the air?

Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?

Will you let this good news inspire you to act?

**We will. We will sing. We will pay close attention.**

**We will worship. We will follow.**

Hosanna in the highest!

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Palm Processional**

**Hymn of Praise 196**

*All Glory Laud, and Honor*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

## ✠ Call to Confession

### ✠ Community Confession

Jesus of Nazareth, we know that you spent your days teaching and healing.  
You marched through the streets and walked on water.  
You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables.  
Your good news was not confined to conversation.  
It was not confined to the Temple.  
Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world.  
Holy God, we long for a faith like that.  
Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith  
to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon.  
Inspire us to love as you loved. Inspire us to act.  
With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen.

### ✠ Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

Church family, whether or not you wave your palm branch,  
whether or not you live out your faith,  
whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions,  
God will never stop loving you.  
Jesus will never stop marching for you.  
The Spirit will never stop listening to you.  
**We are claimed, loved, and held in grace.**  
**What good, good news. Amen!**

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

### ✠ Hymn 198

*Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

ST. DROSTANE

***Ride on! Ride on in majesty! Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry;  
thy humble beast pursues it road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.  
Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.***

## ✠ **Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**



## *Proclaiming the Word*

### **Children's Anthem**

*Hosanna in the Highest*  
Children's Choir

R.E. Schram

### **Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding**

### **Scripture Readings**

*Luke 19:29-40*

Pew Bible page 83

### ✠ **Hymn of Response 200**

*A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd*    CHRISTIAN LOVE

*Verses 1, 3, 4*

### **Canata**

*A Time for Alleluia: Seasons in the Life of Christ*

Words & Music by Joseph M. Martin; Narration by Pamela Martin

### **First Narration**

*Prologue*

Alisa Castilla

### **Music**

*There is a Green Hill Far Away*

Chancel Choir

RESIGNATION

Arr. by J.M. Martin

### **Second Narration**

*A Season for Planting*

Carolyn Watson

### **Music**

*The Child Grew Strong*

Chancel Choir

Words by L.F. Benson

Arr. by J.M. Martin

### **Third Narration**

*A Season for Building*

*A Season for Gathering Together*

Curtis Watson

### **Music**

*Come Follow Me*

Chancel Choir

Words by J.P. Willaims

Words & Music by J.M. Martin

### **Fourth Narration**

*A Season for Loving and Hating*

Peter Robinson

<b>Fifth Narration</b>	<i>A Season for Weeping</i>	Audrey Fullerton
<b>Music</b>	<i>No Rose Bloomed in Gethsemane</i> Chancel Choir	Words & Music by P. Martin Music by J.M. Martin
<b>Sixth Narration</b>	<i>A Season for Uprooting</i>	Randy Layton
<b>Music</b>	<i>King of Sorrows</i> Chancel Choir	BRYN CALFARIA Words & Arr. by J.M. Martin
<b>Seventh Narration</b>	<i>A Season for Scattering</i>	Patrick Briggs
<b>Eighth Narration</b>	<i>A Season for Dying</i>	Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane
<b>Music</b>	<i>Lament of the Cross</i> Chancel Choir, Meghan Usry, Mark Fiddie	Words & Music by J.M. Martin
<b>Music</b>	<i>Empty Now</i> Chancel Choir, Krista Firkus	Words & Music by J.M. Martin



## *Responding to the Word*

### **Prayers of the People & 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: An Invitation to Generosity**

*You are invited to "Text to Give" your offering! Text\* FPCCOV to: 73256 and follow the link to give online, or scan the QR Code to visit the giving page! Select **"2026 Pledge"** if you made a pledge during stewardship season. Select "Non-Pledge" for a general offering.*



## Offertory

*Panis Angelicus (O Lord Most Holy)*

César Franck

Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

Arr. by T. Smith, D. Hustad

## Invitation to Holy Week



# *Being the Church in the World*

### ✦ Sending Hymn 212

*Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

MARTYRDOM

### ✦ Charge & Benediction

### ✦ Postlude

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Arr. by Jeff Bennett

Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ



## *Worship Notes*

**Cantata**—Today's proclamation of the word is largely composed of a cantata titled *A Time for Alleluia: Seasons in the Life of Christ* with words and music by Joseph Martin, and narration by Pamela Martin. The following is an excerpt of the forward by the authors:

*As you contemplate the seasons of Christ's life through this work, may you gain clarity and peace for your own journey of faith. May your preparation and presentation be a season of worship and praise. May the timeless message of redemption be a source of renewal and illumination and may you become a voice of comfort and joy to those to whom you minister.*

*For everything, there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. As we celebrate our new life in Christ, may we discover our purpose as instruments of praise. This is the time for Alleluia!*

**Worship Art**—Look at the art on the cover of this worship guide. As you scan the image, notice the contrast between vibrant colors and black and white. What does this contrast convey to you?

Today's worship guide cover art is an acrylic, marker, paper collage on canvas by Rev. Nicolette Faison titled "Palm Sunday Was a Protest" inspired by Mark 11:1-11. The following is an excerpt from the artist's statement on the piece.

*"Palm Sunday Was a Protest" takes inspiration from stained glass and contains a bit more detail emphasizing the hectic energy that is found in movements. Each segment is*

*meant to capture the eye but the central subjects are in black and white, contrasting the brilliant color palette.*

*The order of colors is intentionally a rainbow as a nod to the Queer community. The piece contains a sunrise behind the iconic Palm Sunday donkey, which is an ode to the Sunrise Movement. Accompanying the donkey are crowds of people with fists raised in the air, a common sight at any protest. The phrase, "No Justice, No Peace" sits around a "power to the people fist" symbolizing resistance. This symbol was first utilized by labor and liberation movements in the early 1900s. Along the bottom of the piece, the grassroots of the image, are palms, a nod to the biblical story.*

*"Palm Sunday Was a Protest" is an ode to modern movements. This piece visually aligns how Palm Sunday is talked about with the active work happening today.*

**First time visiting? We're so glad you're here!**—Please take a moment to fill out the Visitor Card in the pew pocket in front of you. After worship, let us know it's your first time—we have a gift for you with info about our church and a free treat from The Little Rabbit Bake Shop across the street!

Want to learn more about our church family, baptism, communion, or a Bible study? Just mark it on the card—we'd love to connect with you!

**Offering Cards**—The offering is an act of worship! We encourage you to place something in the offering plate as it comes to you. Throughout the pews you will find a selection of "offering cards" which we invite you to use to share how you intend to be a good steward this week. *Visit* with us as a newcomer by sharing about yourself or your family. *Pray* with us by offering a prayer which will be shared with the pastor. *Serve* with us by telling us how you will use your time and talent this week. Or *Give* with us by placing either a card to represent your online gift or physical cash or check offering. These offering cards are an invitation to generosity!

**Accessibility**—A limited supply of large print worship guides are available in the narthex. If you'd like to learn about connecting your Bluetooth hearing aids to our Sanctuary sound system we invite you to talk to our Tech Team.

**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. Lenten Series: "Tell Me Something Good" | Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | Art: "Palm Sunday Was a Protest" by Rev. Nicolette Faison | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org | Cantata: "A Time for Alleluia: Seasons in the Life of Christ" | Words and Music by Joseph M. Martin | With Narration by Pamela Martin | Copyright © 2001, Malcolm Music | A Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.



# Serving Today

**Usher Chair** | Angie Woodham

**Tech Team** | Laramy Wells, Jonny Atkins

**Acolytes** | Parker Firkus, Thornton Holder, Emmeline Usry

The flowers in the sanctuary this Palm Sunday are given to the glory of God and in honor of Mr. Ken and Mrs. Alice Walker by their stepsons.



**1169 Clark Street SW Covington, GA 30014**  
**fpccov.org 770.786.7321**

## First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor &amp; Head of Staff</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Alisa Castilla	<i>Interim Dir. of Children &amp; Youth</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music &amp; Worship Arts</i>	Catrina Crowe
Denise Gabriel	<i>Dir. of Community Preschool</i>	Akeelah Fletcher
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i>	Jordyn Williams
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>	Sylvia Woods

## Officers

<b>Reaching Out</b>	
Sara Chini	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Yvonne Hill-Davenport	<i>Witness (2028)</i>
Stephanie Scarborough	<i>Witness (2027)</i>
Bob Tabb	<i>Thriving Congregations (2028)</i>
<b>Engaging</b>	
Krista Firkus	<i>Faith Formation (2027)</i>
Hardy Fortson Sideris	<i>Worship (2027)</i>
Chuck Williams	<i>Faith Formation (2028)</i>
Angie Woodham	<i>Worship (2028)</i>
<b>Belonging</b>	
Gary Boteler	<i>Finance (2027)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome (2026)</i>
Bethany Wells	<i>Welcome (2028)</i>
<b>Connecting (Deacons)</b>	
Cathy Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Denny Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Beverly Kratz	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2028)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2027)</i>
<b>More</b>	
Jodi Atkins	<i>Preschool (2026)</i>
Kenny Compton	<i>Facilities (2026)</i>
Jo Anna Fish	<i>Personnel (2027)</i>
John McCarthy	<i>Clerk of Session</i>

## Emergency Response Team

*In the event of an emergency including tornado, fire, intruder, and medical emergencies, the Emergency Response Team will lead the church's response and may be identified by wearing yellow visibility vests. If these people are not present for an emergency secondary responders will wear ERT vests. Please follow any directions given by the following people in the event of an emergency:*

- Primary Point Person—Neeley Rentz Lane
- Facility/Security Response—Kenny Compton, Stan Hall, John McCarthy
- Medical Response—Nichole Howell, Pam Stillerman

## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

### Most recent prayer requests

- Requests will be moved to "ongoing" after three weeks unless the office is notified.*
- ✦ Tom Crews - moved into Prema at Ashton Hills Assisted Living
  - ✦ Danny Vining - prostate cancer treatment
  - ✦ Ken Walker
  - ✦ Lee Ellen Digby, mother of Terri Digby - rehab
  - ✦ Brandon Vining, son of Danny & Beth Vining - prostate cancer treatment
  - ✦ Calvin, son of FPCP teacher Kelly Bertleson
  - ✦ Olaava MacKenzie, daughter of Julie & Jeff MacKenzie - praying for safe travels in Dubai
  - ✦ Pat MacLean, sister of Alexa DeVetter
  - ✦ Douglas Hatfield, husband of Mary Hatfield
  - ✦ Kelly Folden, friend of Jennifer Buckelew - father diagnosed with cancer

**Prayer requests and updates** may be given the pastor, put in the offering plate, or emailed to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)

### Ongoing prayer requests

- Requests will be removed after six weeks unless the office is notified.*
- ✦ Anne Cranford - cancer
  - ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining
  - ✦ Virginia, mother of Tammi Welch
  - ✦ Norma C. Couch, friend of Starr & Taryn Puckett - recovering from heart transplant
  - ✦ Brad Phillips, son-in-law of Tricia & Harry Hinton - recovering from knee surgery
  - ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
  - ✦ Jonathan Paschal, father of Jon Paschal
  - ✦ Katelyn Jackson, niece of Kim McSwain - stage 3 breast cancer
  - ✦ Joann Usry, grandmother of Luke Usry - surgery & pacemaker
  - ✦ Patrick Carmichael
  - ✦ Julia MacKenzie - recovering from eye surgery
  - ✦ Kevin Gabriel, husband of Denise Gabriel - kidney surgery & testing
  - ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's

- ✦ Seth, nephew of FPCP teacher Jannie Smith - surgery
- ✦ Greg Brickell, friend of Sam & Loucy Hay
- ✦ Aviya Castilla, sister of Alisa Castilla

### Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Dale Evans as they mourn his passing on March 17, 2026. A service was held on March 21.

### Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Reid Buckelew - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Tom Crews - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Sarah Davis - Merryvale Assisted Living
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Madison, GA
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ Carol McGiboney - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Jon Paschal - Annandale Village
- ✦ Louise White - Prema at Ashton Hills

### Military Service

- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy
- ✦ Benjamin Iannucci, III - Air Force

# Good Friday Service

## April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00pm

Join FPC in our Sanctuary for a noontime worship service on Good Friday with a light lunch to follow. The service is expected to last approximately 30 minutes.

*Holy Week at FPC*

# Maundy Thursday

## April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm

in the Sanctuary

Join us as we experience communion around the Lord's Table and remember the Last Supper. Childcare available.

We will not hold regular Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 5th. We invite you to instead join us for refreshments at 9:45am in the upstairs elevator hallway.

# CHANGEMAKERS LAB VBS at FPC

**JUNE 15-18**  
**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

3 y/o - 5th grade

Register by May 14 to guarantee a t-shirt in your size!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE FUN!

To register, visit [fpccov.org/vbs](http://fpccov.org/vbs)

# CLASSIC HYMN SING

Sunday, April 19th  
During 11:00am Worship

*join FPC for local missions this Summer!*

# MISSION MANIA

*July 20-23*

For more info visit [fpccov.org/signup](http://fpccov.org/signup)

All are invited to join  
First Presbyterian Church  
in worship on

# Easter Sunday

April 5th

## Traditional service

11:00am in the Sanctuary  
and on Facebook Live

## Sunrise service

6:45am | FPC Memorial Garden  
Please bring a folding or lawn chair to the  
Sunrise Garden service

# EASTER EGGHUNT

Saturday, April 4 at 10:00am

ALL are welcome to join us in the FPC  
Fellowship Hall for an Easter egg hunt,  
refreshments, story time, and a  
special visit from the Easter bunny!

# EASTER LILIES



Dedicate an Easter Lily for the Sanctuary to a loved  
**Deadline to donate and submit names is TODAY!**

Find the form in the narthex! The suggested minimum donation  
is \$14. Donations over the cost of flowers will be contributed to  
the Newton County Community Food Pantry and to our work with  
our Partner in Education Fairview Elementary School.

## Presbyterian Women Circles will have their April Meetings

**on the following dates:** **Rahab Circle** will meet on  
Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30pm in the Parlor, childcare  
is available. **Martha Circle** will meet on Tuesday,  
April 7 at 10:30am at Debi Selin's house. **Elizabeth Ann Circle** will meet on Tuesday, April 7 at  
10:00am in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. Visit [fpccov.org/zoom-links](http://fpccov.org/zoom-links) to join on Zoom!



### Sunday, March 29

#### Palm—Passion Sunday

Easter Lily Dedication Deadline

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—with a Children's Palm Parade  
and a Chancel Choir Cantata

### Tuesday, March 31

4:30pm Welcome Team Meeting

5:30pm Personnel Team Meeting

### Wednesday, April 1

10:00am Coffee Club

10:00am FPCP Chapel

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:45pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm PW Rahab Circle

6:30pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, April 2

#### Maundy Thursday

10:00am FPCP Chapel

6:00pm Worship—Around the Lord's Table

### Friday, April 3

#### Good Friday

Office CLOSED

12:00pm Worship—Good Friday

12:30pm Good Friday Lunch

### Saturday, April 4

10:00am Easter Egg Hunt

11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, April 5

#### Easter Sunday

Flowering of the Cross

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

6:45am Sunrise Service in the Garden

9:45am Resurrection Refreshments

11:00am Worship—Resurrection of the Lord

# FLOWERING of the CROSS

Bring fresh flowers to fill the Easter cross  
on the front lawn of the church



# ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

What does the Lord require of you?

*...to do justice*

*and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly  
with your God. Micah 6:8*



## When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing...

We create possibility for people forced to flee their homes in search of safety.

We support recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities.

We empower partners to build sustainable futures.

We walk alongside our siblings to work for more just immigration laws and processes.

***Our gifts show people they are not alone and that people they don't know see them and care enough to respond.***



## Following the prophet Micah's call to do justice

A group of young adults from First Presbyterian Church of Salem, New Jersey, volunteered at a disaster recovery host site at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Asheville, North Carolina, after the devastation left behind by Hurricane Helene.

SMASH (Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing) is the first community land trust and affordable housing cooperative that uses a community land trust model, providing sustainable and preserved land that the community controls and builds power to make housing a human right.

Years of war and natural disasters have culminated in severe famine in South Sudan. An agricultural project with Hope Restoration South Sudan focuses on vegetable farming, giving women refugees vegetable kits comprised of assorted seeds like okra, onions, tomatoes, kudhura, sukuma and other types of vegetables, which they can grow and sell.



**ONE GREAT  
HOUR OF SHARING**

*Please give generously.*  
**If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!**



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

**February 18–April 5, 2026**

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in responding to Christ's call to ministries of compassion for the most vulnerable around the world.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

### WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Through your congregation
- + Online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](https://pcusa.org/give-oghs)
- + Text OGHS to 91999 to give
- + Scan this QR code



-or-

You can help sustain these important ministries that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

### IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit [pcusa.org/oghs](https://pcusa.org/oghs)



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of three annual Churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These Special Offerings play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.