

“Prepare the Way of the Lord” William Rowan

(Based on Isaiah 40:4-5)

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way! Make straight His path. Every valley shall be exalted, every hill made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it, shall see it together. Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way! Make straight His path. Prepare the way! Make straight, make straight His path!

First Presbyterian Church

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Visit our Facebook pages:

First Presbyterian Church Bainbridge, GA and First Presbyterian Youth Group Bainbridge, GA

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Clerk to the Session	Elder Bud Holleman
Building & Grounds	Elders Dr. David Bryan, Mike Holt
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Personnel & Ministry Development	Elders Bob Glover, Dr. Angie Davis
Stewardship & Finance	Elder Steve Poitevint
Worship & Music	Elders Bill Allen, Mills Brock

Church Staff

Interim Pastor	Rev. Stephen Webb
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Choirmaster	Dr. Don Mobley
Pianist	Myra Williams
Nursery Director	Rhonda Gay
Janitorial Service	Blessings Cleaning-Elaine Smith
Dietitians	Beulah Handsford, Alice Stubbs

Pastor Emeriti

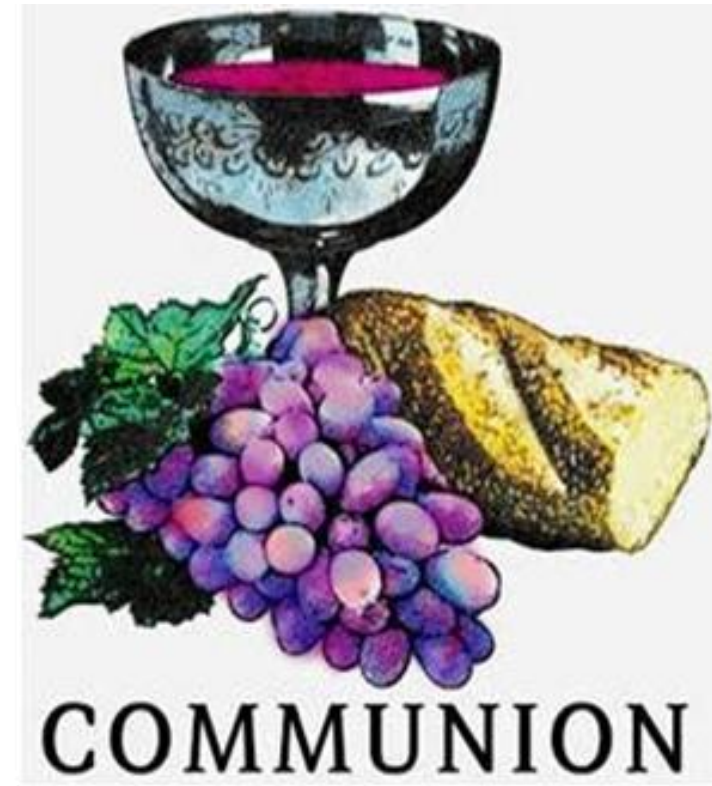
Dr. Albert L. Reese, Jr. ~ Dr. Gerald A. Little

Elder Emeriti

**Vera Custer ~ Jim Mitchell
Dr. Gordon Miller ~ Ray Inman**

Our Corporation Officers:

CEO, Bill Allen ~ CFO, Virginia Smith ~ Secretary of Corporation, Bud Holleman



COMMUNION SUNDAY

**First Presbyterian Church
Bainbridge, Georgia
Service 10:30 a.m.
December 3, 2023**

This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

First Sunday of Advent

God is the potter; we are the clay. May God fashion us into vessels of beauty and purpose this Advent Season.

December 3, 2023

Elder on Call ~ Angie Davis (478) 335-8050 ~ December 4-10, 2023

Liturgist ~ Kimm Powell

Striking of the Hour

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

“Come Just as You Are”

Joseph Sabolick

Choral Introit

“Rejoice! Emmanuel”

arr. Thomas Helmore

Call to Worship

Kimm Powell

L: The Lord of hosts redeems us when we stray.

P: With a mighty arm, God comes to save us.

L: When God hid His face, we strayed. When God withdrew His presence, we stumbled.

P: God has fed us the bread of tears and given us tears to drink in full measure.

L: Yet, through His Son, God calls us back from the pit and restores our future.

P: God shines upon us with His love, that we might be saved.

All: Come! Let us worship.

Prayer of Invocation

Kimm Powell

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sheri and Bill Allen

* **Hymn of Praise # 245**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

* **Prayer of Confession** *(Unison)*

Kimm Powell

The mountains quake at your presence, O God. The nations tremble at your feet. Rather than rejoicing in our salvation, we have wandered from your path and lost our way. Tear open the heavens and come down, mighty one, as you did of old. Awaken First Presbyterian Church of Bainbridge from average and status quo. Help us in this church to stand in awe of your glory. May your refiner’s fire purify us of our transgressions that we will live with expectant hearts in the Advent Season and be worthy of your kingdom. Amen.

* **Silent Prayer of Confession**

* **Assurance of Pardon**

Rev. Stephen Webb

The God who raised our Savior is able to forgive our sins and, as the potter, fashions our clay into His disciples.

* **Gloria Patri # 813**

“Glory Be to the Father”

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Stephen Webb

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“The Lion and the Lamb”

arr. Bernadine Johnson

* **Doxology # 815**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayer of Dedication

Kimm Powell

Choral Anthem

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

William Rowan

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38

(Pew Bible Pages 56 & 57 NT)

Minister: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Doc, You Have Got to be Kidding”

Rev. Stephen Webb

Invitation to the Sacrament of Holy Communion

L: The Shepherd invites us to join the flock of God.

P: At the Shepherd’s table, all are fed with love.

L: At the Shepherd's table, all are fed with grace.

P: At the Shepherd’s table, all are welcome.

L: This is the table where steadfast love and faithfulness meet.

P: This is the table where justice, righteousness, and peace dance.

L: This is the table where the world is invited to do the same.

Words of Institution

* **Hymn of Preparation # 287**

“A Communion Hymn for Christmas”

The Communion Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

(The Minister continues with prayer.)

Celebration of the Sacrament

(Please eat the bread and drink the cup at the same time as the Minister.)

* **Hymn of Hope and Assurance # 244**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Pastoral Benediction

Postlude

“We Bow Down”

arr. Mark Hayes

**Those who are able please stand.*

NURSERY AVAILABLE – IF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED, PLEASE ASK ONE OF THE USHERS.
If there is a pastoral need, you may contact Rev. Stephen Webb by phone @ 229-220-5591 or the church office.