

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026 | 11:00 AM



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Servant Church in the City Since 1827

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SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Easter Sunday

Text in **bold** is spoken by all.
An asterisk (*) indicates all should stand if able.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Sarabande for the morning of Easter
Liturgical Improvisation: *Verbum supernum prodiens*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
George Oldroyd (1886-1951)

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Kim Jackson

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

INTROIT

Christ Triumphant

Mark Patterson (b. 1969)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Jordan Chase

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 118.1-2, 14-17

Charlotte Gotwalt

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

**There are glad songs of victory in the
tents of the righteous:**

“The right hand of the Lord does
valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does
valiantly.”

**I shall not die, but I shall live
and recount the deeds of the Lord.**
**Let us give thanks and worship our
God!**

*HYMN 232

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

Flowering of the cross

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Kim Jackson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Merciful, Risen Lord, we lift our eyes to you but cannot comprehend your glory. We are unworthy, yet you make us righteous, removing forever the shroud that covers us, that makes us unclean. Our hearts cannot contain our tears of gratitude, yet you wipe them away, making us whole. For you have spoken it. Our thanksgiving knows no bounds, even as we are mindful of what we do, still, that harms you, ourselves, each other. Receive our confessions of brokenness, and restore our souls, this day and every day. Amen.

KYRIE (Hymn 551)

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

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.

WORDS OF PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Proclaiming the Resurrection: An interactive reading of Luke 24

Offering our Alleluias: An Easter Anthem by the Children and Youth Singers

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Jordan Chase

Open our eyes, O God, as you opened the tomb. Fill our very selves with your Spirit, and raise us up so we might hear your words anew this day. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING
page 733

Jeremiah 31. 1-6

NRSV

ANTHEM

My Beloved Spake

Patrick Hadley (1899-1973)

My beloved spake, and said unto me, rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. The fig-tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

NEW TESTAMENT READING
page 33

Matthew 28. 1-10

NRSV

SERMON

“Suddenly Jesus Met Them”

Rev. Dr. Kim Jackson

You will find copies of our updated Stained Glass Stories coloring books along with colored pencils in each pew. These books were originally created in 1996 and now include filtered photographs of the windows from Bryan Stovall. May the practice of coloring and noticing of history with scripture background provide space for you to connect with our windows in a new way through this season and sermon series.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

A Brief Statement of Faith

PRAYER & CALL FOR OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Kim Jackson

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Alleluia

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today, we celebrate the Lord's Supper by means of intinction. A meaningful opportunity to embody and enact our faith as we stand, wait, walk, take, dip, and partake. A bold means of confessing, of demonstrating, who it is we believe in by inviting the echoes of the very first supper to settle upon us.

*HYMN 511 (v. 1-2)

Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven

LLANFAIR

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS (Hymn 552)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

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

...who taught us how to pray to you...

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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN 514

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

SCHMÜCKE DICH

THE SENDING

***HYMN 234**

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

ST. KEVIN

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Kim Jackson

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Alleluia

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

POSTLUDE

Festival Toccata

Percy Fletcher (1879-1932)

EASTER LILES IN THE SANCTUARY

In Appreciation of...

First Presbyterian Church by the Kovacs Family

In Honor of...

Jen, Collier and Davis by Gay Gunter

Dr. Terry May by Bob Wray

Mrs. Robin Sexton by Bob Wray

Harriett Gordy by Myra & Robert Hill

In Memory of...

of Vernon Gordy by Myra & Robert Hill

our parents, Virginia & Kenneth Richter and Myrtle & Leslie Barnes

by Linda & Cecil Barnes

Jane Neel Foster by Don Stuber

Ju'raj Abuvala by Woodie Williams

our friend, Kevin Doolan, our friend and mentor Rev. Eric Nelson and cousin

Dawn Avalue by Mary & Paul Ellis-Graham

Landon Lewis Fox by Carter & Steve Eagle

Sue Fryar Hardee by Carter & Steve Eagle

Faye Wray by Bob Wray

Anne Alexander Mason by Ashley & Brian Childs

Jane Neel Foster by Neng Khai & Family

Judith's mother, Virginia Hollon by Judith & Howard Crawford

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vacation Bible School, A Road Trip Adventure through the Bible June 22-25 (9:00 am - 12:00 pm) 3 year olds through rising 5th grade.
Cost: \$25 (for 1st child) \$15 (for each additional child) Register using the QR code.



Serve & Shine Local Youth Service Camp June 22-26, 2025 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)
From 9 am to 12 pm each day, 6th-12th grade youth will volunteer with our Vacation Bible School. They will eat lunch together and participate in local service projects at First Presbyterian Church and at some of our local mission partners in Savannah. Friday will include service projects and an outdoor fellowship activity together. Cost: \$50 Register here: <https://forms.gle/4qnQhAMJAQ8u9iCEA>

Puerto Rico Mission Trip We will travel back to Monteflores to continue our shared ministry on a mission trip July 12-19. 14 year old or older youth and adults are invited and the maximum group size will be 12 people. The group will stay in a dormitory at Monteflores Church. The cost will be airfare to Puerto Rico with fundraising and scholarships available to cover the remaining trip cost. Interested in joining us? Please contact Allison Shearouse allison@savannahfpc.org.

Realm Our New Online Directory Would you like to get signed up? Come by to visit Mallory on Thursdays in the office with your device.

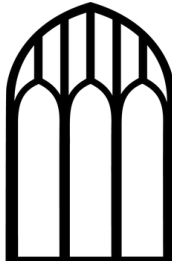
One Great Hour of Sharing Join with Presbyterians worldwide in responding to Christ's call to ministries of compassion for the most vulnerable around the world. Text OGHs to 91999 to give or scan the QR code. You can help sustain these important ministries that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing by making an online gift at any time throughout the year.



Music with a Mission is thrilled to present "Center Stage," a Broadway-inspired showcase featuring some of Savannah's most beloved voices on April 18th at 5:30 PM. From classic ballads to modern hits, come hear the music you love performed by: Rebecca Flaherty, Suade Anderson, Danny Cohen, Tegan Miller, & Jillian Durant accompanied by Jonathan Murphy.

Annual Church Picnic

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 | 12:00 PM
FOLLOWING 11:00 AM WORSHIP



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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FIRST'S MISSION STATEMENT

The life of the church is the response of faith and obedience to the call of God in Christ. Gathered: We worship and sing, study and pray. We enjoy fellowship together. Forgiven by God: we learn to forgive other people. Sent forth: We serve as leaven, salt and light, to be agents of God's love in Savannah and the larger world.

THE SESSION

Class of 2026: Judith G. Crawford, John H. Hinman III, Brett J. Lundy, Emily C. Salzer, Martha L. Stein, Daniel R. Walters

Class of 2027: Lisa B. Bennett, Jordan N. Chase, Gay H. Gunter, Joshua A. Herrington, Michael W. Johnson, William C. Keightley

Class of 2028: Daniel C. Cohen, C. Steven Eagle, Lawrence H. Koch, Ann M. Tatum, Lisa B. Team, Linda G. Wittish

Clerk of Session: Jordan N. Chase

Elder Emerita: Rose M. Donnelly

CHURCH STAFF

Kimberly A. Jackson, *Transitional Pastor* | Allison B. Shearouse, *Director of Christian Education* | Jonathan M. Murphy, *Director of Music & Organist* | Mallory J. Abshire, *Office Administrator* | Jillian P. Durant *Communications & Events Coordinator* | Howard T. Crawford, *Director of Facilities* | Dorothy S. Bunker, *Preschool Director* | Hugh I. Daniels, *Sexton*

MISSIONARIES

Farsijana and Bernard Adeney: *Yogyakarta, Indonesia* | Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather: *Yei, South Sudan* | Ellen D. Smith: *Warsaw, Poland.*

GREETER: Charlotte Keenoy | **USHERS:** **Head Usher:** Michael Johnson **Team Members:** Hal Hinman, Scott Atchinson, Melissa Lee, Kimberly/Ben Price, Tommy Johnson (Jr. Usher) | **ACOYLYTE:** | **EXTENDED SESSION:**

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR marks the beginning of the Lord's Day service. The Prelude is a time for quiet preparation and private prayer as the congregation prepares to worship God.

LITURGIST Jordan Chase is an elder, our current Clerk of Session, and has been a member of FPC for over 40 years. She and her husband Danny have three children, Jackson (17), Turner (16) and Edie (12). Jordan has chaired and served on numerous ministries, including Mission, Evangelism, Communications, Personnel, A Gracious Christmas, Vision 2020, and the Self-Study Committee in 2025. She is also a member of the Agape Circle. In her professional life, Jordan Chase is a community volunteer and nonprofit leader with more than 20 years of experience in Organizational Development and Human Resources, primarily in the healthcare and hospital setting. She serves on the boards of the Emmaus House, The Fresh Air Home, and the Metropolitan Rotary Club of Savannah.

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SANCTUARY FLOWERS We have openings coming up in April and May! We invite you to provide flowers in our Sanctuary as a way to enhance our worship service and celebrate special occasions in your own life. To sign up you can contact the church office or use the QR code. You are welcome to take the flowers home with you following Sunday Worship.



CONNECT WITH US Are you getting our weekly emails and monthly newsletter? Do you follow us on Facebook and Instagram? We would love to stay in touch. Scan the QR code to subscribe and follow.



ONLINE GIVING Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to First using our secure online portal which can be found at www.SavannahFPC.org by clicking on the **Give Now** tab at the top right corner of the home page or by scanning our QR code using your smartphone's QR reader.



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520 Washington Avenue | Savannah, GA 31405 | 912.354.7615 | SavannahFPC.org

A Member of the Presbytery of Savannah, the Synod of South Atlantic, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)