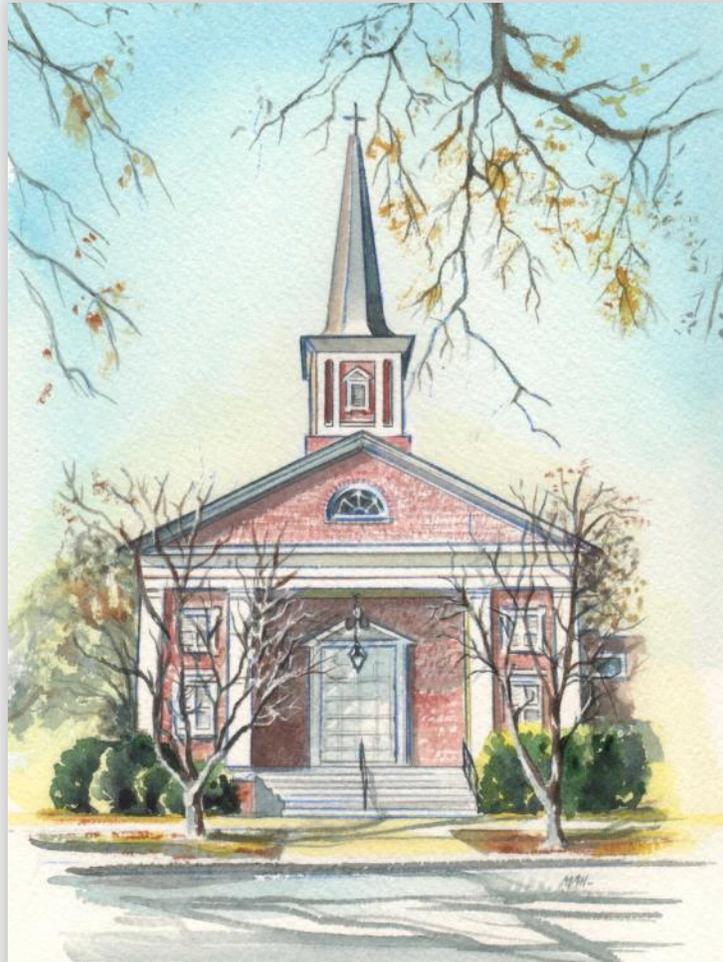


24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020



Historic First Presbyterian Church Decatur, Alabama Est. 1853

THE REV. RICHARD H. BROOKS, PASTOR

*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ,
who love God, love one another, and serve the world.*

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Welcome to all who come to worship God

Welcome & Prelude

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE LORD'S DAY:

From its beginning, the Christian Church has gathered on the first day of the week to hear the scriptures proclaimed and celebrate the Lord's Supper. This day has significance as it was "the first day of the week, following the Sabbath" when Jesus' followers discovered the empty tomb and met the risen Lord. The Lord's Day, therefore, is the very center of the church calendar and the lives of those following Jesus as "the way of truth and life."

CONFESSION & PARDON:

Scripture calls people to confess the reality of sin in personal and corporate life. Confession is an acknowledgment of unworthiness, except by God's grace and love. Reclaiming God's forgiveness in scripture, people can let go of past failures and claim renewal in Christ Jesus. Having been reconciled in relationship to God, people are invited to share renewal in expressing forgiveness, acceptance, love, and unity to others in "the peace of Christ."

NOTES:

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ephesians 3:20-21

Leader: Now to God, who by the power at work within us, is able to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine.

People: **To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.**

Leader: Let us worship the God of our salvation!

HYMN of PRAISE

When We All Get To Heaven

*Sing the wondrous love of Jesus;
Sing his mercy and his grace.
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.*

Refrain

*When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!*

*While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when traveling days are over,
Not a shadow, not a sigh.*

*Onward to the prize before us!
Soon his beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Matthew 6: 14-15

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Merciful God: We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sins. Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. During these moments of silence, remind us of your forgiveness as we seek your mercy and turn away from our sin... Amen.

† *Those who are able, please stand.*

ASSURANCE of PARDON

John 8:3-11

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

People: **In Jesus Christ we are Forgiven!**

† **GLORIA PATRI & SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST**

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. A-men. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Revelations 7:21-22

ANTHEM

Kobe Brown

HOMILY

“Life after Life: Realization”

Rev. Richard Brooks

SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Exodus 25:1-2

The LORD said to Moses, “Tell the People of God to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from each man and woman whose heart prompts them to give.”

† **DOXOLOGY**

† **AFFIRMATION of FAITH**

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

† **HYMN of COMMITMENT** *The Day of Resurrection!*

#118

*The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From this world unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.*

† **Those who are able, please stand.**

SCRIPTURE & SERMON:

The Bible is a collection of books written over 1,000 of years and preserved as Holy Scripture. Scripture is proclaimed as the community of faith seeks to hear God’s Word speak to the daily life and current world events. The God who acted in biblical history acts today. Through the Holy Spirit, God speaks to those who open to hearing and seeing. The proclamation of God’s Word invites a response of faith through prayer, song, an affirmation of faith, prayer, and offering.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The people respond to the proclamation of the Word by affirming their faith. Creeds seasoned by the historical church since 325 A.D. express the faith of the church. The Apostles’ Creed is a statement of core Christian beliefs developed initially as a baptismal rite in the early church. Its term “catholic” refers to the wholeness of the universal church.

*Our hearts be pure from evil,
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light;
And listening to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.*

*Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen,
Our joy that hath no end.*

† BENEDICTION

I Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Wherever we are, God has placed us there. Wherever we go, God will lead us there. God has a purpose for our lives, from our going out and our coming in, now and forever. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude



First Presbyterian Church

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LEADERSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Richard H. Brooks, Minister
RichardHBrooks@gmail.com

Kobe Brown, *Music Coordinator*
Cheryl Wade, *Organist*
Rob Corn, *Social Media Outreach Coordinator*
Amber Stewart, *Administrative Assistant*

CHARGE & BENEDICTION:
A formal dismissal concludes the service with **God's blessing** for life, **Christ's call** to obedient, and the **Holy Spirit's power** to be strong in a broken world. Our confidence in God's providence is spoken in unison, reminding us that God will guide us through the storms of life together.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers . . .

Our Homebound:

Juanita Dukes
Lynn & Ann Fowler
Barbara Martin
Sue & Charles Murphree
Liz Pilgrim
Jane Rowe
Caroline Taylor
Anne Thornhill
Jean Vernon

Our Family Members in Military Service:

Peyton Davis - Army,
Fort Bragg, NC
(nephew of Luke Pryor)

In Memoriam

Eleanor "Dicky"

McGowen Maynor

04/07/1944 - 11/10/2020

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM Saturday, November 14 at Roselawn Cemetery, Decatur.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Valley or to First Presbyterian Church.