

April 13, 2025



## Sunday of the Passion

### THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR; WELCOME;  
ANNOUNCEMENTS; PASSING THE PEACE;  
PRELUDE

### GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader

The story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, tells us that after his celebrated arrival. He went into the Temple and looked around at everything. As we gather here for worship today may it be with a sense that Jesus has walked in too and is looking around. May our eyes be open to see Him, may our hearts be ready to be seen by Him, may our worship be worthy of His presence, and may we be transformed so that we see the world through His eyes.

#### \* HYMN # 142

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

#### \*CONFESSION OF SIN

(Unison)

*God of all times and places, we confess that we would rather join the crowds than stand alone. We'll sing "hosanna" when everyone else is doing so—but not when the hostile "Good Friday" forces may hear us. We believe Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. We know that means us, not just others. We ask you to be patient with us, to help us understand our own guilt. Then pour out your forgiveness in such a way that we are forever transformed. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Laying aside judgment, God offers us redemption; setting aside anger, God embraces us with love; letting go of grief, God pours living water upon us. This is the good news, my friends: God's steadfast love endures forever. Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God! Amen

**\*GLORIA PATRI** - *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.*

### A WORD FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

### THE MORNING PRAYERS and THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

*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*

### WE GIVE THANK OFFERINGS TO GOD

GIVING GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

**\*DOXOLOGY** - *Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING:

Matthew 20:1-16

THE SERMON:

Dr. William D. Coker

***"The Last Shall Be First and The First Shall Be Last"***

### WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH

#### \*A PSALM OF CELEBRATION

inspired by Psalm 118

*Though we have known hardship and pain, though life has not always turned out as we had hoped, we will stand here and say: God's steadfast love endures forever! Though life becomes more complex, the deepest questions remain unanswered, and the mystery of faith deepens. Though the pain of the world often seems more than we can bear or address, we will stand firm in our faith and say: God's steadfast love endures forever!*

#### \*HYMN # 89

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

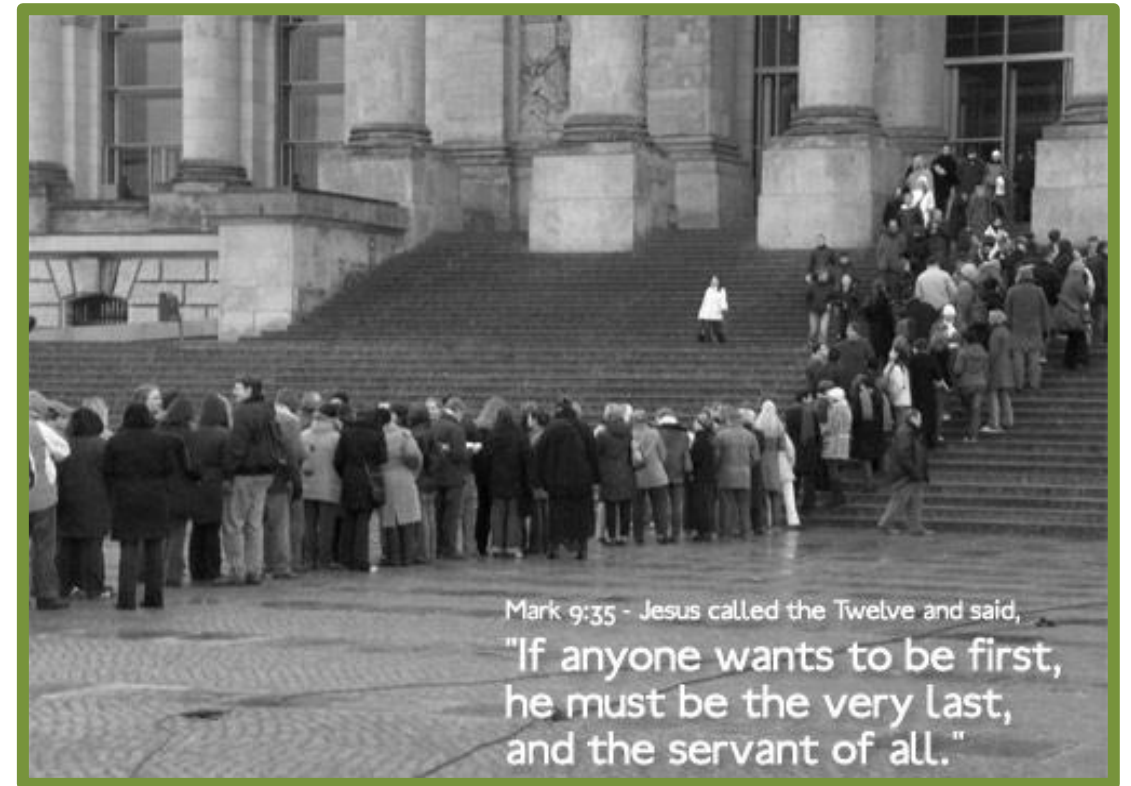
#### \*BENEDICTION

And now as we lay down the palm branches, we lay down our belief that there is another way for you to be God. As the last echo of the final alleluia fades, so does our hope that this journey can end in any other way. Whether we walk with all faith or none we look towards the cross, knowing it is the most divine of all journeys. Travel the road with courage, with love, and with the uneasy peace that is the gift of faith into this holiest of weeks. Amen.

POSTLUDE - (\*) *We stand as we are able.*

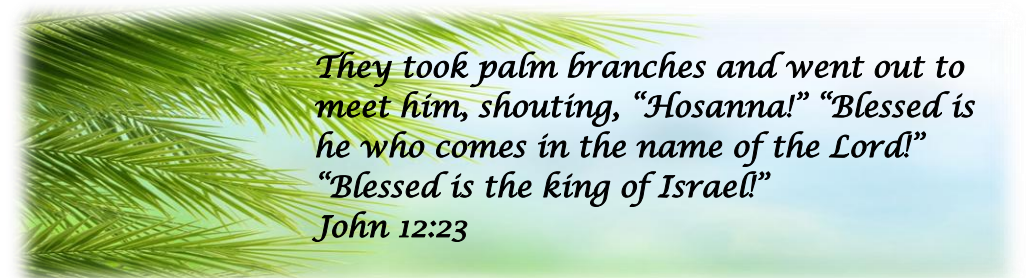
## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Today's flowers are given by Melba Knight in honor of her children.
2. Welcome Visitors. We're so glad you are here. Please fill out our Welcome/Prayer Requests Card located on the back of the pew and drop it in the Offering Plate or hand it to the pastor. We will pray for you, and if you're itching to serve Christ at First Pres, let us know. We have lots of enjoyable jobs that can make a difference in your life and in the Mission of Christ here. Please feel free to invite your family and friends to come and enjoy our loving and laughing Church family
3. 8 Most Significant Words: **"Who will you invite to church next Sunday?"**
4. #1 Reason to Be at First Pres: **Because we know why we're here - to share the Real Jesus.**
5. On Easter Sunday, we will have our sunrise service at 7:30 am in the circular drive; at 11:00 am we will have our traditional Easter service. The sermon topic for the sunrise service will be **"Cold Hands"** followed by **"Warm Hearts"** at the 11:00 service.
6. The sermon series **"Difficult Sayings of Jesus"** concludes today -  
April 13 - **"The Last Shall Be First and The First Shall Be Last"**
7. Prayer List:
  - a. Cathy Martin (Biff's sister) -Pancreatic Cancer.
  - b. Key Coker (Biff's brother) - Anterior Cervical Discectomy (plate on neck spine)
  - c. Rhonda Webster - (longtime friend of Margaret Connor) - colon cancer
  - d. Allen Boyd - Torn rotator cuff
  - e. Marj Chalfant
  - f. Cheryl Coker who has had foot surgery.
  - g. Ben Reeves (friend of Allen Boyd)
  - h. Jim Hall (friend of Cokers) - colon cancer
  - i. Susan Robbins (friend of Cokers)
  - j. The family of Diane Carr who passed away from bone cancer.
  - k. Rodney Bennett's mother (Betty Driggers) who is under hospice care.
  - l. Melissa Hughes (niece of Marlene Mathis) who has bone cancer. She will begin radiation and bone infusion therapy. Pray for healing so this mother will be able to see her young children grow up).
  - m. Mary Catherine Mullin (Friend of Hillary Smith) who recently lost a child.
  - n. Someone who feels lost and not loved by God.
  - o. Allison Whitworth (Melinda Howell's daughter) - nasal surgery
  - p. Mary & Mickey Bozeman (sister & brother-in-law of Melinda Howell)- health issues
8. We will have a Maundy-Thursday Service on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.
9. Today, we will have our fellowship luncheon followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A)



217 PARK AVE N, TIFTON, GA 31794  
PASTOR – DR. WILLIAM D. **"BIFF"** COKER  
229-382-6730; [1STPRESTIFTON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:1STPRESTIFTON@GMAIL.COM)  
[FIRSTPRESTIFTON.ORG](http://FIRSTPRESTIFTON.ORG)