

PRAYER LIST

Please Pray For - Our Nation, Our Church; Our Pastor, Our Staff, Our Officers, Campus Ministry, Our Community and especially:

MEMBERS AND CHURCH FRIENDS

HOMEBOUND &/OR IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Bob & B.J. Bryan

Rev. Bill Gettys
Nancy Miller

Mary Mackey

MEMBERS REMEMBERED IN PRAYER WITH PRAYER GRAM ROTATION

Trey Norton

Terry McDonald

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR:

- Thomas Brown (Cathy Clark Reynolds cousin) has tested positive for COVID-19
- Nelda Priddy (Camron Cummings' Nana) diagnosed with lupus)
- Pray for Steve and Beth Spoon (Melanie's in-laws) - Steve has ALS
- Debra Sams (sister of Joy Thompson) diagnosed with peritoneal carcinoma
- Shannon Kennedy (cancer; McFarlands' niece)

MISSIONARIES REMEMBERED IN PRAYER

- Benji & Esther Campbell, Push the Rock Intl.
- Lois & Tim Hunter, Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Anne D (India) Retired Presbyterian Missionary

Please notify the church office at 924-2162 or office@americuspresbyterian.org if you would like to add someone to our prayer list and/or request a PrayerGram.

First Presbyterian Church

Americus, Georgia



MAUNDY
THURSDAY
SERVICE

April 9, 2020
7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
WISK Radio 98.7 FM
www.americusradio.com

We will be celebrating communion on Maundy Thursday and you are invited to have bread and wine or juice at home to participate in communion. Be flexible when thinking about bread....crackers, flatbread, matza, tortillas and rolls are all great options! In these unique times, you are encouraged to be creative and flexible. Work with what you have at your home and consider creating a holy space in your home. Light a candle or have bread and wine set out on a pretty plate. Bring out a family quilt or something that reminds you of the church. Cut fresh flowers or greenery from your yard or lay out sea shells. Sit on your porch or on a blanket in your back yard. Remember that we worship a God who created the entire universe, so our God is creative beyond our wildest imaginations. Our worship glorifies God.

Our earnest prayers draw us closer to God. Let us join together in worshiping our holy, creative and powerful God who desires a deeper and more passionate relationship with each and every one of us.

To God be the Glory this Holy Week. Amen.

WAYS TO WORSHIP:

RADIO

Church Service will continue to be on the radio. You are encouraged to tune in to WISK radio 98.7 or on the radio website www.americusradio.com

FACEBOOK

You can join us for Sunday Worship via Facebook live where you can see and hear Pastor Sommer deliver the message in person. Visit: for live stream at 11:15 am on the church Facebook page- <https://www.facebook.com/fpcamericus/>

CHURCH WEBSITE

If you cannot participate in Facebook Live then after the live stream is complete, the live stream will be on our church website www.americuspresbyterian.org

WAY TO CONTINUE GIVING:

You can now **GIVE ONLINE** on the church website through a secure portal hosted by Presbyterian Foundation: <http://www.americuspresbyterian.org/give/>

or

Mail your offerings to:
First Presbyterian Church
125 S. Jackson St.
Americus, GA 31709

SILENT REFLECTION*

(after a moment of silence, light a candle or close your eyes in silent reflection)

BENEDICTION

(John 1:1-5)

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
Go in peace. Amen.*

*POSTLUDE.....Camron Cummings, Organist

FIFTH READING:

MATTHEW 27:26-31, 45-46, 50-51

26 So Pilate released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

THE DEATH OF JESUS

45 From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46 And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

50 Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.

HYMN :

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
(verse 1 & 3, #101 blue Presbyterian Hymnal)

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour content on all my pride.*

*See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did ever such love and sorry meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

April 9, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

*All Are Invited to Stand in Body or in Spirit

The congregation is invited to respond at the **bold** print

PRELUDE

Camron Cummings, Organist

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Sommer Bower

Tonight, we gather, alone and yet together. We are together to remember the events of long ago, as Jesus gathered with his disciples to share the Passover meal together. But we are alone, a reminder that the disciples also were scattered by the end of the evening. We live with the hope that we will be together again, and we live with the hope of resurrection.

But on this night, we pause in the evening, as the sun sets, and remember how one by one, the faithful disciples failed. They acted out of fear. They acted out of anger. They acted out of an innate human desire to save themselves at all cost.

On this night, we remember how Christ came for us, how Christ broke bread and shared the cup, how Christ laid down his life for us that we might know forgiveness, that we might know that death does not have the final word.

On this night, we remember.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy One, as the evening draws over us, we know that we have fallen short in our own lives. We have let others down. We have failed to live up to our commitments. We have abandoned friends. At times, we have been let down, we have been betrayed, we have felt hurt and left behind. On this night, we seek Your forgiveness for our faults, as we seek to forgive one another. We seek Christ, and know that even when we have been faithless, he remains faithful to us, for he cannot deny himself. It is in Christ that we find healing, forgiveness, and hope for us, now and always. Amen.

TAIZE SONG:

“Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”
Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal, #527

*Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.
Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to Christ and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in Christ and you will not thirst.*

FIRST READING: MATTHEW 26: 6-30

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

THE ANOINTING AT BETHANY

6 Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. 8 But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? 9 For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.” 10 But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. 11 For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. 12 By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. 13 Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”



THIRD READING: MATTHEW 26:47-50, 55-56

THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF JESUS

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer Judas had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” 49 At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. 50 Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

55 At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56 But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

FOURTH READING: MATTHEW 27:1-2, 24-25

JESUS BROUGHT BEFORE PILATE

1 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. 2 They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

PILATE HANDS JESUS OVER TO BE CRUCIFIED

24 So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” 25 Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!”

HYMN:

“Were You There?”
(verse 1, #102 blue Presbyterian Hymnal)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there?)
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there?)
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there?)

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 26: 36-39

JESUS PRAYS IN GETHSEMANE

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 37 He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. 38 Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” 39 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.”

HYMN:

“What Wondrous Love Is This”
(verse 1, #85 Presbyterian Hymnal)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul.

JUDAS AGREES TO BETRAY JESUS

14 Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

THE PASSOVER WITH THE DISCIPLES

17 On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” 18 He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; 21 and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” 22 And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” 23 He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” 25 Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

THE INSTITUTION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” 27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

30 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

HOLY COMMUNION
Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving (from Psalm 116; Exodus 12; John 13; 1 Cor. 11)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, Lord God, creator and ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth, and create the fruit of the vine. You made us in your image, and freed us from the bonds of slavery. You claimed us as your people, and made covenant to be our God. You fed us manna in the wilderness, and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey. When we forgot you, and our faith was weak, you spoke through prophets, calling us to turn again to your ways. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful around the world and through history, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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!

And now, God of glory and might, hear and answer our prayers for this world. As you delivered our ancestors from slavery and led them to a land of promise and plenty,

liberate all who are captive or oppressed and bring them to a place of abundant life.

As you saved your people from death by the blood of the Passover lamb,

redeem us from sin and death through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

As Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord stooped down to wash his disciples' feet,

teach us to love and serve one another with Christlike compassion and humility.

As Christ the Lord has handed on to us this feast of grace, his body and blood,
help us to share the gifts we have received from you with all who are hungry and thirsty.

Lord, we love you, for you have heard our cries.

Therefore we will call on you as long as we live; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray...

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.

Words of Institution (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

You are invited in your homes to eat of the bread and drink of the vine.

