

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2330 SOUTH MAIN STREET | FINDLAY, OH 45840 | FINDLAYFPC.ORG

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024, 9:30 a.m. Service

WELCOME TO FPC

We are so glad you are with us on this day where we celebrate the gift of hope for ourselves and for our world. We invite you to follow us on Facebook, sign up for our weekly emails or check the website regularly to see the new things God is doing among us at FPC Findlay!

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Little Ones: Infants and toddlers are welcome to join trained caregivers in Room 333 on the third floor during worship. Check-in begins at 9:20 a.m.

Godly Play and Godly Play Choir: Children in preschool through elementary school-age are invited to attend Godly Play worship in Room 340 following the Blessing of the Children. Children should come to the kitchen during 2nd Hour Faith Formation to help prepare cornbread for the Community Dinner.

WORSHIP VIA FACEBOOK LIVE

As the prelude begins, we invite you to share your prayer requests in the comments section beneath the Facebook Live video.

Prelude

Intrada

Grayston Ives

Choral Introit

Be Not Afraid

Jacques Berthier

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

* Call to Worship/Opening Words

We gather as God's beloved children –

However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.

We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community

So this becomes a place where all are welcome.

We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with others

Let us worship God.

* Hymn #251

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, giver of blessings, we thank you for the mercies we know, and ask your forgiveness when we fail to acknowledge you as the source of all good.

When we hoard your gifts,

**When we say, "that's mine,"
When we ignore the bounty around us,
When we are blind to the good,
Forgive us. Help us to share, to see, to live gratefully.**

(Silent Confession)

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* Passing of the Peace

Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

* Grateful Response

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA

Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia. Re-joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb, e - ven from death, dis - pel-ling its gloom.
Let us sing praise to him with end-less joy. Death's fear-ful sting he has come to de - stroy.
Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Blessing of the Children

Following the Blessing of the Children, children 3rd grade and younger may go to Room 340 for Godly Play.

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Acts 1:1-5

Pew Bible page 884

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and

speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Scripture Anthem

The Lord Is My Shepherd

John Rutter

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul; and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.*

*Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.*

*But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

Second Lesson

Acts 28 :23-31

Pew Bible page 913

After they had set a day to meet with him, they came to him at his lodgings in great numbers. From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets. Some were convinced by what he had said, while others refused to believe. So they disagreed with each other, and as they were leaving Paul made one further statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah,

'Go to this people and say,
You will indeed listen but never understand,
and you will indeed look but never perceive.
For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
otherwise they might look with their eyes
and listen with their ears
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.'

"Let it be known to you, then, that this salvation of God has been sent to the gentiles; they will listen."

He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Book of Acts: What Now? Rev. Dr. Darcy Metcalfe

* Hymn #361 O Christ, the Great Foundation AURELIA

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem This Joyful Eastertide arr. Paul Bouman

* Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures here be -
low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven-ly
host; Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

* Prayer of Dedication

Concerns and Celebrations

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.

Prayer Response #600

Amen

African American

A - men, a - men.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Messages for Our Life in Community

* Hymn #800 Sometimes a Light Surprises SALLEY GARDENS

* Benediction

Postlude The Rejoicing Charles Callaha

** Please rise in body or spirit*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor: Rev. Jessica Commeret

Director of Music: Clinton Miller

Lay Reader: Leslee Kirkconnell

Director of Connectional Ministry: Leslee Kirkconnell

Musicians: FPC Choral Scholars: BK Riha, Deja Jennings, Cassie Wilson, Zach Sanford;
Desra Dabney, flute; Marsha Pendley, cello

A/V Technician: Robbie Riffle

This morning, we welcome the Rev. Dr. Darcy Metcalf to the pulpit.

Pastor Jessie is on study leave.

Announcements

2nd Hour Faith Formation: Reflections from the Road – Clint Miller will share about his recent journey, what he learned, what fun was had and more! Come to Fellowship Hall

today following worship. Children and Youth will prepare corn bread for the Community Dinner.

Community Dinner is today, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Great Room. Please bring your side dish, salad or dessert to the Great Room prior to worship and plan to share table fellowship with our neighbors who join us for a delicious meal! Ham and BBQ beef are provided.

2nd Hour Faith Formation for April:

April 21 A check-in for updates on our new structure.

April 28 The Mission Committee will hold continuing conversations about our missions and talk about our recent field trip to City Mission and Martha's Home.

Want to know more about FPC? Join us Sundays, April 28 & May 5, when Pastor Jessie will lead a class so you can learn more about what it means to be Presbyterian and how we do mission and ministry here. Come to Room 211 following worship at 10:30 a.m.

MOPS Returns! On Thursday, May 2, we are hosting an 'open house' for Moms to come hear about plans to bring a MOPS (now MomCo) group back to FPC. From 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, we will learn about the program, gauge interest and meet other moms! We anticipate starting a group in September. Childcare provided.

Youth Gathering is on the road next week! We will be traveling to Bowling Green FPC to meet with youth from there and Christ PC Toledo for an afternoon of fun, faith and fellowship. We leave at 4:00 p.m. and will return at 7:30 p.m.

Did You Know? We have sign-up sheets outside the office for many activities. In particular, we have flowers for worship and greeters. Both of these are wonderful ways to support our worship life together. Flowers enhance the beauty of our sanctuary and help us honor loved ones. Greeters help those coming to worship feel welcome. Please prayerfully consider if you can sign up!

Confirmation Meeting for youth, Sunday, May 5th following worship in the Youth Room. It's also Youth Faith Formation Time – all youth should come!

Connections for April 12 – read all the good news:



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia. Re - joice and
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst un - til its
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear. You look for
 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has a -
 5 Christ has a - ris - en to set us free. Al - le - lu -

praise him, al - le - lu - ia. For our re - deem - er
 strength by God was dis - persed. He who gives life did
 Je - sus who is not here. See for your - selves the
 ris - en this world to save. Je - sus' re - deem - ing
 ia, to him prais - es be. Je - sus is liv - ing!

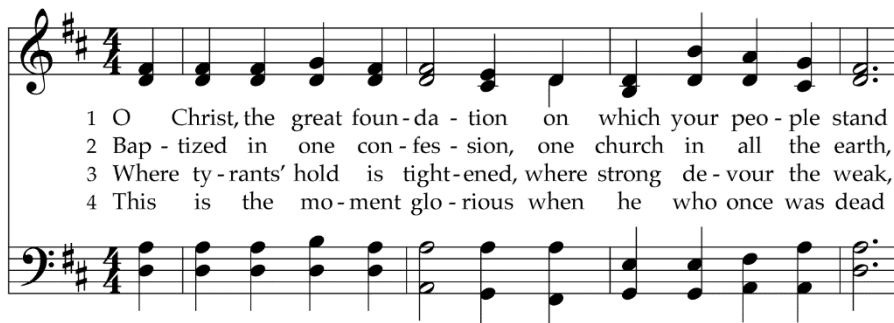
burst from the tomb, e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 death un - der - go, and in its con - quest his might did show.
 tomb is all bare. On - ly the grave clothes are ly - ing there."
 la - bors are done. E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
 Let us all sing; he reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain

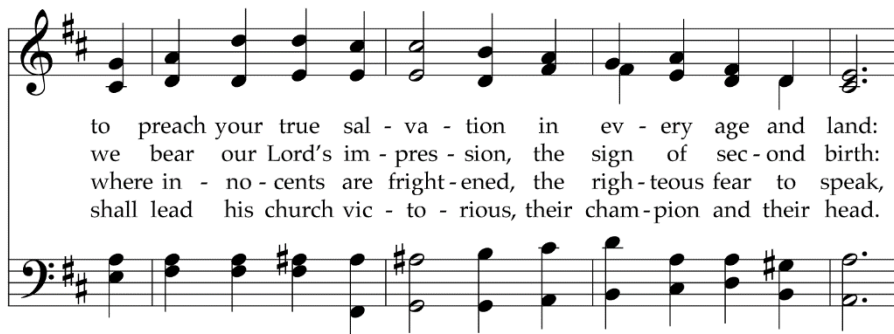
Let us sing praise to him with end-less joy. Death's fear-ful

sting he has come to de-stroy. Our sin for-giv-ing,

al-le-lu-ia! Je-sus is liv-ing, al-le-lu-ia!



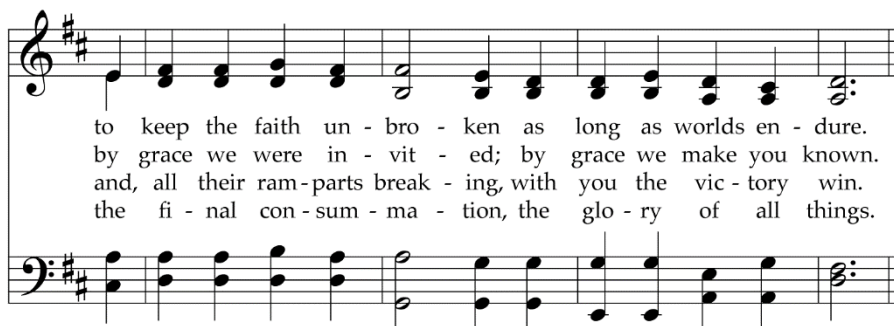
1 O Christ, the great foun-da - tion on which your peo - ple stand
 2 Bap - tized in one con - fes - sion, one church in all the earth,
 3 Where ty - rants' hold is tight - ened, where strong de - vour the weak,
 4 This is the mo - ment glo - rious when he who once was dead



to preach your true sal - va - tion in ev - ery age and land:
 we bear our Lord's im - pres - sion, the sign of sec - ond birth:
 where in - no - cents are fright - ened, the righ - teous fear to speak,
 shall lead his church vic - to - rious, their cham - pion and their head.



pour out your Ho - ly Spir - it to make us strong and pure,
 one ho - ly peo - ple gath - ered in love be - yond our own,
 there let your church a - wak - ing at - tack the powers of sin
 The Lord of all cre - a - tion his heaven - ly king - dom brings:

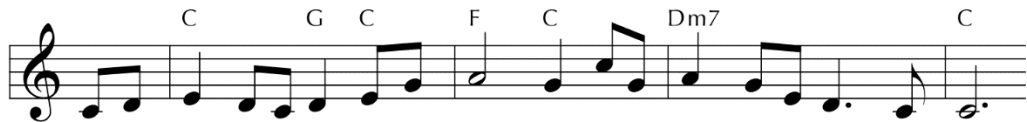


to keep the faith un - bro - ken as long as worlds en - dure.
 by grace we were in - vit - ed; by grace we make you known.
 and, all their ram - parts break - ing, with you the vic - tory win.
 the fi - nal con - sum - ma - tion, the glo - ry of all things.

The text was written by a leading Chinese educator, author, and editor who chaired the commission that prepared an important ecumenical Chinese hymnal, *Hymns of Universal Praise* (1936). This familiar tune invites comparison of these words with its usual text (see no. 321).



1 Some - times a light sur - pris - es the child of God who sings;
 2 In ho - ly con - tem - pla - tion we sweet - ly then pur - sue
 3 It can bring with it noth - ing but he will bear us through;
 4 Though vine nor fig tree nei - ther their longed - for fruit should bear,



it is the Lord who ris - es with heal - ing in his wings;
 the theme of God's sal - va - tion and find it ev - er new;
 who gives the lil - ies cloth - ing will clothe his peo - ple, too;
 though all the fields should with - er, nor flocks nor herds be there,



when com - forts are de - clin - ing, he grants the soul a - gain
 set free from pres - ent sor - row, we cheer - ful - ly can say,
 be - neath the spread - ing heav - ens no crea - ture but is fed;
 yet God the same a - bid - ing, his praise shall tune my voice;



a sea - son of clear shin - ing to cheer it af - ter rain.
 "Let the un - known to - mor - row bring with it what it may."
 and he who feeds the ra - vens will give his chil - dren bread.
 for while in him con - fid - ing, I can - not but re - joice.

This is one of the few hymns rooted in what can happen during worship, and that experience—gaining a spiritual insight while singing—is no less possible now than when this text was written in the 18th century. It is set here to a folk song variously labeled Irish or English.

To the right is a QR Code. You can open the camera on your smartphone and be connected to our Giving page via a link pop up. We encourage you to use this method to give as we pass the offering plate.



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Call to Worship written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

LITURGICAL ART

First Presbyterian Church follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together as Christians. Traditionally various colors are used for each season. THE EASTER SEASON is a period of 50 days, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The colors are WHITE AND GOLD, symbolizing joy and celebration, renewal and hope. The banners and pulpit and lectern paraments, completed in 2005, were designed by liturgical artist Jenia Rimov of Camas, Washington. The banner on the pulpit side portrays the new light of Easter and the banner on the lectern side portrays our response to the good news of resurrection: Alleluia! These themes are continued on both pulpit and lectern paraments. The butterfly in the chancel represents the Risen Christ and was created in 2017 by Don Beck, a member of our congregation whose artistic vision continues to shape worship at First Presbyterian Church during all seasons of the liturgical year. The large white Paschal Candle is used to represent the Risen Christ, dispelling darkness during this season, as well as for baptisms and funeral/memorial services during the year. The colors white and gold are also used for ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, the first Sunday of November, symbolizing the joy of the "communion of saints" both on earth and in glory.

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Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia. Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, 1966; trans. Howard S. Olson, 1969. Music: Tanzanian melody. Text © 1977 Howard S. Olson (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

O Christ, the Great Foundation. Text: Timothy T'ingfang Lew, 1933, alt.; trans. Mildred A. Wiant, 1966. Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864. Text © 1977 Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd.

Sometimes a Light Surprises. Text: William Cowper, 1779, alt. Music: Irish folk melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011. Music Arr. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak.

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