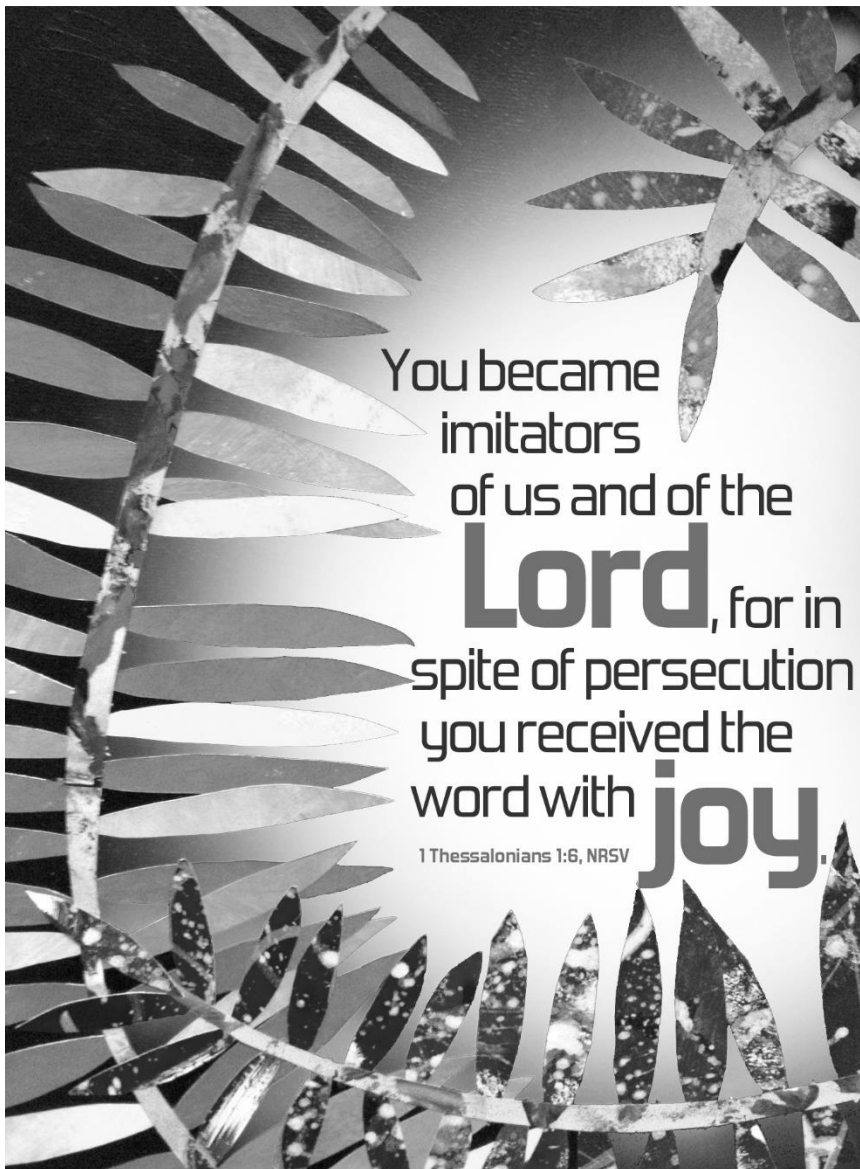


Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024



You became
imitators
of us and of the
Lord, for in
spite of persecution
you received the
word with **joy.**

1 Thessalonians 1:6, NRSV

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 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. Parents can pick up their children on the first floor in the Choir Room, where they will be doing Godly Play choir until 11:15 a.m., except on Communion Sundays when they will return during worship to be able to participate in communion.

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	Christ lag in Todes Banden, BWV 625 Fanfare	J.S. Bach William Matthias
Choral Introit	Be Not Afraid <i>Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!</i>	Jacques Berthier

* Call to Worship/Opening Words

In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

We gather, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant,
ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength and mind.

We listen, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom,
sometimes startling and unexpected,
sometimes still and quiet,
but always dwelling among us.

Let us watch and wait for the Word of God moving here in this place.

* Hymn #239 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! GELOBT SEI GOTT

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Forgive us our sins, O Lord. Forgive us the sins of our youth and the sins of our age, the sins of our soul and the sins of our body, our secret and our whispering sins, our presumptuous and our careless sins, the sins we have done to help ourselves and the sins we have done to please others. Forgive us the sins that we know and the sins that we know now; forgive them, Lord because of your great goodness and love for all your people.

(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 17:1-10

Pew Bible page 901

After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you." Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers and sisters before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus." The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

That very night the brothers and sisters sent Paul and Silas off to Beroea, and when they arrived they went to the Jewish synagogue.

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

Scripture Anthem

O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is. Blest is the man that trusteth in him.

--Psalm 34:8

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Pew Bible page 959

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that

we have no need to speak about it. For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

Sermon

Rev. Jessica Commeret

* Hymn #297

In Christ Called to Baptize

ST. DENIO

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem

Keith Hampton

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine. Almighty God is light. He lives in us a true light. In the beginning out of the darkness God created true light. Don't let the light that you've given me die, and don't desert my mind. But let the one who serves you praise you again and again. You are the one who judges right from wrong. Your glory excites no envy. But let the one who serves you praise you again and again. This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine. Everywhere I go, I want the world to know. God gave the world true light. Hold on to the true light. God's love, God's grace, I'm gonna let it shine.

* Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

The image shows the musical notation for the Doxology. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures 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, al - le - lu - ia!"

* Prayer of Dedication

Concerns and Celebrations

Prayers of the People

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

Minute for Mission

Deb Crow

* Hymn #300

We Are One in the Spirit

Peter Scholtes

* Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on 'Old Hundred'

Fred Bock

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor: Rev. Jessica Commeret

Director of Music: Clinton Miller

Lay Reader: Dave Healy

Director of Connectional Ministry: Leslee Kirkconnell

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

A/V Technician: Robbie Riffle

The flowers for worship are given by Kim Switzer & Tim Helfich in celebration of family.

Announcements

2nd Hour Faith Formation: Today, we will have a time for discussion and check in on our new structure. Join us in Fellowship Hall to hear how we are living into God's vision for our lives together. Elementary children will have Godly Play choir in the Choir Room following worship.

April 28th 2nd Hour Faith Formation: The Mission Committee will hold continuing conversations about missions and talk about our recent field trip to City Mission and Martha's Home. We will also explore where God is leading us.

Want to know more about FPC? Come and See, 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 TODAY! 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.

Seeking help with Child Care: We will need new child care help with Sunday and beyond soon. If you know someone who loves children and would be able to be here Sunday mornings (9:15-11:45 a.m. and other times as arranged), please see Leslee Kirkconnell.

Sign Up to be a greeter or to provide flowers for worship! Both enhance our time together and are great for families, singles, couples! Find the sheets outside the office.

Daryl the Barrel is collecting Mr. Clean Magic Erasers and Clorox Wipes. **Christian Clearing House** asks for laundry detergent. Thank you for helping care for our neighbors!

Our Community Garden is getting ready for the season. If you would like a plot, call the office. Each plot is \$25.

Pentecost is May 19 and we will gather for a Brunch Fellowship Meal following worship. Plan to bring your dish (breakfast casserole, fruit salad, biscuits, anything breakfast-y) and share delicious food and warm fellowship. Also fun Pentecost activities – wear red!

Get Connected! Scan the code to read our weekly Connections Newsletter:



1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Death's might - y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way. Let all the earth re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

This 20th-century Easter text is both a song of encouragement (stanzas 1-3 directed to the congregation) and a song of praise (stanza 4 addressed to the risen Christ), all ending with joyous alleluias. It was written specifically for the dancelike 17th-century tune found here.

1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace
 2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,
 3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach
 4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,

and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.
 a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.
 the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.
 for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.

In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,
 Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.
 By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise
 E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.

then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.
 One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.
 in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.
 In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

Written for use at the 1997 meeting of the Lutheran World Federation, this text about Christian vocation and ministry organizes the first three stanzas around verbs: baptize, banquet, witness. The final stanza is a prayer for the Spirit's gifts to empower all these callings.

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) B^bm (Em) Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) B^bm (Em) Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) D^b (Em) Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) B^bm (Em) Fm (Am) B^bm (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm (Am/E) (Em) Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

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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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)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow. Public Domain

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1931, alt. Music: Melchior Vulpius, 1609; harm. Pilgrim Hymnal, 1958. Text © 1958, ren. 1986 Hymns Ancient & Modern (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

In Christ Called to Baptize. Text: Ruth Duck, 1995. Music: Welsh folk melody; adapt. in Caniadau y Cyssegr, 1839. Text © 1995 The Pilgrim Press.

We Are One in the Spirit. Text & Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966. Text © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp. Music © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp.

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