



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death and opened the way to eternal life. As the empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death, make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life, that all we do may proclaim to the world, "He is risen, indeed!" Through Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"Easter Carol"

Vernon Hoyle, 2017

Rejoice, rejoice! In pomp today our King returneth from the fray:
Good Christian folk put grief away, and raise the high triumphing lay.
Thanks be to our God. Let us now bless the Lord.
For Christ hath vanquished every foe.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Beloved church, behold the victory of our God: Jesus, our Lord,
has conquered the grave.

People: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Leader: Sin and death shall reign no more.

People: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Leader: Let this place resound with joy. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen, indeed!**

***Hymn**

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

#232

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

*Prayer of Confession *(read in unison)*

Leader: Christ, we come to the empty tomb ... members of our family, friends, and neighbors.

People: Lord, we come to your tomb, we meet a hungry world before us, the pain of starving children, the guilt of war on our hands, and we know that collectively, we share in those injustices.

Leader: Lord, we come to the empty tomb ... deep sense of loneliness and frustration of what we would be but are not.

People: Lord, when we come to the empty tomb, we lay before you our pain, our emptiness, and look to you for hope.

Leader: People of God ... are you uncomfortable here?

People: Our wounds are deep, we have turned away from Jesus, we have broken with him, and now seek his fellowship again. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Amen. People of God, do not dwell on your wounds any longer for he has risen to heal you, he has risen to forgive you; he has risen to change us all and bind us together now. Christ has risen to forgive us.

All: Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Response Hymn

“Glory to God”

#585

Glory to God, glory to God, glo-ry in the high-est! Glory to God,
glory to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus! Glory to God, glory to God,
glo - ry to the Spir - it! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!
Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Choir Anthem "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Jeremy Bankson, 2022

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!
Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head. Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Go and Tell"

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Scots Confession (3.12)

We believe in God the Father, who created the world, was faithful when we were not, and who continuously seeks to redeem the world.

We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, who humbled himself by becoming human and moving into our neighborhood; was sent by the Father to give us life; embodied and taught the righteous love of God; and who, though he knew no sin, became sin and was put to death on a cross.

We believe that three days later, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the power of God; was seen in bodily form by his disciples.

We believe that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus gives us victory over any form of sin and brokenness and allows us to know the full love of God for the world.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who actively works in our lives, giving us grace to be like Jesus, and sends us to show God's love for the world.

***Hymn**

“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”

#235

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: Sing aloud, O mothers and sons! Fathers and daughters, sisters and brothers, rejoice and exult with all your hearts! Let us offer our prayers and thanksgivings with one voice, calling out the good news—

People: The tomb stands empty!

Leader: We look for our Savior among the living.

People: Jesus Christ is alive and in our midst today.

Leader: We pray for all faithful people—for every human soul that turns to God in longing and in love. Today and every day, pull us out of our graves and into your life.

People: The tomb stands empty!

Leader: We look for our Redeemer among the living.

People: Jesus Christ is alive and among us today.

Leader: We pray for the nations of the earth—for those in authority, and for those under authority. Come from the four winds, O Breath of Life, and we shall live together in peace.

People: The tomb stands empty!

Leader: We look for our Mediator among the living.

People: Jesus Christ is alive and within us today.

Leader: We pray for this world, our garden home—for the rain and the snow, the seed and the sprout—for the birthing room and the last place of rest—for every new creation.

People: The tomb stands empty!

Leader: We look for our Gardener among the living.

People: Jesus Christ is alive and beside us today.

Leader: We pray for those who are sick or suffering—for anyone who needs extra help just now. We pray especially for ... and for all those in special need of your care whom we name before you silently in our hearts. Living Lord, renew them in your love.

People: The tomb stands empty!

Leader: We look for our Sustainer among the living.

People: Jesus Christ is alive and with us today.

Leader: We pray for all who mourn. We pray especially for the families of ... and those we name silently in our hearts. Eternal One, bring them comfort and the peace of the sure and certain knowledge that the power of death has been defeated.

People: The tomb stands empty!

Leader: We look for our Beloved among the living.

People: Jesus Christ is alive and in the midst of us today.

Leader: With joy and exultation, we give thanks for the triumph of life over death, offering special thanks for those joys, sorrows, challenges, and delights named in our hearts today. (pause) We are amazed at what has happened.

People: The tomb stands empty!

Leader: We look for our Creator among the living.

People: Jesus Christ is alive and in our hearts today.

Leader: Holy One, even before we call, you answer; while we are yet speaking, you hear. We offer up these prayers in the name of the risen Christ—our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend, who taught us to pray:

People: 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.

Invitation to Offering

***Response** "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" (refrain)

#240

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God's People

***Closing Hymn** "The Day of Resurrection!"

#233

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response** "We Are the Church"

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!".

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***Postlude** "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Cindy Newman

Acolyte: Devin Griggs, Darren Cox

When Cindy was 6 years old, her family moved to London when her father became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. You might know him ... Rev. Gordon Johnson. Cindy has served the church in several capacities over the years ... Sunday School teacher (for 3rd grade students, unruly 4th grade boys, junior high students, and adults). She has also been a church camp advisor, youth group advisor, assistant church custodian, a member of the Presbyterian Women, Board of Deacons (clerk), and choir member. Currently, Cindy is a ruling elder.

Cindy is married to Rob, and they have 3 adult sons who all live/work in the Columbus area ... Nick, Drew, and Zach. Cindy is a registered nurse and works as an Instructional Designer in the Learning Dept. at Ohio Health.