



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

FOR WORSHIP

Easter Sunday is the principal feast of the liturgical year – the day Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion. The resurrection of Christ has been a focal point of Christian confession since the early church; Christians have understood the resurrection to be the central witness of God's radical action in human history. Jesus, God incarnate, went to the depths of the earth and overcame the power of death that we might have life eternal.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Procession of the Nobles Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov / arr. Rich Mays
Prelude and Fugue J.S. Bach / arr. Russell
Grand Choeur Theodore Dubois / arr. David Brockman
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today Robert Hobby
Janice Robison, organist, and OhioBrass

INTROIT

Introit for Easter Joel Raney
Chancel Choir with members of the Bell Choir

*This is the day of celebration, this is the day of goodness and light;
Earth and sky and all creation celebrate the wonder of Life! Alleluia, Alleluia!
Christ is risen, sing Hosanna, lift your voices to the sky!
Christ is risen, Alleluia! He is alive--He lives on high!*

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Robert E. Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Scott Malcom

L: *Early in the morning light,*
P: **the women went to Jesus' tomb.**
L: *The tomb was empty, the stone rolled away,*
P: **for God's love is stronger than death itself.**
L: *Let us join our voices with Mary Magdalene:*
P: **"We have seen the Lord!"**
L: *Easter people, Christ is risen!*
P: **Christ is risen indeed!**

*HYMN 113

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

LLANFAIR

1 "Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 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!

3 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

We are glad to have you join us for worship. If you are new to First, it is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God while you are here. At First, it is our hope that all who enter find a home.

In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

We express gratitude that through of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.

Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. We invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist Malcom

Loving God, our mourning is deep and our joy too long absent. Our wilderness journey has been long and chaotic, punctuated with fear and marked by confusion. We confess that throughout this season of Lent and Holy Week, we have doubted your promises of peace and care. We capitulated to the evil all around us, unable to imagine that you could be doing a good, new thing in the middle of suffering. Forgive us for dwelling in Holy Saturday when we should have run to the tomb to discover that Easter Sunday will not be stopped. Quell our fear, embolden our witness, show us the way to Galilee where the Risen Christ will meet us. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Martin

ANTHEM

Crown Him with Many Crowns George J. Elvey/arr. Bruce Greer
Chancel Choir with OhioBrass and Congregation

Choir:

*Crown Him with many crowns! Crown Him with many crowns!
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity!*

Choir and Congregation:

*Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake my soul and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.*

Choir:

*Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side;
Rich wounds, yet visible above in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear the sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye, at mysteries so bright.*

Choir and Congregation:

*Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high;
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
Crown Him the Lord of Heav'n, one with the Father known;
One with the Spirit through Him giv'n from yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise for Thou for us hast died,
O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified! Amen!*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Malcom

Holy God, creator of all, this is the morning on which the Lord opened our eyes to what the scriptures foretold: that first he must die and then he would rise and ascend into God's glorious presence. May the risen Lord open our minds that we may know him and follow him in his risen life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE I Corinthians 15: 1-11 (page 176 in pew Bible)
John 20: 1-18 (page 114-115 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Malcom
Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

The sermon is a reflection on the day's scriptures, suggesting implications for our faith and life.

On behalf of the congregation, the Pastor expresses the corporate prayers of the congregation. These prayers are for world, local and personal concerns.

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.

SERMON

Encountering Christ

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

***HYMN 118**

The Day of Resurrection!

LANCASHIRE

1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.

2 Let hearts be purged of evil
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful;
let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph
and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end.

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY

This Joyful Eastertide

Jane McFadden

Bell Choir

***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 DEDICATION (unison)**

Liturgist Malcom

Almighty God, by your grace accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

***HYMN 123**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

1 Jesus Christ is risen today,
Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day,
Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross,
Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss.
Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing,
Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King,
Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave,
Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save.
Alleluia!

3 But the pains which he endured,
Alleluia!
our salvation have procured.
Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King,
Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing.
Alleluia!

4 Sing we to our God above,
Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love.
Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host,
Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Galliard Battaglia. Samuel Scheidt / arr. Reynolds
OhioBrass
George Carpten, IV, trumpet
John Schlabach, trumpet
C. Scott Smith, French horn
Lucas Rego Borges, trombone
Jason Smith, tuba

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**Deacon of the Month of March - Mary Costello**

740-592-3444 - mbcostello@hotmail.com - *A friend to phone with joys or concern*  
Ushers: Mary Costello, Helen King, and Carol Perry  
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Women's Book Study - Join the Women's Book Study on Fridays, noon via Zoom for discussion on *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contact Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org for more information.

2024-25 Bratton Scholarship - The James and Martha Bratton Scholarship for 2024 application Forms are available in the Narthex. Scholarship(s) will be awarded to a student(s) currently attending or planning to attend a college or technical school. The amount may vary, but will not exceed \$2,000. See applications for details. Available in the Narthex or the office.
Application deadline - April 4th.

Weekly Worship Service can be seen live on Sunday Morning

FPC's worship services can be found on YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/athensfpc/search?query=sermon>

You can access them on the FPC YouTube channel and on the church web site under Worship Archive.

Minister: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart
CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease Administrative Assistant: Debbie Perry
Organist: Janice Robison Bell Choir Director: Anna Crum Choir Director: Dr. David Tadlock

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