



## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

#### FOR WORSHIP

*The gospel lesson on the Second Sunday of Easter each year is the story of "Doubting Thomas," Jesus's disciple who refused to believe the other disciples' account of the Resurrection without seeing it for himself. The placement of this story of incredulity, immediately following the joy of Easter, acknowledges the complexity of belief.*

#### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

##### PRELUDE

*Christ ist Erstanden*

*Variations on "Victory" (The Strife Is O'er)*

Janice Robison, organist

Gerald Near

Janet Linker

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

*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.*

##### WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin

##### CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Adrienne Nagy

*L: Rejoice! There is great news! Christ is risen!*

**P: The cross is empty, the stone has been rolled away.**

*L: Christ enters our locked spaces and calls us to forgiveness.*

**P: Jesus tells us, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven."**

*L: Christ enters our closed hearts and breathes new life into us.*

**P: Jesus tells us, "Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit."**

*L: Let us worship God!*

##### \*HYMN 122

*Thine Is the Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

1 Thine is the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.

##### Refrain:

Thine is the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.

2 Lo! Jesus meets us,  
risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth;  
death hath lost its sting. (Refrain)

3 No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without thee;  
aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above. (Refrain)

*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.*

##### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist Nagy

**You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ.**

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.

The sermon is a reflection on the day's scriptures, suggesting implications

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.

**Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF PARDON

*L: Friends, believe the good news.*

**P. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*Gloria Patri – 579**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen and Amen.*

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*L: The peace of Christ be with you.*

**P: And also with you!**

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Puppet Ministry

## ANTHEM

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Ye People!* Traditional Scottish Tune/arr. Joseph M. Martin

*Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion; the glory of heaven is shining today.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion,*

*For this is the dawning, the dawning of grace.*

*Oh rejoice with singing, rejoice with dancing;*

*With trumpets and timbrels break forth now in praise.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion; the glory of heaven is shining today.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion; make straight in the city a way for the king.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion, let all of creation rejoice now and sing!*

*Oh rejoice with singing, rejoice with shouting: Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to God!*

*For now the shadows are passing; the day has begun. Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The time for glorious music and singing has come.*

*For the power of all sin will be broken; Christ has come and banished the night!*

*For the mouth of Jehovah has spoken. Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*See how darkness surrenders to glorious Light!*

*Rejoice, rejoice ye people of Zion; the glory of heaven is shining today.*

*Rejoice, rejoice ye people of Zion, for this is the dawning, the dawning of grace.*

*Oh rejoice with singing, rejoice with dancing, rejoice with trumpets and brass;*

*Rejoice in the Lord!*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Nagy

**Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, and speak to us now through your holy word; in your name we pray. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** Revelation 1: 4-8 (page 245 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Nagy

John 20: 19-31 (page 115 in pew Bible)

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

*L. This is the Word of the Lord!*

**P: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*A doubting Disciple*

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

## \*HYMN 399

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

DUNLAP'S CREEK

**1 We walk by faith and not by sight;  
with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:  
"My peace be with you here."**

**2 We may not touch your hands and side,  
nor follow where you trod;  
but in your promise we rejoice,  
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;**

and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near  
and seek where you are found.

4 And when our life of faith is done,  
in realms of clearer light  
may we behold you as you are,  
with full and endless sight.

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

Choral Response #585: *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*

### THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*Now the Green Blade Rises*  
Janice Robison, organist

David Cherwien

### \*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 Nagy

Accept our gifts, generous God, as your grateful Easter people. May our money, our time  
and commitment, our very lives, be of service to you and with all our neighbors, through the  
empowerment and leading of our risen Lord. Amen.

### \*HYMN 108

*Christ Is Alive!*

TRURO

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

3 In every insult, rift, and war  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

4 Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Choral Response #586: *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*

### POSTLUDE

*Postlude on "Jesus Christ Is Risen" - Noel Rawsthorne*  
Janice Robison, organist

### Deacon of the Month of April - Margaret Bourke

(740) 707-4090 - mbourke1935@gmail.com - *A friend to phone with joys or concerns*

Chancel Prep: Bobbi Conliffe

Ushers: Kim Jordan and Riley Smoot

Fellowship Hour: Heidi LaJohn and girls, and Ayse Suer

#### 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](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.

**Congratulations to our Ohio University Graduates** – Anna Crum is graduating from Ohio University with a Bachelor’s degree in Music Education and plans to teach music. Riley Smoot is graduating from Ohio University’s Mathematics Masters program and will be starting her PhD in Experimental Psychology at Ohio University this fall.

**Women’s Book Study** - Join the Women’s Book Study on Fridays at noon via Zoom as we discuss *The Year of Living Biblically: One Man’s Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible* by A.J. Jacobs. For more information contact Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org

**Children’s Sunday School** - During April, our elementary children will be using the *Full to the Brim* curriculum to learn about Jesus’ ministry and the events of Holy Week and Easter. The younger children will be learning about their relationship with God. We will also be experimenting with chimes and April 27 will be a lesson on Earth Day. Please contact Barb Martin at barbamartin729@msn.com or the church office at (740) 593-3351 for more information.

**Putnam House Apartment Vacancy** - The church is looking for two tenants for the 2025-2026 school year to occupy the apartment on the second floor of Putnam House. The two bedroom, one bath apartment has a large living area, fully equipped kitchen with refrigerator, range, microwave, dishwasher, disposal, and stacked washer and dryer. The \$1300 per month rent includes water, sewer, and garbage. Tenants pay electricity, cable, and internet. It is a one year lease with a limit of two occupants. The apartment will be available July 1st. This is a prime location uptown and includes two dedicated off-street parking spots. No smoking and no pets; a security deposit is required at time of lease signing. Call the church office at (740) 593-3351 to set up a viewing.

**All Recognition Sunday, May 18th** - All high school and college graduates from the church and church volunteers from the Choir, Bell Choir, and Christian Education will be recognized in a bulletin insert on May 18th. Please let the church office know who to include by calling the church office or emailing office@athensfpc.org, deadline is May 14th.

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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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