



*\*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

#### FOR WORSHIP

*The Psalmist proclaims God's praise in the appointed Psalm for today. All creation is prompted to praise the one who called all things into being, whose name alone is exalted, and whose glory is above the heavens and the earth. John's Gospel reveals that loving one another is the way to glorify God. Jesus says that God has been glorified in him, and Jesus calls his disciples to follow him in the way of sacrificial love. Christ's calling extends to disciples of every generation who seek to glorify God: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." By loving one another, we reveal to all people that we are followers of Jesus.*

#### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

##### PRELUDE

*I Know That My Redeemer Lives  
When In Our Music God Is Glorified  
1. Prelude 2. Aria 3. Fugue*

Janice Robison, organist

George Shearing  
David Cherwien

##### WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin

##### CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Linda Parsons

*L: Sing praises, people of God, sing praises!  
P: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!  
L: God is sovereign over creation. The earth belongs to God.  
P: God is highly exalted. Sing praises!  
L: Let us worship God!*

##### \*HYMN 478

*Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

**1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet your tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.**

**2 Praise him for his grace and favor  
to his people in distress;  
praise him still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**3 Fatherlike, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely yet his mercy flows.**

**4 Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

##### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist Parsons

**Holy God, you promise us a life full of blessing, but we do not always believe. You incite us to hope, but we fall back in fear. You urge us to give freely, but we cling to what we have. You call us to watch at all times for you, but we grow lazy and self-absorbed. Forgive us. Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts, and keep us alert to the wonders you work in the world every day. For the sake of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

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

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.

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

Helen King

ANTHEM

There is a Balm in Gilead                      traditional spiritual/arr. Mark Hayes  
Lauren Battin, mezzo-soprano

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Parsons

Risen Lord Jesus, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: open our hearts now to hear your holy word; in your name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE    Psalm 148 (page 582 in pew Bible)  
Revelation 21: 1-6 (page 259 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Parsons  
Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!  
P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Home of God

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

\*HYMN 332

Live Into Hope

TRURO

1 Live into hope of captives freed,  
of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see  
the year of God's own jubilee!

2 Live into hope! The blind shall see  
with insight and with clarity,  
removing shades of pride and fear,  
a vision of our God brought near.

3 Live into hope of liberty,  
the right to speak, the right to be,  
the right to have one's daily bread,  
to hear God's word and thus be fed.

4 Live into hope of captives freed  
from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Draw Us to You  
Janice Robison, organist

Michael Burkhardt

\*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 Parsons

Loving God, we give you thanks for the ministry of reconciliation to which you call us in the name of Jesus Christ. Accept these gifts for your mission to heal all creation. May they be a testament to your love for us as we share in love for you; through Jesus Christ we pray.  
Amen.

**\*HYMN 447**

*Lead On, O King Eternal*

LANCASHIRE

1 Lead on, O King eternal!  
The day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest  
your tents shall be our home.  
Through days of preparation  
your grace has made us strong,  
and now, O King eternal,  
we lift our battle song.

2 Lead on, O King eternal,  
till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper  
the sweet amen of peace;  
for not with swords' loud clashing,  
nor roll of stirring drums;  
with deeds of love and mercy  
the heavenly kingdom comes.

3 Lead on, O King eternal:  
we follow, not with fears,  
for gladness breaks like morning  
where'er your face appears;  
your cross is lifted o'er us;  
we journey in its light.  
The crown awaits the conquest;

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*This Little Light of Mine*

John Behnke

*Dedicated to all graduates and church volunteers*

Janice Robison, organist

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

(740) 592-3444 or mbcostello@hotmail.com - *A friend to phone with joys or concerns*

Chancel Prep: Margaret Bourke

Ushers: Margaret Bourke and Ellen Sostarich

Fellowship Hour: Susan Loughridge and the Church Community Committee

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**Children's Sunday School** - During May, the preschool/kindergarten class will be hearing about the lessons that Jesus taught. The elementary class will explore how Jesus prepared the disciples to lead the church. Please contact Barb Martin at [barbaramartin729@msn.com](mailto:barbaramartin729@msn.com) or the church office at (740) 593-3351 for more information.

**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](mailto:christianed@athensfpc.org)

**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.

**MISSION TRIP 2025**  
**June 20-26**  
**Point Pleasant, West Virginia**

Come join your fellow members this summer as we volunteer our time and talents once again to the West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and workcamps. Since October 2001, WVMAW has brought 40-75 volunteer groups per year to work in West Virginia. Their work has consisted of home repair and reconstruction, deconstruction, playground restoration, parks cleanup, streambank stabilization, and vacation Bible schools, among other things. But more than just working with hammers and nails, the groups have built relationships with people in West Virginia, changing lives in the name of Jesus Christ. WVMAW is supported in part by The Presbytery of West Virginia, The Synod of the Trinity, and gifts from churches and individuals. It has a close relationship with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, particularly in times of disaster recovery.

Groups stay in the Presbyterian Church in Point Pleasant. Two Sunday school rooms are converted into dormitories with bunk beds to accommodate approximately 18 people each. There are four showers. There is a fully equipped kitchen with two stoves, a commercial refrigerator, upright freezer, and microwave, silverware, plates, cups, pots, pans, and cooking utensils. The cost for week-long mission experiences is \$300/person. Scholarships are available. Let the office know if you are interested in joining us on this Mission Trip/Workcamp.

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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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