



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021 9:00am

**“The answer must be, I think, that beauty and grace
are performed whether or not we will or sense them.
The least we can do is try to be there.” - Annie Dillard**

*Prior to the service you are invited to prepare yourself for worship.
Some people prefer to meditate or pray,
while others may speak softly with their fellow-worshippers.
As the prelude begins, we invite you to open your ears and still your voices.*

Prelude

Walk Together Children
arr. Moses Hogan

*We are called to worship,
drawing our attention forward and upward.*

Welcome

*Call to Worship

The bread of life opens our eyes.

The word of life opens our ears.

The risen one shows us God’s own brokenness,

and by those wounds we are healed.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

We focus our attention on God’s Glory and offer our praise in word and song.

*Opening Prayer

Almighty God, your power raises the dead to new life.

**We give you thanks for the love poured into our world through Christ, who opened
our hearts to what you have made, whose appearance brings peace, and who
creates faith through touch and taste. Show us Jesus, even now, through the
mystery of your presence, abiding now and forever more. Amen.**

*Hymn # 826 (You are invited to hum the melody)

Lift High the Cross

*Reflecting on God's Glory makes us aware of our common sinfulness
and need for forgiveness.*

*This honesty before God and each other opens our hearts
to receive God's forgiveness, which we celebrate with word and song.*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

God and gracious God, we are creatures of dust, ignorant of your revelation.

**We misunderstand your life, death, and resurrection among us,
and in doing so harm one another, this world, and ourselves.**

**We repent of our failure to give as you have given,
and beg your mercy for our fallen world.**

**Help us to live with the faith of Jesus,
and remain our solace in this life and the life to come.**

We ask this as your children, beloved and incomplete. Amen.

In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
our pleas for forgiveness have been heard.

God's promises are sure: our sins are forgiven.

Let us accept this invitation to live as a forgiven people,
bringing God's grace to a world in need of love.

Response

Lasst Uns Erfueen

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!**

*Forgiven and restored, we give of what God has given us in time, talents, and treasure,
and we pray together as an active part of our worship and witness.*

Ministry Updates

Prayers of the People and 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.

The Scriptures hold a central place in our worship, and so are read early and often.

*We ask God to inspire both the reading and the hearing of these words,
and listen for what God may reveal in them.*

*The music and messages are designed to help interpret the Scriptures
and help us to apply them to our daily living.*

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, by your Spirit reveal your radical, surprising love. Come to us through your holy word and let us hear and receive you. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

^{36b} Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

Children’s Message

Special music

Classical Easter
Michael Helman

Sermon Cupp

“Wounds and Witnesses”

Caroline

*Once we hear God’s Word we desire to respond in word and in deed
so we say and sing what we believe.*

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn # 238 (You are invited to hum the melody)

Thine Is the Glory

Blessing and Response

Seven-Fold Amen

Postlude

Fanfare
Jacques Lemmens

*You are invited to stand as you wish.

WHAT HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Kiana Rivera, alto; The JuBellation Ringers. Our greeters at 9 a.m. are Charlie Myhre and Barbara Lade; greeters at 10:42 are Peter and Elizabeth Guman.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sallie Yoder and David Sommers and family in the death of Sallie's grandmother; with Janice and Terry Engle and family in the death of Janice's father, and with Cole and Gina Seaman and family in the death of Cole's grandmother.

Planning our future together You are invited to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an online instrument that will help First Pres gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this survey will be valuable in helping us make decisions about the future of First Pres and help us in our search for a new senior pastor. In a few days, you will receive information about how to access and complete the survey. **Beginning April 23**, we are asking you to go online by clicking on the link provided and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. If you need a paper copy, please contact the church office or one of the First Pres Transition Team members, and we will provide one for you. All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

All surveys need to be completed by May 7, 2021.

April Anti-Racism Study – All members of the First Pres community are invited to gather on Zoom today from noon – 1 pm for our monthly anti-racism conversation. This month we will listen and learn from the YouTube video series, “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man.” The Zoom link can be found at www.firstpreswc.com/racial-justice or contact Director of Christian Education Sara Pantazes (spantazes@firstpreswc.com).

Service Project with the Melton Center - As we emerge from the Covid pandemic, the Melton Center is re-imagining its summer programs for elementary and middle school age students and is looking for some helping minds and hands. We are looking for assistance in creating a STEM-themed program (work that will be done from home this spring) as well as people willing to go to the Melton Center and assist with in-person camp this summer. If you are interested in helping or want more information, please contact Sara Pantazes.

Love Offerings for Cole Seaman and Jennifer Drap - First Pres is grateful for the service of two of our staff members who are stepping away from their current roles. In appreciation for their years of dedicated service, we have established a Love Offering for both Cole and Jen. If you would like to contribute, you may make your contribution via personal check made out to First Presbyterian Church with Love Offering - Cole, or Love Offering - Jen in the memo line. You may mail your check to the church, leave it in the church mailbox outside the church office entrance, or leave it in Jeff Somers' mail slot at the church office. You may also contribute online by clicking on “give” on the church website and selecting the options for the Love Offerings.

Young Justice Builder's Club - Elementary-aged children and their families are invited to the next session of the Young Justice Builder's Club on Sunday, May 2 from noon - 1 pm. In this program we'll be reading some stories to help us understand the difference between charity and justice, and how both are needed to make positive change in the world. We're hoping this session can meet, with safety precautions, in person outdoors, but that will be weather dependent. Contact Sara Pantazes if you are planning to attend (spantazes@firstpreswc.com).