

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 10 am

*“He was a prophet who did powerful miracles,
and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. . . .
We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel.” (Luke 24:19, 21)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

BECAUSE HE LIVES (verses 1, 3)

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.*

And then one day I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives. *[Refrain]*

*“Because He Lives” by Gloria Gaither and William J. Gaither;
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

On the road to Emmaus,
the risen Christ walked beside weary disciples,
though they did not yet recognize Him.
Today we gather with our own questions, hopes, and longings.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is You we seek.

Christ opened the Scriptures, and their hearts burned within them.
Christ broke the bread, and their eyes were opened.

Open our eyes to Your presence,
and open our hearts to Your Word.

The risen Lord still meets His people on the road—
in our worship, in our fellowship, in the breaking of bread.

With gratitude and wonder, we worship the God who walks with us.

*

HYMN #122: *THINE IS THE GLORY*

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.

*Thine is the glory,
 Risen, conquering Son;
 Endless is the victory
 Thou o'er death hast won.*

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*]

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*]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(You are invited to join in unison with the pastor, or to follow along in silence)

Merciful Lord,
 we come today to worship you—
 to sing, pray, hear your Word, and come to the Lord's Table—
 only to aware of the many ways in which we come as sinners,
 in need of a Savior.

We have hidden from the light of Your Word
 and have run from Your ways and Your commands.
 We often choose the ways of the world,
 rather than the path You set before us.
 We have neglected the teaching and hearing of Your Word.
 The slavery of sin holds us down and we cannot free ourselves.

Forgive us, and liberate us, Lord.
Renew us, lead us, guide us, and help us
to be committed to obedience to your word,
to delight in Your will,
and to walk in Your ways,
to the glory of Your holy name.

Hear now our personal and silent confessions

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

*

THERE IS A REDEEMER

There is a Redeemer, Jesus God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit, till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain. *[Refrain]*

When I stand in glory, I will see His face,
There I'll serve my King, forever,
In that holy place. *[Refrain]*

"There Is a Redeemer," by Melody Green. © 1982 Universal Music—Brentwood Benson Publishing, Birdwing Music, Ears To Hear;
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READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"We Had Hoped"*

Luke 24:25–46

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. ²⁶ Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" ²⁷ Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, ²⁹ but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. ³⁰ As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

³² They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" ³³ And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, ³⁴ who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."

³⁵ Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. ³⁶ And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was

suddenly standing there among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ³⁷ But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!

³⁸ "Why are you frightened?" he asked. "Why are your hearts filled with doubt? ³⁹ Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do." ⁴⁰ As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet.

⁴¹ Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he ate it as they watched.

⁴⁴ Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Our communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Passing the Peace: "May the peace of Christ be with you"

Communion

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

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 sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*

BEHOLD THE LAMB

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
 Slain for us, and we remember
 The promise made that all who come in faith:
 Find forgiveness at the cross.
 So we share in this Bread of Life,
 And we drink of His sacrifice,
 As a sign of our bonds of peace,
 Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ
 Torn for you: eat and remember.
 The wounds that heal the death that brings us life,
 Paid the price to make us one.
 So we share in this Bread of Life,
 And we drink of His sacrifice,
 As a sign of our bonds of love,
 Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
 Shed for you: drink and remember.
 He drained death's cup that all may enter in
 To receive the life of God.
 So we share in this Bread of Life,
 And we drink of His sacrifice,
 As a sign of our bonds of grace,
 Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise,
 To respond and to remember.
 Our call to follow in the steps of Christ,
 As His body here on earth.
 As we share in His suffering,
 We proclaim Christ will come again,
 And we'll join in the feast of heaven,
 Around the table of the King.
 Around the table of the King.

*"Behold the Lamb," by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend.
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Potluck (after the service)
Tuesday, April 14	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, April 15	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Thursday, April 16	Deacons' Meeting (2:00 pm)
Sunday, April 19	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	Saturday, April 25: Feast for All (5:00–7:00 pm) New sermon series on the Holy Spirit beginning on May 3 Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast: May 10

We have hearing assistance devices/headphones for those who could use them. You will find them in a drawer, in the table where you pick up your bulletin.

Church Financial Update (through March)

Actual Expenses to Date: \$55,874.38 ⌘ Giving to Date: \$36,595.96
Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and its mission!

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First Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen

420 N Broadway, Aberdeen, WA 98520

Pastor Chuck Guth: 847.800.7119 (cell) / chuck@aberdeenpres.org

Church Office: 360.532.1330 / office@aberdeenpres.org

Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Monday, Wednesday – Friday)

aberdeenpres.org