

Worship at First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 5, 2026 at 10 am

*"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart.
And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. (John 14:27)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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CHRIST AROSE (LOW IN THE GRAVE HE LAY)

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior;
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord.

*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose, He arose. Hallelujah, Christ arose.*

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Savior;
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord. *[Refrain]*

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Savior;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord. *[Refrain]*

PASSING THE PEACE: THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

"He is risen!" "He is risen indeed!"

**ANNOUNCEMENTS,
PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION**

CHOIR: SET FREE YOUR ALLELUIA!

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HYMN #113: CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!

Christ the Lord is risen today, *Alleluia!*
Earth and heaven in chorus say, *Alleluia!*
Raise your joys and triumphs high, *Alleluia!*
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, *Alleluia!*

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!*

Lives again our glorious King, *Alleluia!*
Where, O death, is now thy sting? *Alleluia!*
Once he died our souls to save, *Alleluia!*
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? *Alleluia!*

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!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

**Almighty God,
 in raising Jesus from the grave,
 you triumphed over sin and death.**

Yet we still walk in the ways of sin and death.

**We confess that our fears have sometimes driven us to sin:
 to silence when courage was needed,
 to control when trust was called for,
 to self-protection when sacrificial love was the way of the cross.**

**Too often, we fail to do justice,
 love kindness, and walk humbly with you.**

**We overlook the poor, ignore the oppressed,
 abuse the earth, refuse your call to be peacemakers,
 and chase after the idols of money, power, and fame.**

Forgive us, merciful God.

**Remind us that because Christ is risen,
 fear no longer has the final word over our lives or our world.**

**Renew our hearts
 so this Easter we can experience the abundant life
 promised to us by Jesus, our risen Lord.**

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

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BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Before the throne of God above,
 I have a strong and perfect plea.
 A great High Priest whose name is Love,
 Who ever lives and pleads for me.
 My name is graven on His hands,
 My name is written on His heart.
 I know that while in heav'n He stands;
 No tongue can bid me thence depart,
 No tongue can bid me thence depart.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb,
 My perfect spotless righteousness.
 The great unchangeable I Am,
 The King of glory and of grace.
 One with Himself I cannot die;

My soul is purchased with His blood.
 My life is hid with Christ on high,
 With Christ my Savior and my God,
 With Christ my Savior and my God.

I bow before the cross of Christ,
 And marvel at this love divine.
 God's perfect Son was sacrificed
 To make me righteous in God's eyes.
 This river's depths I cannot know;
 But I can glory in its flood.
 The Lord Most High has bowed down low,
 And poured on me His glorious love,
 And poured on me His glorious love.

*"Before the Throne of God Above" by Charitie Lees Bancroft and Vikki Cook.
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READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"The Resurrection and the Defeat of Fear"*

Matthew 28:1-10

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

² Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. ³ His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. ⁷ And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."

⁸ The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. ⁹ And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

John 20:19-21

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁰ As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹ Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

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.*

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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BE STILL MY SOUL

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
 bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
 leave to your God to order and provide;
 in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
 Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly friend
 through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
 to guide the future as he has the past;
 your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
 all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
 Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
 his voice who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still, my soul; when dearest friends depart
 and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
 then you will better know his love, his heart,
 who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
 Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
 from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
 when we shall be forever with the Lord,
 when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
 sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
 Be still my soul; when change and tears are past,
 all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor)
Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- Tuesday, April 7** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
- Wednesday, April 8** Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
- Sunday, April 12** Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Potluck (after the service)
- LOOKING AHEAD** Saturday, April 25: Feast for All (5:00–7:00 pm)
New sermon series on the Holy Spirit as we head to Pentecost!

Feast for All is a gift to our community. We offer a free, full sit-down meal to anyone who comes as a way of expressing our belief that God has blessed **us** so we can be a blessing to **others**. It's also a pile of fun for those who volunteer as we work together, and as we see and hear the appreciation of our neighbors. Feast for All is coming Saturday, April 25 between 5 and 7; please look over the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall to see how you can contribute.

Our deacons are here to help! The “**Helping Hands**” ministry is available for church members and attenders who run into problems—around the house, or even with transportation needs. Brian Krohn is the contact person for Helping Hands; his number is 360-580-1683.

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