



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

EASTER SUNDAY

FOR WORSHIP

Easter Sunday is the principal feast of the liturgical year – the day Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion. The resurrection of Christ has been a focal point of Christian confession since the early church; Christians have understood the resurrection to be the central witness of God's radical action in human history. Jesus, God incarnate, went to the depths of the earth and overcame the power of death that we might have life eternal.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Fanfare on "Thaxted"

Gustav Holst/arr. Kevin Hildebrand

Centone No. III

Samuel Scheidt/arr. Verne Reynolds

Easter Quodlibet

Charles W. Schramm, Jr.

Finale from Symphony No. 2, Resurrection"

Gustav Mahler/arr. Craig Garner

"Thou shall rise again, verily, rise again."

Janice Robison, organist, and OhioBrass

**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 Scott Malcom

L: Early in the morning light,

P: the women went to Jesus' tomb.

L: The tomb was empty, the stone rolled away,

P: for God's love is stronger than death itself.

L: Let us join our voices with Mary Magdalene:

P: "We have seen the Lord!"

L: Easter people, Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen indeed!

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.

*HYMN 113

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

LLANFAIR

1 "Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!

All creation, join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 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!

3 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

4 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

Liturgist Malcom

Holy God, giver of life and forgiver of sin, we come to you this Easter morning with hope:

a hope that you will always love us,

a hope that death truly has lost its sting,

a hope that you are indeed making all things new.

It is hard to see tragedy and suffering around us.

It is hard to admit the responsibility we have for much that plagues our world.

**It is hard to work for the good when the good seems so far off.
Forgive us for those times we have retreated rather than proclaimed your good news.
Forgive us for our disbelief, our cynicism, and our silence.
Give us courage to see clearly.
Give us strength to do our part.
Give us grace to forgive others and ourselves.
And give us faith to follow you.
This is our prayer, offered in Christ's holy name. Amen.**

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.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Barbara Martin

ANTHEM

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Arr. Mark Hayes

OhioBrass

Janice Robison, organist

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear; now to his temple draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration!
Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth;
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?
Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriend thee.
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him!*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Malcom

Holy God, creator of all, this is the morning on which the Lord opened our eyes to what the scriptures foretold: that first he must die and then he would rise and ascend into God's glorious presence. May the risen Lord open our minds that we may know him and follow him in his risen life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE I Corinthians 15: 19-26 (page 176 in pew Bible)
John 20: 1-18 (page 114-115 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Malcom
Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Still, I Rise

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

*HYMN 118

The Day of Resurrection!

LANCASHIRE

**1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.**

2 Let hearts be purged of evil
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful;
let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph
and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end.

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 *Salvation Is Created* Paul Tchesnokoff arr. David Gardiniere

***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 Malcom

God of great gifts: this morning we give you praise, we give you glory, we give you thanks! With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace. We joyfully present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come. Amen.

***HYMN 123**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

1 Jesus Christ is risen today,
Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day,
Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross,
Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss.
Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing,
Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King,
Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave,
Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save.
Alleluia!

3 But the pains which he endured,
Alleluia!
our salvation have procured.
Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King,
Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing.
Alleluia!

4 Sing we to our God above,
Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love.
Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host,
Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia!

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.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

Allegro Maestoso from Water Music

G. F. Handel/arr. Jack Gale

Janice Robison, organist

OhioBrass

Lucas Rego Borges, trombone

Caeley Hobanec, trumpet

Maximillian McNutt, trumpet

C. Scott Smith, horn

Jason Smith, tuba

Deacon of the Month of April - Margaret Bourke

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

Ushers: Margaret Bourke, Joyce Mullins, and Riley Smoot

Fellowship Hour: Easter Breakfast

Special thanks to OhioBrass for sharing their musical gifts with the congregation today:
Lucas Rego Borges, Caeley Hobanec, Maximillian McNutt, C. Scott Smith, and Jason Smith.

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

Game Night, April 25th - Come and play board games with friends in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. Games will be provided or bring along a favorite to share. For more information contact Richard or 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.

Ohio University Graduates Recognition Sunday, April 27th - Members or friends of the church, Bell Choir, or Choir who will be graduating from Ohio University in May, please contact the church office by Wednesday, April 23rd to be included in the recognition bulletin.

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. Please let the church office know who to include by calling the church office or emailing office@athensfpc.org, deadline is May 14th.

Minister: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin
CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease
Organist: Janice Robison
Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart
Administrative Assistant: Debbie Perry
Bell Choir Director: Anna Crum
Choir Director: Dr. David Tadlock

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