

5th Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday

May 7, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



Desert wanderer, Neal Williams

The other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

--John 20:25

First Presbyterian Church

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MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: REV. DR. SANDRA R. TICE

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN SMITH

COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST; AMY GANO, BELLS

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being livestreamed and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are welcome in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, June 4th.

Morning Worship†

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

It should not surprise that people who feel even five minutes a day of everyday awe are more curious about art, music, poetry, new scientific discoveries, philosophy, and questions about life and death. They feel more comfortable with mysteries, with that which cannot be explained.

Dacher Keltner, *Awe*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE *The Vastness of the Void* William Zeitler
Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

INTROIT

*EASTER ACCLAMATION

This is the good news—
The grave is empty, Christ is risen.

✘ Alleluia! Amen!

This is the Good News- the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

✘ Alleluia! Amen!

This is the Good News – Our doubts and our fears
are no barrier to Christ, let us worship God!

✘ Alleluia! Amen!

*HYMN 248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* HYMN TO JOY

*PRAYER of ADORATION¹

✘ Jesus Christ, you meet us, and we are in awe!
In spite of our despair,
In the midst of our tears,
you come to us and offer us peace.

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

* Stand if you are able ✘ The congregation will read.

¹ Thom M. Shuman, *Fire and Bread*

Help us this day, to hear your voice,
to see your face,
to wonder at your sudden appearance
and to recognize your love
as surely as Thomas did. Amen.

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Musical notation for Alleluia, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Chords are indicated above the notes: Em, B, Em, D, G, D, Em, B, Em, Bm, Em. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. There are activity bags and books in the narthex (entryway).

Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

ANTHEM

Hallelujah! By and By

arr. Mary McDonald

SCRIPTURE John 20:19-29

SERMON

Dr. Sandy Tice

***REFRAIN 635**

Laudate Dominum²

Jacques Berthier

✘ **Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum omnes gentes, alleluia!**

Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum omnes gentes, alleluia!

A MOMENT for MISSION

Rick Rodriguez

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our tithes and gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world, and we invite you to take part. You may bring forward your gifts and place them in the plate. You may always send gifts by mail or online.)

SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

✘ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✘ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✘ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

GREAT PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

James C. Huffstutler

✘ **Holy, holy, Lord Almighty, God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Glory in the highest.

Blessed, blessed,

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, OUR 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.

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

The WORDS of INSTITUTION

WE SHARE GOD'S GIFTS

The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten free bread and pre-packaged elements are available at the station under the pulpit.

Communion will be served by intinction at stations. As you feel ready, please come up the center aisle to a station, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it, and return to your seat by the side aisle.

As you prepare to go forward and when you have returned, please join us in our sung prayer. These refrains will be sung over and over as we make them our own prayers.

SUNG PRAYERS

527 *Eat This Bread*³

Taizé

- ✘ Eat this bread; drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread; drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst”

466 *Come and Fill Our Hearts*⁴

Taizé

- ✘ Come and fill our hearts with your peace;
You alone, O God, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace;
Alleluia.

PRAYER after COMMUNION

- ✘ Easter God, you have met us in bread and cup,
and surprised us with your joy.
Send us out into the world dancing with delight,
and with hallelujahs ringing in our hearts
to share your love, your justice, and your praise.
Amen.

*HYMN 247

Now the Green Blade Rises

NOËL NOUVELET

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

*From the Rising of the Sun*⁵

Eric H. Thiman

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name
be praised, the Lord's name be praised.

POSTLUDE

Order of Chivalry:

William Zeitler

Truth and the Knight's Lance

(For health reasons we are not greeting at the door)

³ Text: Robert J. Batastini & the Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier. ©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, agent. All rights reserved.

⁴ ©1982, 1991, 2011 Les Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, agent. All rights reserved. Both songs used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

⁵ ©1959 Theodore Presser. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

GREETERS: Robin Edwards, Bonnie Ainsworth

USHERS: Al Rueda, *Lead Usher*

Tim Usher, Marilyn Kraft, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Doris Schiavone, Judy Steppins

Elders: Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough

Deacons: Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros, Joyce Lyons

This Weeks' Birthdays

May 7 Brian Gano

Maggie Willis

May 9 Rosalind Mantei

Phil Savage III

May 10 Marissa Congdon

Susan Skoglund

May 12 Wendy Lamb

YOUTH SUNDAY is next week, and is always an inspiring and joyful time. Don't miss it!

Symphonie Jeunesse will present a concert **next Sunday, May 14 at 3:00 p.m.** in our Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy the beautiful music presented by these extraordinary young people (who rehearse right here at our church!)

Services for Danny Schiavone, will be held tomorrow, **Monday, May 8**, as follows:

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Visitation at Bobbitts

11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Adelaide (27457 Baseline St., Highland)

12:30 p.m. Graveside service at Mt. View Cemetery

More news and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

The Music Box

"What is truth?," Jesus was famously asked by Pilate. Methinks that question has occupied humanity since we first stood erect on two legs, and I certainly don't expect to answer that question in this silly little essay. But there's an aspect of that question I'd like us to consider. And that is:

When Truth smacks me in the face, what does it look like? How I would recognize it?

The standard assumption is that the truthful answer to a given question is some ONE single answer. (That's implied in Pilate's question, for example.)

Let's back up a moment and consider what "The Answer" looks like in mathematics — math being about as close to 'absolute truth about anything' in the strictly human realm as we're likely to get. (Note: there's a little math jargon ahead. Whatever you don't get, let it wash by and keep going! It's OK, we'll get to the end together regardless!)

Our grade school years are occupied with arithmetic (addition, division, percentages, like that). And some exposure to basic algebra — solving for 'x'. Which has one single answer in the back of the book. Maybe we get to 'quadratic equations', which generally have TWO solutions, but by and large we've become accustomed to the idea that math questions have ONE tidy answer — perhaps in the back of "The Math Answer Book in the Sky".

But once you get to calculus (and beyond), the simple " $x = 3$ " answer is the exception and no longer the rule. In calculus, the 'answer' is generally yet another equation — a RELATIONSHIP between variables (as opposed to some simple ' $x = 3$ '). Or the solution might be an 'infinite' set of answers (e.g. 'what are the prime numbers?')

Or, one of my favorites: what to do with algebra problems involving the square-root of -1? These arise from real-world problems. There is no real number that is the square-root of -1. But Gauss (1777-1855, considered one of the greatest mathematicians of all time) pressed ahead anyway: "suppose we imagine that there's a square-root of -1 after all — let's call it 'i' for 'imaginary'. What can we do with these 'imaginary numbers'?" And founded what is now known as 'complex number theory' — which in addition to its intrinsic mathematical beauty has all sorts of real-world applications (we couldn't great swaths of physics without it).

So there you have it. For some math problems the answer is some single quantity ($x = 3$). For others, the answer is yet another equation — a RELATIONSHIP and not a simple numerical answer. For others, the answer is an infinite set. And, for yet others, assume the impossible is possible, and that 'leap of faith' enables us to find working solutions after all.

I've barely scratched the surface of what the zoo of 'Answers' looks like in math (once you're past the basics). My essential point is that mathematical 'truth' takes far more forms than answers that look like " $x = 3$ ".

So. If 'truth' is such a zoo in the 'perfect' world of math, why would we expect anything less in our quest for Truth in the world more generally?

With this in mind, the idea of 'paradox' — Truth is sometimes 'seeming opposites' — doesn't seem so strange. And maybe Truth for some questions is a RANGE of answers — not just one single thing. And for others, we find Truth by proceeding as if the impossible is possible — an approach that has been spectacularly successful in Math — and our own lives.

(I also note that this more expansive notion of 'what is Truth' doesn't mean that "anything goes". Sure, in math there are silly questions like "for what values of X does " $X = X$ " (why, ALL of them! ANY value of X works!). But for non-trivial math questions, there are always 'wrong answers' — answer wanabees that don't work. That is, when there is Truth, there is still Untruth.)

But my favorite has to be the "Incompleteness Theorems" of Kurt Gödel (1906-1978), in which he proved that in any mathematical system, there will be valid questions with no provable answers. Even if you have all the brains and time in the world, there will still be valid questions in any math system for which there are no provable answers. He also proved that "the consistency of axioms cannot be proved within their own system." In other words, math systems will never be 'complete', and can't prove themselves consistent. (His proofs are impeccable, but truly bizarre, and opened up whole continents of mathematical investigation.)

If there are demonstrable, profound challenges with completeness and consistency even in mathematics, it gives me pause how much certainty I can expect in my own philosophical and theological musings. We must pursue them (I must, at least!) — but Gödel would suggest that humility is a really good idea in the face of the Vastness of the Void.

--William Zeitler

Thomas

I long to stand once more upon
the solid ground of fact.
I am out of my depths,
and crave normality far more than hope.
Death is visceral - blood and bone;
I saw you broken,
can't withstand a second death.
Faith becomes as frail as rumor,
disillusionment the only refuge.
Do not offer me, a drowning man,
a straw of hope.
Give me your hand, beaten and bruised,
and I will clutch it.

Lisa Debney, *Fire and Bread*.