

The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 5, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship



Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

John 20:15

First Presbyterian Church

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MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD

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 with those who rejoice, weep with 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, April 12th.

The Easter Acclamation, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!” is possibly the oldest element in the Christian liturgy, as all liturgies, originally, were Easter liturgies. The paschal candle will burn throughout the “Great Fifty Days” of Eastertide to symbolize the presence of the Risen Christ among us.

Morning Worship†

Lectors: Breanna Nord
Sara Fletcher
Rowan Fletcher

REFLECTION BEFORE the SERVICE

“When Mary finds the tomb empty, she stands weeping at the vacant grave. Jesus, mysteriously appearing as the gardener, asks her: “Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?” In the haze of grief, Mary can only see what is right before her—or in this case, what is not before her. It is only when Jesus calls her by name that the veil is lifted and she beholds the resurrected Christ. On this Easter morning, who—or what—are you looking for? Why have you come to the tomb? What kind of Jesus are you looking for? Who do we see in the living Christ? What veils need to be lifted so we can recognize God’s resurrection in all the places it occurs? In what ways will you continue to look for Jesus in the world?”

--Rev. Danielle Shroyer

GATHERING MUSIC

Please find your seats during the gathering music as we begin this service without words.

RETURN of the LIGHT

*EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

✘ He is risen indeed!

Christ is risen!

✘ He is risen indeed!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen!

✘ Christ is risen indeed!

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

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

*PROCESSION of the CROSS and BANNER

*HYMN

*Fanfare and Hymn*¹ *for Easter Morning*

Arr. Paul Sjolund

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again, our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? 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!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

WELCOME

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Friends, sometimes our relationship with God can feel a little bit like missing the thing right in front of our face. We seek after God. We swear that we're looking, and yet so often we miss when the Divine is right under our noses. So let us pray together, knowing that our seeking has its limits, but God's love does not. Let us pray:

- ✘ **God of resurrection, we confess, like a dog with a bone, we run aimlessly. We chase our tails, looking for things that provide answers to the suffering of the world, looking for comfort to our longest nights. You meet us in the darkness before dawn, but we mistake you for the gardener. Forgive us for seeking after worldly things. Forgive us for forgetting to seek you. Speak to us. Call us by name, that we might recognize you in our midst. With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.**

¹ Words by Brian Wren. © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

Family of faith, no matter how many times we lose sight of God, God never loses sight of us. We might spend our whole days seeking, but we are always found. So, hear and believe the good news of the gospel, the good news proclaimed in resurrection:

✘ **What once was lost is found. We are held in God's loving embrace: forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Alleluia! Amen.**

***HYMN 587**

Alleluia!

TIME with the YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM *Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!*² *arranged by Mark Hayes*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! sing for joy! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! sing for joy! Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown. Alleluia! Christ the Lord is Risen! Sing the resurrection song. Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! sing for joy! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! sing for joy! Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Rabbouni, Teacher, we have spent the past six weeks asking questions. We have turned over every rock. We have shined a light in every dusty corner. We have opened the blinds. We have wrestled with truth. We have sought after you. So, on this Easter morning, bring wisdom to our seeking. Move through this room until the walls echo with the sound of alleluias. Roll back the stones that might prevent us from drawing closer to you. Calm our hearts. Say our names. Awaken us to your presence in our midst. We are here. We are listening. We are seeking after you. Alleluia. Amen.

² Text: Brian Wren. Music: *Hymn to Joy* by Ludwig van Beethoven; arr. Hal H. Hopson. Text © 1986, Music ©2004 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

SCRIPTURE: John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim.

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Seeking: Rev. Brian S. Symonds
Who Are You Looking For?*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

We believe in resurrection—

- ✘ **mysterious, beyond our understanding, and yet,
like tulips after the snow: real.**

We believe in Easter morning—

- ✘ **in the promise of a God who would roll back every stone to
return to us.**

We believe in Jesus—

- ✘ **who calls us by name and asks,
“Who are you looking for?”**

So we look—

- ✘ **for justice, for mercy, for God in our midst.**

And as we look, we sing, “Alleluia!”

Amen.

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 basket. You may always send gifts by mail or online.)

BELL OFFERTORY *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* Douglas E. Wagner

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDRETH

- ✘ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Amen.**

PRAYER of THANKS

God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds, your generosity fills to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ’s behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ’s spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and 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.**

(Invitation: If you would like to join in singing the Hallelujah chorus, you can go up to the choir loft during the final hymn.)

***HYMN 246**

*Christ Is Alive!*³

TRURO

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

Hallelujah from Messiah

G. F. Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

POSTLUDE

Toccata from C.-M. Widor (1844-1937)
Organ Symphony No. 5

Our brass musicians for today are:

Trumpet: Jerry Green

Trumpet: Caitlin Curran

French Horn: Victor Torres

Trombone: James Bauchert

Tuba: Asher Gano

GREETER: Robin Edwards

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Al Rueda, Marilyn Kraft, Hospitality Ushers

SOUND ENGINEERS: Brent Nord, Dan Direen

VIDEO ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Noé Falconi, Marianna Fowles, Martha Pinckney

Elders: Jon Horstmann, Lynda Savage, Sue Alexander

Deacons: Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Amy Gano

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This Weeks' Celebrations

Apr 5 Laura Olsen Dunn

Jacob Allen

Apr 8 Mary Bolaños

Don & Earleen Dudley

Deacon Fun-Raiser! The Deacons are having another fun-raiser **Wednesday, Apr 15th at Red Robin**, 27476 Lugonia Avenue in Redlands. 20% of food sales will be donated to the Deacons. You may show the flyer (available in Fellowship Hall, or just mention it to your server to have your order counted toward our donation. You can also order take-out on that day and have it counted.

Thank you for your generous support of our food participants. Thank you for your generous donations of shelf-stable foods. A suggestion list is available at reception, and on our website. We encourage bargain shopping since all donations can be put to good use. **Currently we would especially appreciate pouches or pop-top cans of meat, fish, or fruit.**

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Music Box

There's a particular detail of the Resurrection story that has always captivated me. And that is – the resurrected Jesus still has the holes in His hands and feet.

Think about it. We've had the stupendous miracle of rising from the dead. He's got a new resurrection body that, according to the Gospel accounts, can do miraculous things like appear in locked rooms. For the tsunami of miracles that comprise the resurrection, you'd think a little detail like fixing the holes would just be a matter of course. But it wasn't!

I think there's a deeper meaning here. And that is: there are some traumatic events that mark us, that change us forever. They become part of who we are. Sure, for a while after we suffer a major trauma (physical, emotional, any kind), we've got the long work of recovery and healing. It just takes us mere mortals more than three days to recover. But in time we do. Yet, we'll never be the same, we'll never be like we were before the trauma. But we CAN emerge from those terrible trips to the Underworld wiser, more compassionate, a kinder and gentler human being.

So, it would appear that Jesus will have the holes in His hands and feet forever. The crucifixion marks Him forever, for all to see. And there is a rightness to that.

In a similar way, trauma can mark each of us – changing our soul's DNA. And we carry that mark, that new 'DNA' – forever. *-- William Zeidler*