

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 4, 2021 – 10:30 AM
515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
www.fpcports.org (757) 397-3622

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

In the name of the Risen Christ, welcome to this morning's service of worship. If you are a visitor, we are glad you're with us and hope you will return. May God's Holy Spirit fill our worship with joy, our hearts with forgiveness, and our lives with hope.

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day that the stone is rolled away

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God has swallowed up death

And brushed our tears.

This is the day of salvation.

The Lord of Light has come.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Amen.

Prelude

"Gymnopedie No. 1" Eric Satie, arr. M. Broadhurst
Michael Broadhurst and Amanda McCormick, Flute

Litany of Confession

O Jesus, our Redeemer, in the waters of baptism we receive new life,

We are born anew into the gift of life eternal.

We thank You that our fears and sorrows are no barrier to Your love.

Whenever we have retreated behind closed doors,

You have sought us out to comfort and strengthen us.

Though we have not felt the breath of your presence like the disciples,

We have felt your closeness to us.

We thank You for calling us to share Your work of love and justice,

And for the sense of communion we find in your church.

Draw us near to those who live in fear,

Refresh those who are dispirited,

Restore the lonely to the joy of fellowship,

Forgive us for living as though Jesus Christ has not risen from the dead.

By your Spirit send us to share in Christ's ministry of reconciliation and new life. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Friends, hear and believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Doxology (Hymn 232 v 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!

First Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed onto you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Second Lesson

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices that they might go and anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid,

Sermon

"More Terror than Amazement"

Special Music

"This Joyful Eastertide"

Grotenhuis, arr. Ellingoe

The Sacrament of the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also, with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...Therefore, with apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, we lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

...Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

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.

Institution of the Bread and the Wine

Benediction

Postlude

"March"
John Hackworth, Trumpet

G.F. Handel

Church Staff

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor
Billy Ricketts – Pastor for Admin and Mission Outreach
Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

In the name of Jesus Christ, welcome to this morning's service of worship. Thank you for helping us maintain social distancing and a clean worship environment. Until the Corona Virus is no longer a health threat, we are participating in a more limited liturgy. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plate on the piano by the front Exit door. True worship is a gift of the Holy Spirit. God's healing, forgiving power flows freely to those here and those online. Our prayer is the grace we experience and learn will be shared with our wider community.

Week of April 4 - Prayers of the People

All members and friends who are staying at home until the corona virus is contained.

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| ❖ Sonja Powell | ❖ Frances Hasty |
| ❖ Paul Butler | ❖ Agnes McFadden |
| ❖ Kathy Goolsby | ❖ Kerry Westerwick |
| ❖ Lane Pittman | ❖ Charles Bartlett |
| ❖ A.T. and Nancy Mayo | ❖ Bobbi Stegall and family |
| ❖ Rose Layman (Mother of Deb
Hardie, Mom to Sylvia Cox) | ❖ Robert and Carol Pomeroy
(Diane Griffin's parents) |

April Birthdays

06 Donald Hal
11 Norma Halterman
14 Lane Pittman
17 Estelle England
18 A.T. Mayo
19 Sofia Caliccio
19 Jerry Freeman
21 Benjamin Kenrick
24 Bill Westbrook
25 Raymond Rodrigues
29 Alice Butler