



Easter

March 31, 2024
10:00 AM

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
Rev. Kathryn Morgan, Pastor
Megan Prescott-Ezickson
Nanci Petroski, Liturgist

Welcome!

We hope you experience the grace of God
while you worship with us.

Thank you to those serving today.

Counters: Kathy Wike, Ted Hidell

Liturgist: Nanci Petroski

Ushers: Nancy & Dave Hartrum, Jim Orlando

Helpful Worship Information

Children's activity bags for use during worship are in the tie-dye bags next to the table in the Narthex. Please *clean out and return bags* after the service.

Child care for infants and young children under age 6 is provided during the service in our nursery. The nursery is located on the Main Floor, in the Rabbit Hill classroom next to the Lounge, beginning at 9:45 to 11:15AM.

Blue Prayer Request Cards are available in the pew racks and on the table in the Narthex. If you would like to request prayers, please fill one out and the ushers will collect them during our first hymn.

Please keep these members and friends in your prayers:

Anne Branton, Dana Catania, Felicia Clapper, Jim Harrington,
Gussie Logue, Lisa Neff, Rose Marie Sharkey, Mary Smith,
Nora Smith.



First Presbyterian Church
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Pastor Kate/pastorkatefpc@gmail.com, 856-889-6172

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org used, adapted and live-streamed with permission.

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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

GREETING

One: Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is Risen Indeed!

* HYMN 232 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today!*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Yesterday we thought death had won. Yesterday we thought all was lost. Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

All: But not today. Today we know that love has won. Today we know that hope is real. Today we know that Christ is here.

One: We have a reason to hope.

All: We have a reason to sing!

One: Alleluia!

All: Alleluia!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come Christians Join to Sing
Chancel Choir & WOW Children

CHILDREN'S TIME

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Yes He Can, Cain

Praise Band

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the Gospel of Luke, the women come to the tomb, and to their surprise, instead of finding Jesus, they find angels. The angels tell the women, "Jesus is not here," and when that answer is met with confusion, the angels say, "Remember what he told you." *Remember*. It's one of the words Jesus used at his

* *Please stand if you are able.*

last supper, and it's one of the first words we hear at the empty tomb. *Remember.*

I think this call to remember is why we need the prayer of confession and these words of forgiveness every single week. It's not enough to hear of God's grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week. We need to be reminded that God's grace and mercy will never run out.

So friends, let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb. Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can remember. Join me in our responsive prayer.

One: The stone is rolled away!

All: We assume it is a mistake.

One: The angels say, "He is not here!"

All: We assume their news is false.

One: The women tell the story,

All: but we do not want to hear it.

One: Peter runs to the tomb,

All: but we do not understand.

One: Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb is nothing more than a prank.

All: Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death.

One: Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world.

All: Raise us up, lift up our eyes, so that we might look up and see the tenacity of life in the midst of death.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The angels tell the women, "*Remember* what Jesus told you." So, beloved ones of God, remember this: You are seen. You are forgiven. You are held in God's grace. All of this is true. Grace and mercy abound for you.

Remember this. In the name of Christ, new life is come!

All: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*** GLORIA PATRI 582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me!*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INVITATION TO GRATITUDE

Our living God has given us so much in Jesus Christ: hope, joy, and peace.

** Please stand if you are able.*

Above all else, the Risen Christ and life! What can we give in return? If the whole world were ours, it would not be enough. What little we have we humbly offer to you. Let us give to God our tithes and offerings of gratitude.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*, Geschke Handbell Ensemble

*** DOXOLOGY 606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Spirit of Resurrection, we ask you to raise up these gifts in ways that we could not imagine. Lift up our heads and our hearts as Easter people who choose to believe that there is something we can do for the good of this world. So be it! Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter might feel within reach. Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable. And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 25: 6-9 (NRSV)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 24:1-12

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing fragrant spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do

** Please stand if you are able.*

you look for the living among the dead? He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you in Galilee, that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words. When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

MEDITATION

Rev. Kathryn Morgan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

We may weep through the longest nights.

We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.

We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.

But today, we are a people of hope.

We believe in new beginnings.

We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.

We believe that Jesus abides among us, healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.

We believe that a tomb could not hold him.

We believe that the sun does rise.

**We believe that Peter was there
with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.**

We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us.

Today we are a people of hope.

*** HYMN 251 *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia***

Anyone who would like to join in the Hallelujah chorus may come up to the chancel during the last verse.

*** HALLELUJAH CHORUS**

*** BENEDICTION**

** Please stand if you are able.*



Easter Flowers



<i>Name</i>	<i>In Memory Of</i>
DeRose, Donna & Jim	Jim, Shirley, Terry Kaley
Doyle, Jim & Kathy	Loved ones and family members
Fleming, Lauren	Thelma (Mom-mom) & Bob (Bubs) Fleming
Greene, Anna & Martin	Matthew W. Greene
Guttschall, Carole	Bill Guttschall
Hartzell, Lynne & Dick	Lynne Romesburg
Hendrzak Family, The	Anne Moyer
Kara	
Lynam Family, The	Loved ones
McCabe, Ann & Kiehl Family	Ed McCabe
McNulty, Dave & Darla	Loves ones
Morgan, Kate, & Dave Wible	Warren & Jeannette Morgan, David & Francis Wible
Orlando, Jim & Denise	Parents
Richards Family, The	Loved ones
Simons, Bob & Eileen	Their son Bob & their parents
Speers, Jack	Barbara Speers

Announcements

Mission of the Month

During Lent, we are joining Presbyterians around worldwide in this special offering toward One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) as the March Mission of the Month. Our gifts support the work of three programs within OGHS: The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People. These three programs in turn support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development, all of which help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

OGHS programs and their partners in ministry connects us with people coming together to respond to the needs in their neighborhoods. It is the largest way Presbyterians connect with one another and unite with congregations and with partners all over the world. When you give to OGHS, you give in faith, knowing that staff in the three programs will respond in Christ's name to the cries of our sisters and brothers throughout the next year. Feeding the hungry, helping people build up their own livelihoods, responding to disasters – These are all ways that your gifts support OGHS ministries.

Vacation Bible School ~ Save the Date!

Please join us for a fun-filled four days in the summer! Our VBS is for children four-years-old to going into 5th grade and will happen June 24-27, from 9:15-11:45 AM. The cost is \$10 per child or \$20 per family (in cash or check). We hope you can join us! Use this link <https://forms.gle/kg35cwSmCRa1Ln6X9> also found in Thursday's Weekly Newsletter email to sign up! We also need volunteers to help out. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kristen Manderachi, kmmaze@hotmail.com, or Anna Greene, annadgreene@gmail.com.

100 Year Anniversary Committee

Do you have any photos, news articles, and/or anything relating to our church from the past 25 years or so? If you have anything you can share, please contact Anna Greene (annadgreene@gmail.com), or just drop it off to the church office.

Help Needed: Anyone with artistic design or scrapbooking experience to aid in the production of the final 3 church history frames for Fellowship Hall. Please contact Jeanne Richards (610-308-7437), or Donna DeRose (610-213-6117). Thank you!

Indoor Yard Sale April 13th

First Presbyterian Church will be having an indoor yard sale April 13th from 8am to 1pm in Fellowship Hall. You may donate items to sell and the proceeds will go toward our Youth Fellowship program. You also may reserve your own table. Please reserve your table soon!

Contact Anna Greene, annadgreene@gmail.com, 610-764-5177.

Women's Circle Fellowship Luncheon

The next Women's Fellowship Luncheon is this coming Tuesday, April 2 at 12:15PM in Lambert Hall. All women are welcome. Bring your lunch and a friend! Please contact Jeanne Richards for more information.
jrhop11@yahoo.com, 610-308-7437.

Schedule

Today, Sunday, March 31

Happy Easter!

10AM Worship

Monday, April 1

7-8:30PM Boy Scouts ~ FH

7-9PM Boy Scouts ~ LH

Tuesday, April 2

10AM Knitters~ LO

12:15PM Women's Fellowship Luncheon ~ LH

6:30PM Girl Scouts Troop 5140 ~ FH

Wednesday, April 3

6PM Girl Scouts/Cory Cehlar ~ FH

Thursday, April 4

6:30 Handbell Rehearsal

7PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting ~ LH

7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 5

6:30PM Al-Anon ~ LH