



100 Years
1924-2024

5th Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024
10:00 AM

Rev. Kathryn Morgan, Pastor
Megan Prescott-Ezickson, Director of Music Ministry
Cory Cehlar, Liturgist

Welcome!

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

Thank you to those serving today.

Counters: Kathy Wike, Dave Hartrum

Liturgist: Cory Cehlar

Ushers: Bob & Eileen Simons, Guy Richards

WOW Jr. Aide: tbd

WOW Aide: tbd

WOW Teacher: Bonnie McAnally

WOW Jr. Teacher: Kayla Murphy

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, Agan Family, Dana Catania, Felicia Clapper, Jim Harrington, Gussie Logue, Lisa Neff, Aletha Sciubba, Rose Marie Sharkey, Mary Smith, Nora Smith

Chancel Flowers



Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Jean and Jim McCullough, in loving memory of their parents.

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

You Are Good, Houghton

Praise Band

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

All: Open us to learn new steps of faithfulness.

One: Give us courage and patience.

All: Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you – so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.

* HYMN 65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are a resurrection people, yet we often turn from the new life you offer. Let us turn to God in prayer confessing the truth of our lives. God's grace reaches out to us. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord we come to you asking forgiveness. At times we have been harsh judges over the lives of others, quick to place blame, been slow to listen and even slower to forgive. We have insulated ourselves from those around us, their pain, their needs, their loneliness and suffering. Lord, please show us your mercy. Help us to take up the new life you offer in Jesus Christ. In silence, let us lift up our prayers of confession...

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear this good news! God has loved you from the very beginning. The invitation of Christ is never-ending because resurrection can happen at any moment. The Holy Spirit is transforming you even now! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen!

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: As a people forgiven and freed, we reach out to lift others up, offering the peace of Christ. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ. But first let us all turn and give a sign of graceful greeting to those joining us online.

INVITATION TO GRATITUDE

How have the stories of the people in our lives and through the generations guided our steps into dances of praise at the good news that we are loved and blessed? What transformation is possible as we abide with God and “find our groove” of praise with the congregation? Let us pool our resources and order our steps to bring life and wholeness to the larger community through our offerings this day.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Ever-present God, with this offering we also offer ourselves as living witnesses of your light and life in the world. Guide our steps as you have guided generations past as we use these gifts to share your love with this community and the world. In the name of the one who breathes your Spirit into us, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of new life, allow this story to spark something new in us. Allow this story to give us pause, to pull us in, to hear the beat of your heart. We are listening. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 4:7-21 (*NRSV, adapted*)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No

one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Eagle's Wings, Morgan

Praise Band

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8 (*NRSV, adapted*)

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON

Rev. Kathryn Morgan

* **HYMN 286** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

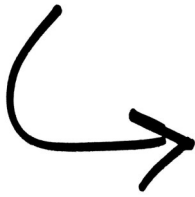
* **HYMN 744** *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

* **BENEDICTION**

* *Please stand if you are able.*

Announcements

Next
Sunday!



Please make and bring shortbread to share! Beverages will be provided. We'd LOVE it if lots of you will bring some.

WOW

Teachers and aides are needed for the month of May. Please use the links found in our Thursday Weekly Newsletter email to sign up!

Mission of the Month

April's mission of the month is our own Youth Group's mission trip to Blue Theology in Coastal North Carolina. Blue theology is a place where current science in marine biology meets a theology of creation justice. Each Summer, they host youth groups to engage in experiential learning, service projects, and contemplative practice with God's marine creation. This is a very exciting opportunity for our youth to further develop their faith in relationship to God and God's creation. They can't wait to go in mid July. However, we can't go without your continued support. This year, the cost is \$450 per person. We're hoping to raise as much as we can and encourage our congregation to partially or fully sponsor a youth. You can learn more about where we are going and what we will learn here at bluetheology.com.

Schedule

Today, Sunday, April 28

10AM Worship
1PM Phila Freedom Chorus Rehearsal ~ FH
12-5:30PM Cub Scouts ~ LH
6:30PM Tower Youth

Monday, April 29

7-8:30PM Boy Scouts ~ FH
7-9PM Boy Scouts ~ LH

Tuesday, April 30

10AM Knitters~ LO

Wednesday, May 1

6PM Girl Scouts/Cory Cehlar ~ FH
7PM Christian Ed Meeting ~ Library

Thursday, May 2

6:30PM Handbell Rehearsal
7PM Boy Scouts/Camp Committee Mtg ~ LH
7:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 3

6:30PM Al-Anon ~ LH

First Presbyterian Church
356 Summit Road
Springfield, PA 19064-1499
Church Office (610) 543-5110 ~ fpcspringfield.org
Pastor Kate/pastorkatefpc@gmail.com, 856-889-6172