



He Qi, The Doubt of St. Thomas

FIRST   
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Second Sunday  
of Easter  
Sunday, April 16, 2023  
10:30 A.M.

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

The bonds of death could not hold Jesus.

**We hid in fear, but now we are dancing for joy.**

Jesus is not in the tomb. Jesus is here with us.

**We were silent in fear, but now we are shouting, "Christ is risen!"**

Let us worship the God of abundant life.

**Alleluia!**

### \*OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### \*HYMN 238

*Thine is the Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

### TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Stephanie Dube

May God be with you in worship here.

**May God be with you in worship there.**

*Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

*Joel 2:12-13*

God shows us the path of life, offering companionship along the way. Therefore we trust in God, knowing that we can admit the ways we struggle to stay on that path. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Embodied God, you pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, filling us with the grace and patience that you have shown to us time and again. We experience your presence, but are quick to judge those who do not believe as we do. We look down on those who ask for proof, we scorn those who scoff at our faith. Forgive us and soften our hearts. Remind us of our own human doubts, that we might have compassion for all and freely share your grace.**

*Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer.*

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 463)

FOUNDATION

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said, To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."*

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:14a, 22-32      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

John 20:19-31      The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

### SERMON

“Believing Thomas”

Rev. Matt Curry

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARIST

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

Fedak

\*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*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. Hosanna in the highest!*

### THE 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.**

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. You may take communion by taking a small piece of bread and dipping it in the cup.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Here at this table we celebrate resurrection as you feed us with bread and cup. And as much as we might prefer to stay here in this protected place, you send us back to our work—only it is no longer the same work because we know you are with us and in us, shaping and transforming us to be your witnesses in the world. Nourished in body, mind, and spirit, may all that we say and do give you glory. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

\*HYMN 817

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

DUNLAP'S CREEK

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

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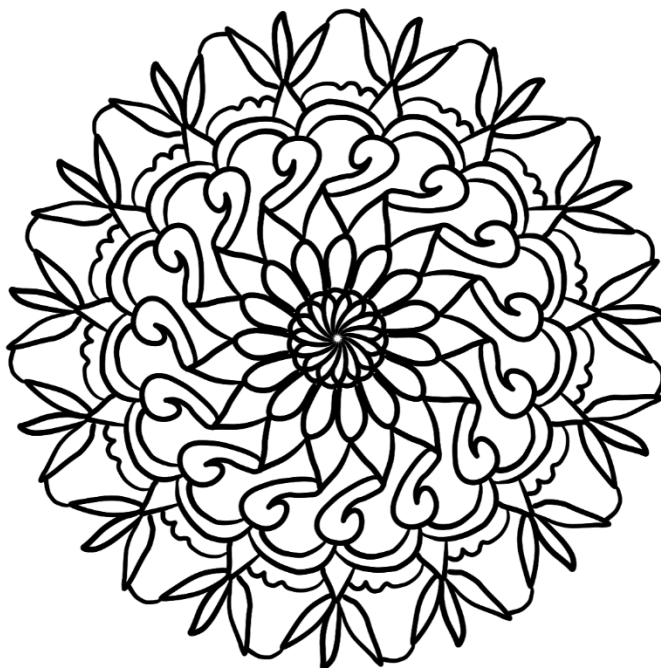
*\*Rise in body or spirit*

### LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Suzanne Guyer*

Communion Servers: *Debbie McCoy & Pat Corkran*



# The Life of the Church

**Extended Table** is our monthly opportunity to eat together after worship. We hope you will join us today for a family-friendly option: Fazoli's, 5060 Frederica St.

**Let's go fly a kite!** On Sunday, April 30 at 4:00pm we will have a churchwide dinner and kite decorating party in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided. A \$5 donation is recommended. Then on Sunday, May 21, in anticipation of Pentecost, we will have a potluck after church at Panther Creek Park where we will fly our kites.

**A New Tuesday Night Bible Study** is launching April 25 at 6:00pm. This group will be geared toward adults who are on the younger side of our congregation (we will let you define this for yourself), however anyone who wants to deepen their knowledge of scripture is welcome. Jeff Moles will be leading this group for the first six weeks and then group members will determine how to move forward from there.

**Care packages for our young adults** are going to be sent this spring to help them through exams, seasons of transition, or simply to let them know we are thinking of them. We are accepting donations of gift cards for coffee or restaurants, candy and snacks. There is also a station set up in the hallway for you to write notes of encouragement to each of them. If you know a young person (post-high school to early 20s) who could use a token of kindness, let Patrick Wallace or Jeff Moles know so we can add them to the list. We will be collecting items through April 23.

**FPC Educational Scholarship** application deadline is today. Undergraduate students active in the life of our church are eligible to apply. The link to application materials is available in Presbynotes. All applications must be received by the end of the day.

**Hearing Assistance Devices** are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive  
community of faith called to proclaim  
the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people,  
and to join God in the building of a  
just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



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Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor  
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission  
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries  
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music  
Tyler Simpson, Organist  
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant  
Gabriel Lovelace, Staff Accountant  
Dylan Schroader, Custodian  
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider