

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024
10:30 A.M.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to God, our holy shepherd, as we come to a green meadow.

God prepares a place for us, and we give glory in God's presence.

How excellent is this dwelling place under the eyes of God's care.

We turn to God in joy. Our good shepherd provides for all our needs.

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent Jesus, our good shepherd, to gather us together. May we not wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads us, listening for his voice and staying near him, until we are safely in your fold, to live with you forever; through the Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 610

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

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

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you have called us to love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. You have laid down your life for us and commanded us to lay down our lives for one another. Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers when the world needs our hands and our feet. Still, O Lord, we fail to share our lives with the world, hiding behind a myth of independence. Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness, raise us to new life in you.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Acts 2:17, 21

We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

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 187)

BRADBURY

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.**

Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior; with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23 (OT p.501) A song of God's covenant people. **Amen.**

John 10:11-18 (NT p.103) The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from a Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

The Lord is My Shepherd

Thomas Matthews

*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:

Sung by all:

**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 prayer continues.*

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. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Prepackaged gluten-free elements are available in the baskets near the communion stations. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *adapted from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, Northern Ireland*

Holy God, we give thanks for the faith, hope, and love of this family of faith.

Renew our church so that we may be a place of grace for all,

a place of growth for the young,

a place of refreshment for the old,

a place of renewal for families,

a place of healing for the broken,

a place of joy for the sorrowful,

a place of forgiveness for the sinner,

a place of strength for the virtuous,

and a place of welcome for those who have been away.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,

in union with the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 802

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matthew Covington* | Liturgist: *Jerry Price*

Communion Servers: *Susan & Tom Furlong* | Worship & Wonder: *Susan Godthaab*

We welcome **Rev. Matthew Covington** back to our pulpit today. Matthew recently retired after 21 years of serving as pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky. He has served the Presbytery of Western Kentucky in numerous ways, as Moderator of the Presbytery, as Moderator of the Commission on Ministry, as a Commissioner to General Assembly, and as Chair of the task force to rewrite the Presbytery's Manual of Operations. Matthew and his wife Ann met as students at Davidson College. They have two daughters, and three grandchildren.

The Life of the Church

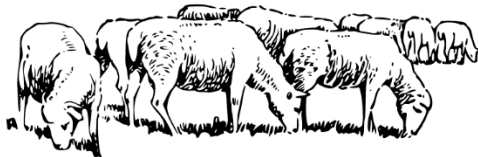
A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship today for the purpose of concurring with the Session's recommendation that the pastoral relationship with Rev. Matt Curry be dissolved. All members of the church should plan to stay and participate. The meeting will be moderated by Rev. Steve Fortenberry, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Princeton, KY.

A Used Book Fair is planned for Saturday, May 4, 9 A.M.-4 P.M. All funds raised will benefit our partners at the Boulware Mission. We are collecting donations of used books on a table in the main hallway.

FPC101: We Are The Church Together is a class for people who are interested in learning more about what our church is all about. This might mean people who have visited a few times or people who have been members for many years! This class, led by Jeff Moles, will meet on Sunday evenings at 4:00 P.M, April 14-May 5. Remaining topics are:

- April 21: Education & Discipleship (held in the Men's Bible Class room)
- April 28: Discernment & Order (held in the Gardenside Parlor)
- May 5: Fellowship & Mission (held in Fellowship Hall)

We will be happy to provide childcare upon request. Please contact Jeff (jeff@fpcobky.com) at least a week in advance to arrange this.



Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff — they comfort me.



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.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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FPCOwensboro



fpcobky

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Matt Curry
Pastor

Jeff Moles
Director of Christian
Education & Mission;
Organist

Stephanie Dube
Director of Children's &
Youth Ministries

Dennis Jewett
Director of Music

Sasha O'Bryan
Office Manager &
Pastoral Assistant

Dylan Schroader
Custodian

Mary Alice Carrico
Staff Accountant