



Maximo Cerezo Barredo, Emmaus

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Third Sunday
of Easter
Sunday, April 23, 2023
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHORAL INTROIT

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We hear the voice of Jesus:

Our hearts burn within us.

We lift our voices to God

And call on the name of the Lord!

The risen Christ is here in this place:

Alleluia!

*OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection, may, through the renewing power of your Spirit, arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

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

1 Pet. 1:17

God judges all people impartially according to their deeds. Trusting in God's love in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, our world is filled with corruption: power disguises itself as truth; convenience masquerades as goodness; selfish pleasure imitates love. We confess to you, O God, that we have been caught in the web of the world's sin. By the power of the Holy Spirit, save us from these deceptions and free us for glad obedience, that we may see the joy of Jesus' resurrection and receive the promise of everlasting life. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Pet. 1:21, 23

Beloved, hear this good news: through Christ you have come to trust in God, who raised Christ from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. **We are born anew, through the living and enduring word of God. Alleluia! Praise to the risen Christ!**

*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

*Glorify 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 353)

SOLID ROCK

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and set their hearts ablaze. By the power of your Spirit kindle our hearts as we hear your word proclaimed, that we may receive you with joy. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

Ani Ma'amin
Ava Wiggins, Cello

Clurman/Nowlin

I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah. Even if he be delayed.

12th-century Hebrew text set to a tune attributed to Azriel David Fastag, a Hasidic Jew, who composed it aboard a train car headed toward the Treblinka concentration camp

Luke 24:13-35 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“Laughing Jesus”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Declaration of Faith

We believe that at the Lord's supper the community of believers is renewed by the memory of Christ's life and death, by his real presence in the power of the Holy Spirit, and by the promise of his coming again. Christ makes himself known to us in the breaking of bread. He offers us his body broken for our sake and his blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We accept his promises and gifts and depend on his life to sustain ours. In turn we offer ourselves in thanksgiving to the risen Lord who has conquered death. So we celebrate his victory here and now and anticipate the joyous feast in his coming kingdom. Reunited around one loaf and cup, we receive strength and courage to continue our pilgrimage with God in the world.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Goin' Home

Antonin Dvorak

*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

Living Christ, as you open the scriptures to us you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Let us now go forth from this place, fed at your table and filled by the Spirit, to walk with you all the days of our lives, and proclaim the glory of your resurrection to all the world. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 738

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

MARYTON

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Anna Robinson*

Communion Servers: *Ashley Hicks & CeCe Robinson*



We are pleased to welcome the Owensboro High School Choir today.
They are directed by our own Jenifer Wiggins.

The Life of the Church

Mission Committee meets today following worship in the Gardenside Parlor.

Confirmation will meet at 4:00 this afternoon. **Youth Group** will not meet this week.

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.

The Kentucky Wesleyan Singers, under the direction of Dennis Jewett, will present a concert of music that will be part of their upcoming tour of Scotland and Ireland this evening at 5:00pm at St. Stephen Cathedral.

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.

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



Jesus Christ Liberator, Willis Wheatley



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