



FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING AND SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship the risen Christ.

Praise to Christ, the good shepherd!

Alleluia, praise to Christ, the gate!

Alleluia, praise to Christ, the lamb!

Alleluia, praise to Christ, our savior!

Christ is risen still! Alleluia!

*OPENING PRAYER

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 Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 801

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

CRIMOND

BAPTISM OF ALEXIS JADE FOWLER

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Alexis by word and deed, with love and prayer? **We do.**

Will you encourage her to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of his church? **We will.**

QUESTIONS TO THE CHILDREN

Will you be a friend to Alexis? **We will.**

If she gets lost, will you show her the way? **We will.**

Will you share with her the stories of God's love? **We will.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: HYMN 188 *Jesus Loves Me!*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Christ is the good shepherd, who leads us to safety and peace no matter what we have done. Christ's voice calls us to repent and return; let us heed that voice and go to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Acts 2:42-47

God of community, you call us to a world radically different from what we are used to. You ask us to lay aside our ideas of "mine" and "yours." You show us a life where goods are shared, where all are loved, and faithfulness is shown through generosity. But we cling to our possessions, trusting them more than we trust you. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us to truly believe in your just and peaceful realm and to work to make it so.

Silence is kept.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Peter 2:24-25

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.

For we were going astray like sheep, but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Thanks be to God!

*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 39)

FAITHFULNESS

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us to be devoted to the teachings of your Word, that through it we may hear your voice and follow it into eternal life. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:42-47

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

John 10:1-10

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“The Shepherd and the Gate”

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

Stay With Us

Egil Hovland

*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 and 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 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Jerry Price*

Communion Servers: *Debbie Hutchinson & Glenda Price*

The Life of the Church

Let's go fly a kite! Today 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. Please join us for fun and fellowship!

A New Tuesday Night Bible Study is meeting each Tuesday evening at 6:00. This group is 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.

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



As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus.

GALATIANS 3:27-28



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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Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Gabriel Lovelace, Staff Accountant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider