

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 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

Ps. 1:1-3

Happy are those who do not ridicule and scoff
But who delight in God's teachings and meditate on them day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water.

They yield fruit in due season, and their leaves do not wither.

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, your Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples and sent them into the world to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. By your Holy Spirit, hold the church in unity, and keep it faithful to your Word, so that, breaking bread together, we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

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

Ps. 1:6

The Lord watches over our ways. Let us put our trust in God's grace and confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Christ who prayed for us, died for us, and lives for us, you taught us that we belong to you, and your word is our truth. Forgive us, O Lord, when we live as if we belonged only to ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord, when we foolishly think that power is the ultimate truth. Speak your words of peace to us this day, and make our lives a testimony to your grace. For you are the source of life itself, and only in you can we truly live.

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

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! **Thanks be to God.**

*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 465)

CONVERSE

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!**

**Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, may the reading of your Word sanctify us in the truth and bring us to perfect joy. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalms 1 (OT p.489) A song of God's covenant people. **Amen.**

John 17:6-19 (NT p.111) The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from a Declaration of Faith

In the death of Jesus Christ God's way in the world seemed finally defeated. But death was no match for God. The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death. Death often seems to prove that life is not worth living, that our best efforts and deepest affections go for nothing. We do not yet see the end of death. But Christ has been raised from the dead, transformed and yet the same person. In his resurrection is the promise of ours. We are convinced that the life God wills for each of us is stronger than the death that destroys us. The glory of that life exceeds our imagination but we know we shall be with Christ. So we treat death as a broken power. Its ultimate defeat is certain. In the face of death we grieve. Yet in hope we celebrate life. No life ends so tragically that its meaning and value are destroyed. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING *Write Your Blessed Name on My Heart*

K. Lee Scott

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain indelibly engraved
that no prosperity, no adversity shall ever move me from your love.
Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, and a faithful guide
to the courts of Heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life. (Thomas à Kempis)

*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. Usbers 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

God Most High, we have lifted our hearts to you in this joyful meal with our risen Lord. Continue to sustain us with your power and draw us into your presence so that we may feast with you in glory at the wedding of heaven and earth; through Christ, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 457

How Happy Are the Saints of God

WAREHAM

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist: *Patti Price*

Communion Servers: *Marilyn Ericksen & Tamara Warren*

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.

The Life of the Church

A Presbytery Mission Trip to Buckhorn, KY, is scheduled for July 15-19. Participants will help lead “Camp Noah,” an event for young people who have survived disasters. Buckhorn Children’s Home will host the event. This trip is being subsidized by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We welcome Stacey Menser of Central Presbyterian in Princeton, who will give a minute for mission about this opportunity today.



Pentecost is next Sunday, May 19. Falling on the fiftieth day of the season of Easter, Pentecost represents the culmination of the church’s seven-week celebration of Christ’s resurrection. On the Day of Pentecost, we give particular thanks for the gift of God’s Holy Spirit, who gathers the church as the body of Christ and sends us to share in Christ’s mission throughout the world.

We will celebrate Pentecost on May 19 with a few special opportunities:

- **High School and College Graduates** will be recognized during worship.
- **The Pentecost Offering** will be received. This offering supports ministry with children, youth, and young adults. 40% will stay with our congregation to help our FPC youth participate in conferences such as next year’s Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
- **A Potluck Church Picnic** will be held at Yellow Creek Park at 2:00 P.M. Please bring a dish to share. We will be celebrating our graduates as well as enjoying some kite making and flying to remember the rushing wind of Pentecost.

Financial Update Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

Year (through April)

Income: \$159,372.71

Expense: \$180,135.71

Balance: -\$20,763.00

Week Ending May 10

Income: \$12,881.67

Expense: \$19,150.66

Balance: -\$6,268.99



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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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SESSION

Debbie McCoy, Clerk
Pat Corkran
Tom Furlong
Creda Heffelfinger
Debbie Hutchinson
Don Preuss
Jerry Price
Patti Price
CeCe Robinson
Brad Smith
Mary Lou Taylor

DEACONS

Susan Furlong
Judy Hughes
Janice Odom
Beverly Swanson
Karen Taylor
Patti Burns Taylor

STAFF

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