



Mural, Livingstonia, Malawi

FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Seventh Sunday
of Easter
Sunday, May 21, 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.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We may not know the time or the place,
but we know that God is restoring the world.

We may not see the risen Christ before us,
but we know his Spirit rests on us.

We may not know what God is doing next,
but we come together in faith, eager to discover it!

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*OPENING PRAYER

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 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Jeff Moles

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

Scripture tells us that our sufferings are known to Christ, that we can cast all our anxiety on Jesus, who restores, supports, strengthens and establishes us. Knowing this, let us come to God in a spirit of openness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ our Savior, as you ascended, you left the work to us. You called us to keep the movement going, to witness to the ends of the earth, to pray, to heal, to glorify you through our thoughts, words, and deeds, to show the world a glimpse of the goodness you have given us. We have fallen short of this call. We have hidden ourselves in fear, sought our own comfort, and resigned ourselves to the status quo. Forgive us, and strengthen us to do your will, that we may be signs of your coming reign.

Silence is kept.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen to this prayer: “Protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

This is the prayer that Christ prayed on our behalf. This tenderness and care for us shows us who Jesus is— the one who hears our prayers, responding to our longing for forgiveness with mercy.

Thanks be to God, praise be to Christ, glory be to the Holy Spirit.

*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 839)

ASSURANCE

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain: **This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of Glory, Spirit of God, bless us with a word of life this day to restore,
support, and strengthen us as we seek to be one with you. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 A song of God's covenant people. **Amen.**

John 17:1-11 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“This is Eternal Life”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Declaration of Faith

We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God. We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Online giving is available at jpcobkey.com

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Write Your Blessed Name

K. Lee Scott

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved that no prosperity, that no adversity shall ever, ever move me from your love.
(Thomas á Kempis, 1380-1471)

*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 small 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

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 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Tom Furlong*

Communion Servers: *Susan Furlong & Ben Robinson*

The flowers today were given to honor of the 97th birthday of Ray Kramer; by his children Fritz (and Christy) Kramer, Stan (and Evelyn) Kramer, and Margaret Kramer (and Jim Seiffert), his grandchildren, and great grandchildren with great love on his next journey around the sun.

The Life of the Church

A Potluck Picnic and Kite Flying event will be held at Panther Creek Park today at 1:00pm. Bring a dish to share and meet us at the Kuegel North shelter for an afternoon of fellowship. Conditions permitting, we will fly the kites we made in April as we anticipate Pentecost, our celebration of the Holy Spirit coming in the rush of wind.

Mission Committee will meet in the parlor today following worship.

FPC Pride T-Shirts are being sold as we look forward to participating in next month's Owensboro Pride Picnic in support of the LGBTQ+ community. The shirts feature the simple message "God is Love" in rainbow colors with our church logo. Shirts are \$17 and may be ordered by emailing office@fpcobky.com or using the form posted in our Facebook community group.

Celebrate Young People with us on Sunday, June 4:

- Four of our youth will be confirmed during worship
- We will receive the annual Pentecost Offering, which supports ministries with children, youth, and young adults
- A reception will be held following worship to celebrate our confirmands as well as high school and college graduates

Joyful Noise is launching on Sunday, June 14, which will be a music time for kids and youth. Nadia Wilkes will be leading this fun summer opportunity from 11:30am-12:00 noon each Sunday following worship.

VBS is coming up June 20, 21, and 22 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Volunteers are needed to help make this a good experience for our 4 year olds-5th graders. Contact Stephanie Dube or Jeff Moles if you are interesting in helping out.

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