

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5, 2026
11:00 AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2050 Oak Street
Sarasota, FL 34237
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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH — Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE — *First Light* from *Resurrection Symphony* (The Orchestra) — Gustav Mahler/ arr. Paradžik

CALL TO WORSHIP — George Chorba

Beloved church,
behold the victory of our God:
Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.
Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Sin and death shall reign no more.
Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Let this place resound with joy.
Christ is risen! Alleluia!

***HYMN 232** — *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* — EASTER HYMN

1 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Living God,
we acknowledge that, like the women at the tomb,
we often walk through our days expecting to find death rather than life.
We confess that we frequently dwell in the Saturday of our sorrows,
forgetting that your Sunday morning has already dawned.
Forgive us.
Renew our hearts with the wonder of the empty tomb.
Awaken us to your transforming and life-giving love.

(a moment for silent reflection)

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 233** (v.1) *The Day of Resurrection!* LANCASHIRE

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Eric Robinson

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Alleluia, Alleluia, Praise the Risen Son!* Steven Warner
(The Chancel Choir and Orchestra)

Refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Risen Son! Praise the Living One!

Let earth and heaven join to sing;
Let mourners cease their weeping.
Let joyful alleluias ring
and wake with song the sleeping. (Refrain)

The Christ who died has conquered death,
The power of love revealing.
The world is warmed by Spirit's breath,
Whose gifts are life and healing. (Refrain)

Let rivers flow and breezes blow,
Good news of springtime giving.
Let trees and seedlings greener grow,
For Christ is risen, living! (Refrain)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 28:1-10 Page 909

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Life Wins!* Rev. Boggess

ANTHEM *Love Conquers All* Michael John Trotta

(The Chancel Choir and Orchestra with James Jordan Dancer/Choreographer)

Love conquers all, even death,
Even death itself;
Let us surrender then to love.

Behold, love shall bless us,
Console, and dry our tears,
Until we meet again.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER George Chorba

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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *On That Great, Great Mornin'* Mary McDonald

(The Chancel Choir with Matt Jarvis, soloist)

On that great, great mornin' when the stone was rolled away,
On that resurrection mornin' Jesus rose to life that day.
There the tomb was empty; they said, "Jesus is not here!"
He's alive! Great mornin', hallelu!

On that great, great mornin' at the rising of the sun,
Those who saw the tomb was empty knew the victory had been won.
He's alive! Go tell it: Jesus lives forevermore!
He's alive! Great mornin', hallelu!

Jesus is alive! Hallelu, he's alive!
What a great, great day! Jesus is alive!
Jesus is alive, yes my Jesus is alive!
What a great, great day, he is alive!

On that great, great morning' Jesus came to set us free;
On that resurrection mornin' Jesus won the victory!
Heaven's gates are opened, hallelujah, let us sing!

He's alive! Great mornin'! Hallelujah, great mornin'!
On that great, great mornin' Jesus is alive!

***DOXOLOGY 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** George Chorba
from *A Declaration of Faith*, 1977

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 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.

***HYMN 248** *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* HYMN TO JOY

1 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.

2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.

3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"'
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Preludio* from *Suite for Strings and Organ* Ottorino Respighi
(The Orchestra)

The Orchestra

Sardardjan Djumaev, first violin *Diana Galimova, second violin*
Yaniv Cohen, viola *Isaac Mingus, cello*
Christopher Riley, double bass *Mark DeRose, percussion*

Special thanks to the members of the FPC Chancel Choir.

Music: CCLI License #2296940 One License #A-700000