SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 12, 2024
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE *Morning Prayer* Steven Phillips

Adapted from Psalm 1

CALL TO WORSHIP Mariah Martin

Happy are those who delight in God's Word.
They are like trees planted by streams of water.
Their lives bear fruit continuously.
Their hope is evergreen.
Let us worship God!

***HYMN 643** *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is,
and shall be evermore.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***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 moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

***SONG OF JOY 582** (v. 1) *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP - CUBA Dick Clapp

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *All Things Bright and Beautiful* John Rutter

Refrain:
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings. (Refrain)

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky:

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. (Refrain)

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. (Refrain)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *How to Make the Right Choice* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INSTALLATION OF DEACON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *God of Grace and God of Glory* arr. Eugene Russell

***DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from The Confession of 1967

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Mariah Martin

**God the Holy Spirit
fulfills the work of reconciliation in human life.
The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church
as the community in which people are reconciled
to God and to one another.
The Spirit enables people to receive forgiveness
as they forgive one another
and to enjoy the peace of God
as they make peace among themselves.
In spite of their sin,
the Spirit gives people power
to become representatives of Jesus Christ
and his gospel of reconciliation to all.**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 754** *Help Us Accept Each Other* BARONITA

Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us; make us one!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Pasticcio* Jean Langlais

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2050 Oak Street • Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119 • www.firstpressarasota.org