

Morning Worship Service

Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

11:00 A.M.

The Sunday after Easter has long been designated unofficially as "low Sunday" – low in attendance and often low in parishioner enthusiasm. Even scripturally, the disciples' evening session began with one low-spirited comrade. Fortunately, the day was transformed into "high Sunday" with Thomas' mighty confession: "My Lord and My God!"

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Morning Has Broken* Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by John 20:24-29)

Leader: Thomas said:

People: "Unless I see the mark of the nails
and put my hand in his side,
I will not believe."

Leader: We are often skeptical people,
driven by our senses,
relying on that which we can hear, see or prove.

People: Our Lord asks us to see the invisible,
to trust in the spirit, to have faith.
Lord, give us faith!

Leader: Sometimes we get carried away by our emotions,
by wishful thinking,
and by popular trends that pull us in.

People: Lord, help us to be bold in our beliefs,
but also careful as Thomas was.
Move us beyond mere trust in ordinary things,
and open our eyes for spiritual realities.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, on the second Sunday of Easter,
the light of your love shines on! Your light has come into the world,
And neither darkness, nor evil, nor even death itself
could overcome it. And we (like Mary, like the disciples, like "doubting"
Thomas) who have been there with you through Holy Week and the first Easter
Morning have been made witnesses to the resurrection story:
wondering, bewildered, hoping, rejoicing.... and sometimes doubting.
It is not always easy to believe with our minds and trust with our hearts.
Loving Christ, Open the eyes of our faith that we may behold
the work of your redemption. Open our minds and hearts to receive you, Lord:
your resurrection glory, your light everlasting.
May this time of worship, reflection and celebration
be a worthy response to your love and your sacrifice for us.
Together we pray as you taught your disciples to pray:

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 371 *Lift High the Cross*

CALL TO CONFESSION

This is a gracious invitation for all to reflect on their lives, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's abundant mercy and love. The psalmist prayed: *Open to me the gates of righteousness, O Lord, that I may enter through them and give thanks to you.* We give thanks that God has answered us, and has become our salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. With gratitude for God's life-giving love, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Creator God, we confess that at times we are skeptics.

**At times we doubt that you exist because of the evil
we have seen in the world. Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate**

still plague our world, and it is hard to see your love and light.

Sometimes, even those who bear your name do not walk in your ways.

Help us to see your goodness in this world.

Help us to know your love.

**Fill us with your love and goodness,
so that we might love one another,
and lift up one another in faith.**

(Pause for reflection and self-examination) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The psalmist says,

*"I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God
in the land of the living.*

*Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!"*

Know that you do not wait alone.

God has given us one another for this journey of faith,
to help one another. Know that you do not wait alone;
Christ is with us. Be encouraged, and encourage one another.
Go and share the Good News. Amen.

***RESPONSE – No. 579 "Gloria Patri"**

*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.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM *The Holy City* Michael Maybrick

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 20:19-31

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Thank God for Doubting Thomas Rev. Dr. Olin McBride

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

(Inspired by Psalm 20)

Do we believe?

Yes, in spite of ourselves, we do believe!

**While some follow fad and fashion,
changing with the seasons in Paris, London and New York,
we follow the man from Nazareth.**

**While some put their hope in a big lotto win,
or chase profits at no matter what cost to family,
we put our hope in loving one another as our Christ has loved us.**

**While some may give in to a sophisticated cynicism,
or some fall into apathy or despair,
we put our faith in the God who has given us his only true son.**

**While some may boast of their superior education,
culture, race, or living standard,
we boast in the self-giving of that Son on a Cross.**

**While some try to justify themselves by prizes fame or power,
or by claiming superior morals,
we allow the grace of our Lord to Jesus to be our best prize.**

**Because of Jesus, yes, we believe in the living God
by whose Holy Spirit all things are open to change and renewal.
And that includes us and the church, thanks be to God!**

CLOSING HYMN NO. 122 *Thine is the Glory*

BLESSING

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE *Festive Trumpet Tune* David German

*Congregation standing as able.

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

9:45 A.M. Sunday school

11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on YouTube,
registrations required to attend the service.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

8:00 A.M. Registration begins for Sunday, April 18 worship service. Check
your email, call the church office, or go to our website for
registration link.

4:30 P.M. Mah-Jongg, Fellowship Hall
5:00 P.M. Administrative Committee, McFadden Hall
5:30 P.M. Committee Meetings

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to worship! This service will live stream and available for viewing on YouTube.com by those unable to be with us this morning. Search firstprestupelo or click [this link](#). We also invite you to visit our website at www.firstprestupelo.org.

Are you looking for a church home? If so, please speak to our minister following worship.

The Flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in memory of Bill and Helen Allen, George and Kiersey McLean, and Bob Smith.

Nursery Care is available for newborns through 4-year-olds. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery if you are visiting for the first time.

After the children's sermon, pre-kindergarteners through second graders are invited to attend "Wee Kirk" with Heather Crotwell. This is a time of age appropriate lessons, songs, and games intended to prepare our children to fully participate in worship. However, all children are welcome in worship! If you excuse yourself and your child, you can hear the service over speakers in McFadden Hall (directly behind the Sanctuary).

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

As a courtesy to those around you, kindly turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are live streaming our service today, available for viewing on our YouTube channel.

Join in a virtual community forum sponsored by the local Alzheimer's Association at 5:00 P.M. on April 11 (today!) to learn about Alzheimer's, dementia and memory loss. Invite a friend who has been affected by the disease. Share your thoughts about how we can help people in your community. Registration is requested. Call 800.272.3900 or visit alz.org/ms/helping to register.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatments: Aimee McDonald Burrow, Julie Seiler

Homebound: Annette Thornton, Bernice Baker, Jerry Burkett

College Students: Retta Maxwell, Cooper Moore, John Hewitt Parker

(Homebound and college students are listed each week on a rotation from our complete list.)

Weekly Budget: \$16,960

YTD Budgeted Income: \$291,840

Amount Received 4/5/21: \$13,860

YTD Income Received: \$335,847

The Session

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Moderator
Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

Class of 2021

Mark Burleson
Sally Kate Collins
Ann Godwin
Richard Hastings
Kristi Hillhouse
Glenn Thomas
Joel Zimmerman

Class of 2022

Steve Bryson
Anne Marie Littrell
Mary Pace
Buddy Stubbs
Virginia Toliver
David Williams

Class of 2023

Kirk Biddle
Susan Boone
Amy Fagan
Mitzi Moore
Aubrey Patterson, Jr.
Grayson Robbins
Debra Robison

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education

Heather Crotwell, Children's Church Director

Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Nannette Comer, Church Librarian

Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian

Helen Curtis, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

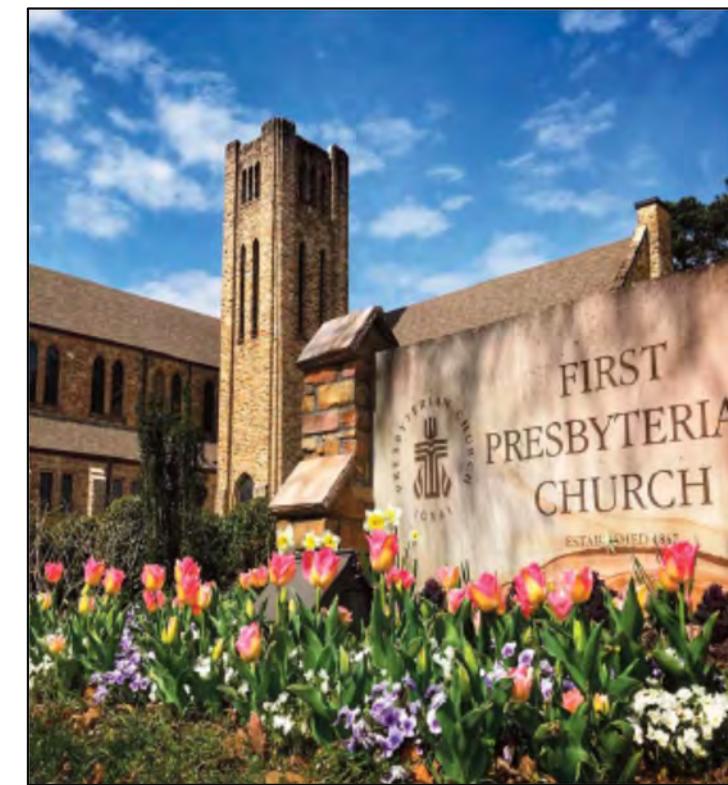
Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent

Joyce Richardson, Housekeeper

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus



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