

Morning Worship Service

Third Sunday of Easter

APRIL 14, 2024

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

*"I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety."
- Psalm 4:8*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

"Prayer" from Suite Gothique

Léon Boëllmann

INTROIT

This Still Room

John Greenleaf Whittier

And so I find it well to come for deeper rest to this still room,
for here the habit of the soul feels less the outer world's control;
For strength of mutual purpose pleads more earnestly our common needs;
And from the silence multiplied by these still forms on either side,
The world that time and sense have known falls off and leaves us God alone.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord hears us when we call:
Come, let us put our trust in God.
The Lord fills our hearts with gladness:
Come, let us sing God's praises with shouts of joy!
The Lord grants peace to our weary souls:
Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God's grace.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Everlasting God,
in Jesus Christ you embodied the words of the prophets.
In Jesus Christ you renew our hope for the future.
For he is risen, and he is Lord.
Make us witnesses to this good news,
and keep us strong
until he comes again in glory.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior,
who taught us to pray saying...

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

from Acts 3:19

To repent is to turn away from sin and turn toward Christ Jesus. Scripture promises that when we confess, God hears our cries and wipes away our sin. Trusting in God's promises of new life, let us confess our sins and the sin of this world.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Risen Christ, we are often troubled by our doubts. But you are not troubled by them. You do not require perfect understanding. Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again that we might come to know you. Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck, when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do. Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us. Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide it, when we fail to offer it to others. Renew us and make us whole that in this world of strife we may be bearers of your peace. In resurrection hope, we pray.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE NO. 565

Lord, Have Mercy
Congregation please sing:

Lord_____ have mer - cy. Christ,_____ have
mer - cy. Lord,_____ have mer - cy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from 1 John 3:1

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” Children of God, we are claimed by God, forgiven of our sins, and set free for love. Friends believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*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 SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON [1 John 3:1-7](#) Pew Bible pg. 240
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Be Still My Soul* arr. Mack Wilberg

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON [Psalm 4](#) Pew Bible pg. 490
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON **“Rest”** Rev. John Brock

*UNISON PROFESSION OF FAITH adapted from Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39
We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 527 MCAFEE
Near to the Heart of God

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Be gracious O God; **hear our prayer.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Brother James' Air* Dale Wood

*DOXOLOGY NO. 592
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Living Lord, we give you thanks for the bounty of your grace: you create us in your image, shower us with your love, forgive us when we turn away from you, and give us a future with hope. Bless these gifts we offer you today, and make us good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. May our gifts bring joy and peace in our church and in our community. In Christ’s holy name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 345 *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* REST

POSTLUDE *Fanfare* William Mathias

*BENEDICTION

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Ritual of friendship—Members and Visitors: Please sign the black attendance register every Sunday and pass it down your pew. Please read the names, greet one another, and meet new members and visitors.

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

The Flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in honor of Marion Linde by Helen and Mark Monts.

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

After the 11:00 Children's Sermon, preschoolers and kindergarteners are invited to attend "Wee Kirk." This is a time of fun childcare with age appropriate songs and games. However, all children are welcome in worship! If you excuse yourself and your child, the service can be heard over speakers in McFadden Hall, which is located directly behind the Sanctuary.

We care about you as we care about each other. If you would like to submit a prayer request, you may use the blue cards in the pews or in McFadden Hall, and our pastoral staff and prayer partners will pray for you.

The service is live streamed and available for viewing on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) by those unable to be with us this morning. Search firstprestupelo. We also invite you to visit our website at www.firstprestupelo.org.

Leading the worship service today: Rev. John Brock, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

Liturgist: 9:00: Lori Dickerson 11:00: Debra Robison

Greeters: 9:00: Judy Griffie & David Williams and Lucy & Bill Hilbun

11:00: Doyce Deas, Cindy & Robin Faucette, and Judy Thomas

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Mollie Gratz

Homebound: Bobbye Carsten, Carolyn and John Gaston, Joy and Charlie Hyatt

College Students: Bennett Mark, Eli Martin, Magalie Martin

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our church provides supper for the Salvation Army the third Tuesday of each month. Our next service opportunity is Tuesday, April 16. We will prepare side items in the church kitchen, beginning at 2:30 P.M., and will serve at the SA Lodge from 4:30 until 5:00 P.M. This is a great opportunity to reach out in love to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. If you would like to provide a dessert, please use the sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board located near the kitchen.

Be sure to join church friends and our visitors for supper and fellowship at 5:30 P.M., Wednesday April 17, in the Fellowship Hall. The menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Cheesy Potatoes, Tater Tots, Pasta Salad, Rolls, Full Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, and Assorted Desserts. At 6:15 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall, we will enjoy a program and music led by Kirklin and Kirk Johnson. Wednesday programs for Faithbuilders and Youth begin at 6:00 P.M., Cherubs begin at 6:10 P.M. All programs conclude at 7:00 P.M. Sign up by Noon Wednesday using Sunday's attendance register, the [link in Friday's newsletter](#), or you may call the church office at 662-842-5681.

Registration for Vacation Bible School 2024 is underway!

VBS is June 3-5, 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M., for three-year-olds – fifth grade, with nursery available for younger children. Sign up by using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/first-presbyterian-church-vbs-2024-tickets-866621065937?aff=oddtcreator> or the QR Code.



Save the Date! Our Spring Picnic is Wednesday, May 1 at 5:30 P.M. in Stuart Garden. The Faithbuilders and Cherubs will present their end of the year program. Join us for food, fun and fellowship!

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 54 11:00 A.M.: 98

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$18,475

Amount Received 4/7/24: \$19,703

YTD Budgeted Income: \$320,231

YTD Income Received: \$417,256

THE SESSION

Rev. John Brock, Moderator

Lisa Nichols, Clerk of the Session

Class of 2024

Kim Burleson

Cindy Faucette

Leslie Geoghegan

Michael Gratz Jr.

Chauncey Godwin

Charles Reece

Alice Rogers

Class of 2025

Richard Hastings

Trey Leeke

Lucy Nash

Chris Rogers

Mary Stubbs

Glenn Thomas

Presly Wallace

Class of 2026

Glen Davidson, Sr.

Jim Fisher

Ben Hunter

Bob Lence

Corey Littrell

Helen Monts

Aubre Wells

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. John Brock, Pastor
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education
Dr. Robert Taylor, Director of Music; Dr. Ray Harris, Organist
Kathy McMurry, Treasurer
Claire Leeke, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs
Cindy Faucette, Church Librarian; Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian
Helen Curtis, Church Secretary
Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary
Jen Baylor, Receptionist
Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent
Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts, Room B205
5:30 P.M. Youth

MONDAY, APRIL 15

2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym
5:00 P.M. Steering Committee
6:00 P.M. Session Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
11:00 A.M. Bible Study, Bolton/Sistahood Room
2:30 P.M. Prepare meal for Salvation Army
2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym
4:30 P.M. Serve at Salvation Army
5:30 P.M. Officer Training, Bolton/Sistahood Room
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym
3:00 P.M. Mah-Jongg, Stewart Clayton Room
5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers
5:30 P.M. Supper, Fellowship Hall
6:00 P.M. Faithbuilders & Youth
6:10 P.M. Cherubs
6:15 P.M. Music & Program by the Johnsons, Fellowship Hall
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn
1:30 P.M. Shepherd's Center meeting, Rec. Room
2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting
2:45 P.M. CASA, Gym



Outdoor Worship Service
Sunday, April 21
9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
STUART GARDEN

Youth Sunday

MAY 5

Honoring our Baccalaureates
during Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

ALL ARE INVITED
to the Recognition Lunch
for Graduating Seniors
at Noon in the CLC

Reservations are Not Necessary

2024 GRADUATES:

DANIEL CROTWELL

AFTON GABLE

MAGGIE GIBENS

CHARLIE GRATZ

LEWIS HERMAN

ISABELLA POSEY

KAILAN REYNOLDS

WALT ROSE