

EASTER SUNDAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1621 E. Garrison Boulevard ♦ Gastonia, North Carolina
704.864.2651 ♦ www.fpcgastonia.org ♦ streaming live



Easter Sunrise Service

April 17, 2022

7:00 a.m.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, God created the Earth, and it was a dark and formless place.

And God said, "Let there be light!"

In the time of Moses, the people of Israel wandered in the dark wilderness.

And God then led them with a pillar of light.

In the time of exile, the people cried out to God as they walked in darkness.

And God promised them a great light.

God gave us Jesus to be our light and salvation, even though the darkness tried to contain him.

But not even death could contain the light of the world!

People, look! The sun is rising and the tomb is empty! Praise God, for Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed!

†HYMN

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

EASTER HYMN

Verse 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!*

Verse 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!*

Verse 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!*

Verse 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

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

Lord of Life and Light, we proclaim your victory over death that was won on Easter morning. We proclaim that your Light of Life has driven out the darkness and death once and for all. We confess that we do not always receive the light you offer us. Instead, we hide in the darkness of our fears, our pride, and our greed. Forgive us when we resist stepping into the light of Christ's resurrection. Give us new eyes to see the new life you have given us. As we proclaim Christ's glory that shined like a dazzling light on Easter morning, help us be a reflection of your light and love for all humanity...(silent confession)...Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Be at peace with God and one another, for in Christ, we are all forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:1-12

MEDITATION

Light Always Wins

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand,
and by which we are saved if we hold it fast:

that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day;
and that He appeared first to the women,
then to Peter and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;
He is our Lord and our God. AMEN.

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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Tithes and offerings may be presented online at www.fpcgastonia.org/giving
or by scanning the QR code on the right.



April 19, 2022 is the last day to make contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing and S.O.C.K.S.

†HYMN

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

HYMN TO JOY

Verse 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.*

Verse 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.*

Verse 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

†If you are able, please stand.

Easter Service
April 17, 2022
Eleven O’Clock in the Morning

We Gather for God’s Word

VOLUNTARY

“Festival Toccata”

Percy Fletcher

CARILLON PEAL

Please enter to worship in a spirit of reverence.

PRELUDE AND SILENT MEDITATION

“Fanfare in D”

Jacques Nicolas-Lemmens

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

EASTER INTROIT

“He Arose”

Sanctuary Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed!

Death has been defeated, for he is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed!

God’s love has restored everything that has been broken, for he has risen.

Christ is risen, indeed!

Rejoice! I say again, rejoice! Our Lord is risen on this day.

He is risen, halleluia! Christ is risen, indeed!

†HYMN #232

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

We Prepare for God’s Word

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Why do we look for the living among the dead?

We confess that we often rely on earthly things to give us life instead of our Risen Lord.

Why do we look for the living among the dead?

We confess that the allure of power, prosperity, and comfort often interferes with our new life found in the Risen Lord.

Why do we look for the living among the dead?

We confess that our failure to follow your Son contributes to the brokenness in and around us.

Why do we look for the living among the dead?

Lord, forgive us for the moments we look for life in that which is dead. Restore us to new life through your Son, who triumphed over death for us on Easter morning.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Be at peace with God and one another, for in Christ, we are all forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

†GLORIA PATRI #581

“Glory Be to the Father”

GREATOREX

ANTHEM

“All Things New”

Craig Courtney

Verse 1
Sorrow lingers in the garden, willows weeping, wet with dew. But in the breeze a whispered promise; “I am making all things new.”

Verse 2
Let the gentle hand of morning brush your eyes that you may see mercies new and never ceasing into all eternity. Alleluia!

Verse 3
As it was in the beginning, in the end, so shall it be. Through the cross, a new creation; Christ has won the victory. Alleluia!

Verse 4
“Step by faith into the promise, bow the knee with voices raised, singing “”holy, holy, holy,”” in an endless song of praise. Alleluia!”

We Hear God’s Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:1-12

SERMON SERIES

Brokenness and Beauty

SERMON

Restored to New Life

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford

We Respond To God’s Word

†HYMN #238

“Thine Is the Glory”

JUDAS MACCABEUS

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:

that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day, and that he appeared, first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus Christ is the first and last, the beginning and end; He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

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.

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OFFERTORY

“All Creation Sings Today”

J.S. Bach

†DOXOLOGY #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

We Commit to Share God’s Word

†SENDING HYMN #248

“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

HYMN TO JOY

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

“Toccata (Symphony No. 5)”

Charles-Marie Widor

†If you are able, please stand.

The chancel flowers are given for the glory of God in memory of Sarah Abernethy by her family.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Presented to the Glory of the Risen Christ

In Loving Honor of

Becky Adams
Margaret Craig
Celeste Crowe
David Efird
The Lewis Efird Family
The Tim Efird Family
Tim Efird
First Presbyterian Church Staff
First Presbyterian Church Staff
First Presbyterian Ministers and Staff
Henderlite Bible Class
Geraldine Johnston
Beth Mackie
Marie Silvers
Leslie Wallace

Given By

David Efird and Family
Cookie & Lance Brenner
Beth Silvers
The Adams
Anne & Tom Efird
Anne & Tom Efird
SA Family
Patty & David Ratchford
Beth & Randy Silvers
Anonymous
Ronald Digby
Elizabeth Efird and Family
Margaret & Spurgeon Mackie
Beth & Randy Silvers
Mary Stewart Efird and Family

In Loving Memory of

Virginia Avery
Bobbie & Ed Baldwin
Juanita & Banks Bolin
Mrs. Frank Bonsac
Warren Clark
Mr. & Mrs. J. Coit Cox
Ceil Cox-Fletcher
William L. Craig, Jr.
Leslie Carrie Dixon
Coy Ferris
Pat Grigg Fountain
Evelyn & Alfred Grigg
John David Gwinn
Mrs. Dot & Mr. J.D. Gwinn
Bert Hickson
Wilma & Herbert Hickson
Manfred Johnston
John W. Kelley

Given By

Ibby, Danny and Family
Lynne & Claude Hathcock
Beth Bolin & Roger Rizk
Lee Matheny
Cindy Clark
Dorcas Moss
Dorcas Moss
His Family
The Dixon and Blashfield Families
His Children
Kay & Jim Brown
Kay & Jim Brown
Beth & Randy Silvers
Beth & Randy Silvers
Gloria & Hub Hickson
Gloria & Hub Hickson
Geraldine Johnston
Ellen & Bob Cinq-Mars

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Presented to the Glory of the Risen Christ

In Loving Memory of

Louise Wade Kelley
Kitty Mackie
Kitty & H.S. Mackie
Lena & Grady McCarter
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. McLean
Mr. Robert E. McLean, Jr.
Helen Beal Montague
Mrs. Shelby Morrison
Bob Nelson
Mary Ann & Neale Patrick
Ruth & Mart Reid
Lois & Dr. Wade Rizk
Ken Silvers
Brownie Smyre
Brownie Smyre
Marietta & Fred Smyre
Joe E. Stowe
James G. Stuart
Ann R. Wyatt

Given By

Ellen & Bob Cinq-Mars
Cookie & Lance Brenner
Margaret & Spurgeon Mackie
Gloria & Hub Hickson
Cookie & Lance Brenner
Cookie & Lance Brenner
Cookie & Lance Brenner
Lee Matheny
The Nelson Family
Ibby, Danny and Family
Lil Reid Lanier
Beth Bolin & Roger Rizk
Beth & Randy Silvers
Beth & Randy Silvers
The Smyre Family
The Smyre Family
His Family
The Bullock Family
Lil Reid Lanier

EASTER LILLIES

Presented to the Glory of the Risen Christ

In Loving Honor of

BB and Granddaddy
BB and Granddaddy
Beebo & Pop
Coleman Efird
Jennifer and Anna Grace Gibson
Grandchildren: Clete, Wade, Saylor
Grandchildren: Wynton, Cecelia, Walker
Bethany Jennings
Johnathan, Jacob, Jayne and Josie Lowery
Malinda B. Lowery
Brienne, Henry, Lucy and Matt McMullan
The Planned Giving Ministry
Mary Beth Stuart

Given By

Amy, Marsh, Davis, Ben and Reilly
Sara Carter, Matt, McCarthy and Porter
Elizabeth, David, Larkin, Mary Stewart, Thomas
Tim, Elizabeth, David and Mary Stewart
Malinda & John Lowery
Dick Jarman "PopPop"
Louise Love Keir "Mimi"
Sanctuary Ringers
Malinda & John Lowery
John, Jennifer and Johnathan
Frances, William, Charles and Bill Henry
Liz & Dolph Sumner
The Bullock Family

In Loving Memory of

Bill Adams
Karen & Dr. Simeon Adams
Edna Lou Aldrich
Lygia & Bob Ballentyne
Helen & Joseph Barnett
Giles D. Beal, Jr.
Evelyn & B.W. Beasley
Marjorie & John Brady
Thelma Brown
Mary Lewis & W. Scott Bryant
Lucille & Carl Butler
Phyllis Carothers
Elianne Dorais Cinq-Mars
Mrs. Eleanor B. Craig
Max Craig
Mary Louise Dame
Ava Claire DeVine
Sandra C. Digby
Mrs. Lillian Edwards

Given By

His Family
Polly & Jeff Jasmin
Judy & Geof Planer
Joellen & Russell Harris
Their Family
His Family
Malinda & John Lowery
Their great grandsons, Cooper and Banks Euliss
Kathy & Harvey Brown
Their Family
The Les McLean Family
Her great grandsons, Cooper and Banks Euliss
Ellen & Bob Cinq-Mars
Julie, Sydney, Mallory, Carly and Frank
Julie, Sydney, Mallory, Carly and Frank
Ellen & Bob Cinq-Mars
Carol Francis Goode
Dr. Ronald Digby and Family
Frances & Bill Henry

EASTER LILLIES

Presented to the Glory of the Risen Christ

In Loving Memory of

Alice Dunn Euliss
Cyrus Eullis, II
Rosa Gardin
Mary & Richard Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. George F. Henry, Jr.
Mr. James Heyward Henry
Marlene E. Hooker
Mary Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. W. Duke Kimbrell
Daniel S. LaFar
Rev. Jim Lowery
Thelma & L.L. McLean
Jerry Miller
Helen Beal Montague
James Morris Moss
Robert T. Moss
Harold Planer
Anne & D. Samuel Rhyne, Jr.
Tessie & Dane Samuel Rhyne, Sr.
Ralph Robinson, Jr.
William B. Seabrook
Dr. David Hooten Simpson
Nell C. & Boyd W. Tatum
Roy P. Warren
Jennie Craig Watson
Kitty & Craig Watson
Samuel Hugh Wilds
Jenny & Knox Winget
Jenny & Knox Winget
Jenny & Knox Winget

Given By

Her great grandsons, Cooper and Banks Euliss
His grandsons, Cooper and Banks Euliss
Martha Beal
Their Family
Frances, William, Charles and Bill Henry
Frances, William, Charles and Bill Henry
Julie, Sydney, Mallory, Carly and Frank
Kathy & Harvey Brown
Pam & Andy Warlick
Pam & Andy Warlick
Malinda & John Lowery
The Les McLean Family
Stephanie & Matt Miller
Her Family
His Family
His Family
Judy & Geof Planer
Debbie Rhyne
Debbie Rhyne
Sally Robinson
Russell Harris
Emily, Emmie and Loren
Nova & Tom Watson
Edith C. Warren
Nova & Tom Watson; Ann Watson Lineberger
Nova & Tom Watson; Ann Watson Lineberger
The Wilds Family
Beth & Knox Winget
Jennie & Gene Williams
Peggy & Morris Holden

WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church - where faith is alive! Your presence here is our honor and joy. We pray that your heart is encouraged, that the Word is clear, and that you go from this place renewed and refreshed - in search of an ever deeper connection with our awesome God! If you would like more information about First Presbyterian Church, please sign the welcome forms in your pew. Please stop by the welcome table to receive a gift in gratitude for your presence today.

NURSERY CARE

Professional nursery care is offered for infants and children up to four years old. The nursery is located on the first floor; please see an usher for directions.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel J. Commerford - Senior Minister
Rev. Lauren Sease Vanacore - Associate Minister
Rev. Dr. Charles Davenport - Interim Minister of Visitation
Mot Davis - Receptionist
Myles Davidowitz - Director of Childcare
Holly Howell - Director of Children's Music
Bethany Jennings - Director of Music Ministries
David Jennings - Organist
Lisa Marisiddaiah - Parish Nurse
David McFadden - Business Administrator
Cheryl Mims - Director of Mothers' Morning Out
Nancy Moore - Financial Secretary
Sherry Moore - Administrative Assistant
Rodney Owens - Maintenance Supervisor
Becky Rowland - Director of Presbyterian Weekday School
Matt Smith - Thrive Music Leader
Trip Stewart - Information Services
Rev. Rachel Vogado - Director of Faith Formation

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2022 following the 11:00 a.m. service for the purpose of approving the sale of real property owned by the church.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Join us for the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Luncheon. Monday, May 2, 2022 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please reserve your spot at the front office 704-864-2651 and then pay at the door \$8.00. We look forward to seeing you there!

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

The church will be closed on Monday, April 18, 2022 in observance of the Easter holiday.

THRIVE

April 17, 2022

8:55 a.m.



WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

†GATHERING SONG

"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today (He Is Not Dead)"

Wesley/Arnold/Parks

WELCOME

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

†HYMN OF PRAISE

"What A Beautiful Name"

Fielding/Ligertwood

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Luke 24:1-12

SERMON SERIES

"Brokenness and Beauty"

SERMON

"Restored to New Life"

ANTHEM

"On The Third Day"

Byrd/Maher

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

†HYMN OF DEDICATION

"All The Earth Will Sing Your Praises"

P. Baloche

BLESSING