



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 25, 2021 11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

A PRELUDE FOR ORGAN
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

GERRE HANCOCK

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

JANE BELT

MISSION IN A MINUTE

ROLFE SINGERMAN

INTROIT

EBARME DICH, MEIN GOTT (*HAVE MERCY, MY GOD*)
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

J. S. BACH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Brothers and sisters! We gather to worship the Good Shepherd,
who lays down his life for his sheep.
We gather to worship Jesus Christ,
who calls us to lay down our lives for others.
Easter people, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

* HYMN # 738

O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH THEE

"MARYTON"

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee
2 Help me the slow of heart to move
3 Teach me thy pa - tience, still with thee
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray

in low - ly paths of ser - vice free;
by some clear, win - ning word of love;
in clos - er, dear - er com - pa - ny,
far down the fu - ture's broad - ening way;

tell me thy se - cret; help me bear the
teach me the way - ward feet to stay, and
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in
in peace that on - ly thou canst give, with

strain of toil, the fret of care.
guide them in the home - ward way.
trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

CALL TO CONFESSION

JANE BELT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

JANE BELT

O God, you have called us to love,
 not in word or speech, but in truth and action.
 You have laid down your life for us
 and commanded us to lay down our lives for one another.
 Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers
 when the world needs our hands and our feet.
 Still, O Lord, we fail to share our lives with the world,
 hiding behind a myth of independence.
 Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness,
 raise us to new life in you.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LAY MINISTER GAIL PLITNIK

* HUMMED RESPONSE #582

GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME

“GLORY TO GOD”

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

PSALM 86:1-5, 11-13

JANE BELT

¹ Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
² Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you.
 You are my God; ³ be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.
⁴ Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

⁵ For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
¹² I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.
¹³ For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

ANTHEM

AMAZING GRACE
THE DODGES

JOHN NEWTON

NEW TESTAMENT READING

MATHEW 5:43-48, 6:12-14

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.
⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.
¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;

SERMON

“FORGIVENESS”

LAY MINISTER GAIL PLITNIK

1 *Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard be - side the Syr - ian
 3 O Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee, O calm of hills a -
 4 Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5 Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy cool - ness and thy

ways; re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea the gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, let
 above, where Je - sus knelt to share with thee the
 cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; speak

pur - er lives thy ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 us, like them, with - out a word rise up and fol - low thee.
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love!
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of thy peace.
 through the earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm!

MORNING OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

(The offering is to be placed in the dish at the rear of the sanctuary. We are not passing the plate at this time)

* DOXOLOGY #606

PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

"OLD HUNDRETH"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, you heavenly hosts,
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

JANE BELT

In the blessed hope of the resurrection
 We pray to the Lord of endless life, saying:
 By your grace, O God, **raise us from death and life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the church...
 Build us up in faith, hope, and love
 upon the cornerstone of Jesus Christ our Savior
 Let us be a living sign of your love for all the world.
 By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for our world...
 Gather up the scattered peoples of the earth.
 Lift up the lost; deliver the weak from danger.
 Help our leaders shepherd the poor to safety.
 By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for our community...
 Translate our words of love into action.

Teach those among us who have plenty
to care for sisters and brothers who need our help.
By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for our loved ones...
Help those who suffer; restore them, body and soul.
Walk beside them through every dark valley.
Feed them with mercy; anoint them with healing

By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**
Eternal God, show forth in us and in our world
the good news of your saving power and love,
so that all may believe and have life in you;
Through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed. **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. **Amen.**

* HYMN #366

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVE EXCELLING

"HYFRYDOL"

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #750

GOODNESS IS STRONGER THAN EVIL

"GOODNESS IS STRONGER"

Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate.
 Light is stronger than darkness; Life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours, victory is ours! Through him who loves us.
 Victory is ours, victory is ours! Through him who loves us.

POSTLUDE

INTRODUCTION AND FUGUE
 BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

ADELA DOUGLAS-PENNANT

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
 Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Lay Minister.....Gail Plitnik
 Liturgist.....Jane Belt
 Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
 Musicians.....The Dodges
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Ushers.....Buck Belt and Sandra Burton

Worship & Music Notes

Today welcome lay minister, Gail Plitnik to the pulpit.

Today's **postlude** is by the little known English composer Adela Douglas-Pennant (1858-1955.) Born into a life of extreme privilege and immense wealth, Douglas-Pennant composed music for organ and piano throughout her life, some of which was published in periodicals and music journals.

A **Congregational Meeting** has been called by session for **next Sunday, May 2, 2021 following worship**. The purpose of the meeting is to fill current vacancies on session and to consider revisions in the church bylaws. According to Presbytery, all those who vote at a Congregational Meeting must be able both to see and to hear all that transpires. To fulfill this requirement, only those who are physically present in the sanctuary on May 2, 2021, can vote

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! Whether you are very young, in your teens, adult, older adult; black, white, brown, or any other color; straight, gay, transgendered; very well off financially or not so much; feel great today or your bones are hurting again; have little cares or are weighed down with a lot of concern; speak English fluently or speak little English; raised in a church, not raised in a church; haven't been in church since that special person was baptized, or just exploring spirituality; whoever you are, YOU are welcome here!

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland. Childcare is provided in the nursery. An usher will be glad to direct you there.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: While we do provide a nursery for young children, we also welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: The floral bouquet is given to the glory of God in celebration of the recent birth of Charlotte Ann Mathews, daughter of Brian and Kristin Mathews and granddaughter of Carolyn and Tom Mathews. The wild spray of tree branches is in gratitude to God for this beautiful planet. May we be good stewards of his creation. Happy Earth Day! Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

OFFERING PLATES: Offering plates are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please deposit your gifts, offerings, and tithes into the plate as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of April 18, 2021
Total 2021 Pledges Promised	\$192,124.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 400.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$191,724.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$56,461.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$60,192.00
Over/(Under)	\$(3,731.00)

RULING ELDER NOMINEES

MIKAYLA DODGE (CLASS OF 2023)

Mikayla Dodge has been a member of First Presbyterian Church for 5 years and has been actively involved in singing with the FPC chorus for 10 years. Mikayla is an active community member. She enjoys making music with the Cumberland Choral Society, performing in shows at both the Embassy and Cumberland Theatre, and volunteering to assist with local community events. Mikayla loves to spend time with her husband Zach and daughter Aria.

KATIE ROSS (CLASS OF 2023)

Katie Ross grew up in a Christian home in Southern California. She attended Cal Western University, a Methodist College in San Diego, California. Her major was French and Spanish. While in the University, she participated in a sacred dance group which deepened her faith and brought to life the biblical stories. She earned a teaching certificate which enabled her to teach foreign languages in places such as San Diego; on an Air Force base in Japan; Montgomery County, Maryland; and finally in Allegany County. At one time or another, she has taught students from elementary school all the way through college. Almost 30 years ago Katie discovered storytelling. Since then, she shares stories with audiences professionally and her husband, Otto, joins her providing music on the banjo, guitar, or accordion.

Katie moved to Allegany County in 1980. After attending many churches, Katie and her family decided on First Presbyterian. They especially liked what First Pres had to offer to her two kids, Tim and Holly. Since then, Katie has filled the pulpit several times telling Biblical stories and personal ones. She has participated at times sharing tales with the children. She has taught adult Sunday school classes and promoted the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). She served as co-chair of the Mission Committee while on Session. From time to time, she has ushered and currently she enjoys being liturgist. Several years ago, she worked with Caroline Kelly organizing a women's retreat which featured Katie's dramatic portrayal of three women of the Bible.

Katie lives with her husband, Otto, in nearby West Virginia. They are both retired. Together they have three daughters, 2 sons, and 6 grandchildren.