

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
APRIL 28, 2024 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

GAVOTTE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

MATTHEW CAMIDGE (1758-1844)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

EVERYONE WHO LONGS FOR THE BOUNDLESS LOVE OF GOD
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"EVERYONE WHO LONGS"

Everyone who longs for the boundless love of God,
Everyone who hopes for the coming of God's peace,
the Lord God who created all things beautiful and good
loves you more than you can ever fully know.

God is always watching over you,
God is watching you with loving eyes.
God is hearing you in all your prayers;
God is listening with tender, loving ears.
God shines light in every dark and fearful place we go
and will answer every little cry that you make,
So wherever you may go follow in God's holy way
And trust God to take you home.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God is the True Vine, and we are the branches.
We stay connected to God so we bear fruit.
We stay connected to God so we will not wither.
We stay connected to God so we may be useful.
We connect to be fruitful -
Let us celebrate!

Gracious and loving God, we come before you with hearts full of adoration and praise. Your majesty and splendor fill the heavens and the earth, and we stand in awe of your greatness. You are the source of all knowledge and understanding, guiding us with your gentle hand through the trials and joys of life. We worship you for your boundless love, which knows no bounds and extends to all people. Your love embraces us in our brokenness and lifts us up to new life in Christ. Amen.

* HYMN #49

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE

"LEONI"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Compassion, called to be one body, we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces. Called to be your children of love, we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers. Even though your Perfect Love was broken for us, we are afraid to give ourselves to the world.

Abide in us, Vine Grower. Forgive us of our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #231

CHRIST HAS RISEN WHILE EARTH SLUMBERS (Verse 3)

“SUO GAN”

Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.

Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Please stand and greet those in the pews near you. Send a wave to the camera for those joining online.

We recognize how important we are to each other; we belong to each other and are stronger together.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 22:25-31

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord

³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

ANTHEM

RISE UP, MY LOVE, MY FAIR ONE

HEALY WILLAN (1880-1968)

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away;
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear upon the earth;
The time of the singing of birds is come;
Arise my love, my fair one and come away;
Come away. (from Song of Solomon)

SECOND READING

ACTS 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”

³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him

no more and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SERMON

“UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTERS”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #480

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

“TAKE ME TO THE WATER

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY SOLO

HORNSPIPE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

SAMUEL WESLEY

* DOXOLOGY #250

IN THE BULB THERE IS A FLOWER (VERSE 3)

“PROMISE”

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER- (Ecumenical Version)

(You are welcome to pray the Lord’s Prayer with the version most familiar to you.)

**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 #298

LORD, YOU GIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION

“ABBOT’S LEIGH”

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

“DENNIS”

At FPC there is a tradition of joining hands while singing “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” to close our service.

You are welcome to do whatever feels comfortable during this time. There is no wrong way to participate in worship!

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE

ELLACOMBE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* 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

Preacher Rev. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....David Stickler
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers..... Bill and Ann Kellermeyer



WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a “Big Tent Church” where everyone is welcome to join us in worshipping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life to join us. We welcome you to worship with us.

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.

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the “Welcome to First Presbyterian Church” card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

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

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS: Please use the orange prayer request cards, which are located in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering. The orange prayer request cards are also available in the pew racks.



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: You are welcome 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 “To Families with Young Children” 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. **Nursery care is provided during worship for all children 4 years of age and younger!**

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).

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. You may specify live or silk flowers.

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. *[Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]*

Ways to contact Pastor Alison: call, text, or email: 814-715-1681 / revalisonpeters@gmail.com

**To help with scheduling,
please reach out to the Church Office:
301-777-3700/ firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com**



MONDAY, APRIL (29)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY, APRIL (30)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

WEDNESDAY, MAY (1)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 5:30 AM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING
 6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
 7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY (2)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 12:15 PM RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY, MAY (3)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MAY (4)

9:00 AM SPRING CLEANUP DAY

SUNDAY, MAY (5)

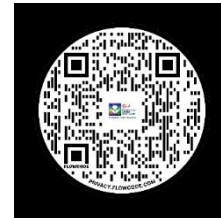
9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
 11:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:
 HOLY COMMUNION
 12:00 PM PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of April 21, 2024
Total 2023 Pledges Promised	\$220,460.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 21,721.00
<u>2023 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$198,738.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 66,710.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 60,622.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 6,087 .00

ONLINE GIVING



SPRING CLEANUP DAY: The Building and Grounds Committee invites you to attend the Spring Cleanup Day on **Saturday, May 4th** from 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM.

THE CUMBERLAND CHORAL SOCIETY'S SPRING CONCERT DATES and the Grand Opening Weekend of the new Wills Creek Museum, located directly across from the church, are Friday, April 26 and Sunday, April 28. The two organizations will be celebrating and combining events this spring with music, tours, and receptions.

“Requiem,” meaning “rest” in Latin, is the theme of this spring’s music. CCS will recognize the legacy of Cumberland’s ancestors as well as humankind here and now on this glorious planet. “Requiem for the Living” by Dan Forrest and a portion of the John Rutter “Requiem” will be presented by the Cumberland Choral Society, and includes professional soloists and orchestra **this afternoon at 4:00 PM**. A reception open to all will follow the Sunday concert. More information concerning the CCS concerts can be found on the Cumberland Choral Society Facebook page or by getting in touch with Eric Ringler or Judie Brown through the church office. Further information concerning the Wills Creek events can be obtained by contacting Martha McGill at soulspacecumberland@gmail.com .

“Requiem for the Living” by Dan Forrest: Dan Forrest calls his composition Requiem for the Living because he is making a distinction from traditional requiems, which originated as masses for the dead. The word, requiem, is Latin for “rest.”

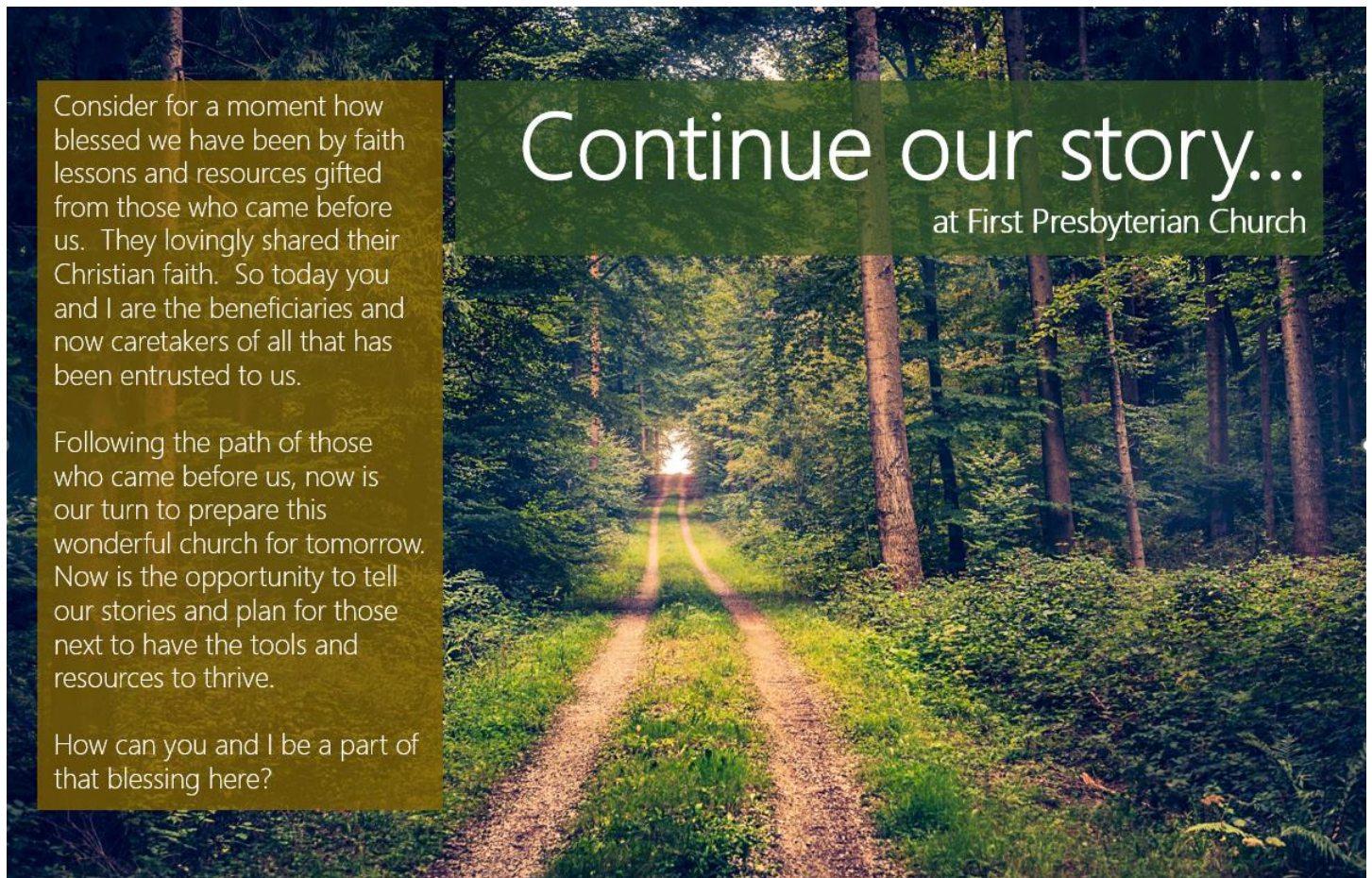
What makes Requiem for the Living different? Why give attention to this particular work? It isn’t that the work itself has shattered the norms of the genre; rather, Forrest puts a delicate twist into his work that raises the question: for whom is this intended? What sets his work apart is neither the text nor the music, but rather his intention—to ask for rest and mercy for the living. (Did you notice that Dan Forrest’s last name is “For Rest”? Perhaps he was born to pen this requiem.)

In the words of the composer, Dan Forrest:

The five movements of Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*, (2013), however, form a narrative just as much for the living, and

their own struggle with pain and sorrow, as for the dead. The opening movement sets the traditional Introit and Kyrie texts- pleas for rest and mercy- using ever-increasing elaborations on a simple three-note descending motive. The second movement, instead of the traditional Dies Irae, sets Scriptural texts that speak of the turmoil and sorrow which face humanity, while yet invoking musical and textual allusions to the Dies Irae. This movement juxtaposes aggressive rhythmic gestures with long, floating melodic lines, including quotes of the Kyrie from the first movement. The Agnus Dei is performed next (a departure from the usual liturgical order) as a plea for deliverance and peace; the Sanctus, following it, becomes a response to this redemption. The Sanctus offers three different glimpses of the "heavens and earth, full of Thy glory", all of which develop the same musical motive: an ethereal opening section inspired by images of space from the Hubble Space Telescope, a stirring middle section inspired by images of our own planet as viewed from the International Space Station, and a closing section which brings the listener down to Earth, where cities teem with the energy of humanity. The Lux Aeterna which then closes the work portrays light, peace, and rest- for both the deceased and the living.

THANK YOU FROM RENEE KIDDY & FAMILY: To my church family: Thank you for your caring prayers and support. The outpouring of sympathy means so much to my family. Jason was a wonderful son.



Consider for a moment how blessed we have been by faith lessons and resources gifted from those who came before us. They lovingly shared their Christian faith. So today you and I are the beneficiaries and now caretakers of all that has been entrusted to us.

Following the path of those who came before us, now is our turn to prepare this wonderful church for tomorrow. Now is the opportunity to tell our stories and plan for those next to have the tools and resources to thrive.

How can you and I be a part of that blessing here?

Continue our story..
at First Presbyterian Church

PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR: Join us on **Sunday, May 5th** following worship for a planned giving event led by The Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley. The discussion will include:

- How to discern your own legacy
- How to share the message with the church and those you love
- How to make a planned gift to continue your ministry here

Please us the tear off sheet below if you plan to attend.

Name: _____

Number of people planning to attend: _____