

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

APRIL 7, 2024

11:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

ROGERS & HAMMERSTEIN

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

YOU WILL BE FOUND (DEAR EVAN HANSON)
ALISON PETERS, SOPRANO; THE SANCTUARY CHOIR; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

PASEK & PAUL

Have you ever felt like nobody was there?
Have you ever felt forgotten in the middle of nowhere?
Have you ever felt like you could disappear?
Like you could fall, and no one would hear?
Well, let that lonely feeling wash away
Maybe there's a reason to believe you'll be okay
'Cause when you don't feel strong enough to stand
You can reach, reach out your hand
And oh, someone will come running
And I know, they'll take you home
Even when the dark comes crashing through
When you need a friend to carry you
When you're broken on the ground
You will be found
So let the sun come streaming in
'Cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again

If you only look around
You will be found.
Out of the shadows
The morning is breaking
And all is new, all is new
It's filling up the empty
And suddenly I see that
All is new, all is new
You are not alone
You are not alone
You are not alone
You are not alone
You will be found

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Don't give up, it's just the weight of the world.

BASED ON "DON'T GIVE UP (YOU ARE LOVED)" BY JOSH GROBAN

When your heart's heavy, I will lift it for you.

Don't give up because you want to be heard.

If silence keeps you, I will break it for you.

Everybody wants to be understood - well, I can hear you.

Everybody wants to be loved, don't give up because you are loved.

Don't give up because you want to burn bright.

If darkness blinds you, I will shine to guide you.

Everybody wants to be understood - well, I can hear you.

Everybody wants to be loved, don't give up because you are loved.

You are loved.

You are loved.

Don't give up.

Don't give up.

Let us pray -

Hear us as we pray - we know we are loved. Hear us as we sing - we know we are welcome. Hear us as we worship - help us to feel your presence in our midst. Through all that was and is and is to come. Amen.

PRAISE SONG

10,000 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD)

BY MATT REDMAN AND STEVE ANGRISAMO

(Refrain) Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship God's Holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning. It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me let me be singing when the evening comes. **(Refrain)**

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger. Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing, 10,000 reasons for my heart to find. **(Refrain)**

And on that day when my strength is failing the end draws near and my time has come
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending. 10,000 years and then forevermore, forevermore. **(Refrain 2x)**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

BASED ON "MY SACRIFICE" BY CREED

Hello my friend we meet again, it's been a while where should we begin? Feels like forever.

Within my heart are memories of perfect love that you gave to me, oh I remember.

When you are with me, I'm free. I'm careless, I believe. Above all the others we'll fly this brings tears
to my eyes - My sacrifice.

We've seen our share of ups and downs, oh how quickly life can turn around in an instant

It feels so good to reunite within yourself and within your mind let's find peace there.

I just want to say hello again. Above all the others we'll fly this brings tears to my eyes - My sacrifice. 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

"IT'S YOU I LIKE" BY FRED. ROGERS

It's you I like, It's not the things you wear, It's not the way you do your hair, But it's you I like.

The way you are right now, The way down deep inside you.

Not the things that hide you, Not your toys, They're just beside you.

But it's you I like. Every part of you. Your skin, your eyes, your feelings Whether old or new.

I hope that you'll remember, Even when you're feeling blue.

That it's you I like, It's you yourself It's you. It's you I like.

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.

READING

WILD GEESE

BY MARY OLIVER

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

SOLO

THE MYSTERY OF YOUR GIFT

JOSH GROBAN

MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANO; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

A single note passes out of the ashes
A flickering ember begins
It's the courage to turn when the pages have burned
And your story now seems at an end
Seasons stay and seasons go
Sending your memories adrift
It's the beautiful longing, embrace the unknown
That's the mystery of your gift
And the echoes of your melody will always live in these walls
And the lessons that you gave to me, before you can fly, you must fall
It's the beautiful longing, embrace the unknown
That's the mystery of your gift
There's a voice in the shadow calling for more
There's a rhythm that beats from within
Lending your voice to the warmth of the song
There's a strength in the choir of one
Pure as the voice that sees the place where the weight of your past may now lift
It's the beautiful longing, embrace the unknown
That's the mystery of your gift
And the echoes of your melody will always live in these walls
And the lessons that you gave to me, before you can fly, you must fall
So sing higher & higher, a thousand new voices ring through
If you sing out of the fire, the courage you need comes from you
And the echoes of your melody will always live in these walls
And the lessons that you gave to me, before you can fly, you must fall
It's the beautiful longing, embrace the unknown
That's the mystery of your gift
It's the beautiful longing, embrace the unknown
That's the mystery of your gift

READING

DOUBT

BY LILLIANA KOHANN

Today my name is Doubt.
 I doubt all that I can.
 I doubt my right to dream,
 and even my own name.
 I doubt my faith in God,
 what He is all about.
 I doubt my own existence,
 I even doubt the doubt.
 There's only one small thing
 that I don't doubt today,
 and that's the fact that sometimes,
 some doubting is OK.

SOLO

ANGELS CALLING WORDS AND MUSIC BY BRIAN COURTNEY, VICTOR MICALLEF,
 ZACH DODGE, BARITONE; JUDITH BROWN, PIANO CLIFTON MURRAY, REMIGIO PEREIRA, JOHN REID,
 MICHAEL STOCKWELL, AND FRAZER WALTERS

The sun, the sun is going down.
 All I see is love around me.
 You know, what I believe.
 Now I see it so completely.

Refrain: I need you to know, that time, time is letting go.
 Don't cry, dry your eyes.
 Can't you hear the angels calling, me up? Up above?
 Can't you hear the angels calling me home? Me home?
 (They're) calling me home.

Take, take my hand.
 Stay with me, as I surrender.
 We've lived a life of happiness.
 You will be in my heart forever. (Refrain)

SCRIPTURE

JOHN 20:19-31

19When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." 24But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." 26A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." 30Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

MUSINGS

"GOD FINDS US"

REV. ALISON PETERS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY DUET

DARE YOU TO MOVE
 MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANO; ZACH DODGE, BARITONE

SWITCHFOOT

Welcome to the planet
 Welcome to existence
 Everyone's here
 Everyone's here
 Everybody's watching you now
 Everybody waits for you now
 What happens next?
 What happens next?
 I dare you to move
 I dare you to move
 I dare you to lift yourself up off the floor
 I dare you to move
 I dare you to move
 Like today never happened
 Today never happened before
 Welcome to the fallout
 Welcome to resistance
 The tension is here
 The tension is here
 Between who you are and who you could be
 Between how it is and how it should be
 I dare you to move
 I dare you to move
 I dare you to lift yourself up off the floor
 I dare you to move
 I dare you to move
 Like today never happened
 Today never happened
 Maybe redemption has stories to tell
 Maybe forgiveness is right where you fell
 Where can you run to escape from yourself?
 Where you gonna go?
 Where you gonna go?
 Salvation is here
 I dare you to move
 I dare you to move
 I dare you to lift yourself up off the floor
 I dare you to move
 I dare you to move
 Like today never happened

* 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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*You are invited to come forward and receive the elements by Intinction (take the bread and dip it in the cup).
There are also individual cups as well as gluten-free crackers available.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, at this table we celebrated the resurrection as you fed us with bread and juice. As much as we want to stay here in this protected place, you send us back to our work ~only it is no longer the same work. We know you are with us, shaping and transforming us to be your witnesses in the world. Nourished in body, mind, and spirit, may all that we say and do give you glory. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

I'LL WALK WITH YOU

MARC LICHTMAN

When you walk down the road
Heavy burden, heavy load
I will rise and I will walk with you
When you walk through the night
feel like giv'in up the fight,
I will comfort you and you will rise
and I will walk with you.

Walk with you 'til the sun don't shine
Walk with you ev'rytime
I will walk with you.

When there's no-one to lean on
and you're feelin so far gone
I will comfort you and you'll belong
'cause I will walk with you.
Walk with you 'til the sun don't shine
Walk with you ev'rytime
Walk with you til the clouds fade away
Walk with you each and ev'ry day
I will walk with you.
Believe me I'll walk with you.

* BENEDICTION

BLESSING

JOHN O'DONOHUGE

On the day when
the weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance
to balance you.
And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window
and the ghost of loss
gets in to you,
may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green,
and azure blue
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought

and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.
And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

“DENNIS”

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

POSTLUDE

CLIMB EV ‘RY MOUNTAIN
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

ROGERS & HAMMERSTEIN

* 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.....Sharon Squires
Director of Music Ministries/Organist.....Judith Brown
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir; Mikayla Dodge and Alison Peters, Sopranos; Zach Dodge, Baritone
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers..... Kathy Dowell and Evan Swanger

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.

THE HIGHLANDERS will meet for lunch at Henny's Restaurant on **Thursday, April 21st at 11:30 AM.** If you have any questions or if you need a ride, please contact Betty Richtmeyer.



MONDAY, APRIL (8)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 4:45 PM ADMIN & FINANCE MEETING
 7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, APRIL (9)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 5:00 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL (10)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
 7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL (11)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, APRIL (12)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, APRIL (13)

8:30 AM CHORAL SOCIETY RETREAT

SUNDAY, APRIL (14)

9:45 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
 11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:
 12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL

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

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of March 31, 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	\$ 56,455.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 49,249.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 7,206.00





**Food Drive for the
Allegany College of Maryland
Food Bank
March 24 – April 7**

The ACM Food Bank is an emergency source of food and personal care items for students in need. As the academic year draws to a close, students have often run low on necessary supplies.

Please place your donations in the ACM Food Drive box found in the side entrance hallway.

Thank You, Your Mission Committee

Examples of Items That Can Be Accepted

Proteins:

Canned Chicken
Canned Tuna
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Nuts
Beans

Preserved meats
Shelf-stable milk

Breakfast Foods:

Cereals
Oatmeal
Granola/Cereal bars
Pop Tarts
Complete pancake mix
Syrup

Foods to Cook at Home:

Spaghetti sauce
Pasta
Rice
Boxed meals
Muffin Mixes
Desserts

Ready-to-eat Foods:

Mac-n-cheese cups
Soups
Ramen Noodle cups
Canned or preserved fruits
Canned or preserved vegetables
Popcorn
Microwavable, non-frozen meals
Crackers

Basic Necessities:

Soap
Deodorant
Toilet Paper
(individually wrapped rolls)
Shampoo and Conditioner
Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
Feminine products
Laundry detergent pods
Can openers

A LAMP UNTO MY FEET

(Psalm 119:105):

How do we read the Bible today?

A ZOOM conference organized as part of the partnership between the ECCB and the PC (USA) on April 21, 2024 at 2 P.M. EST at <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/93768208441>

Both the ČCE and the PC (USA) have their roots in the Reformation, which elevated the Bible above all human authority. Both churches have embraced the modern age with its scientific and critical approach to everything, including the Bible. This is the challenge that both denominations face together. Systematic theologian Dr. Martha Moore-Kelsh of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and Old Testament scholar Dr. Petr Sláma of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University will open the topic with their presentations. This will be followed by breakout groups discussion and a summary plenary session. All this in 90 minutes. For further information and for registration (which will help us to prepare the discussion groups) contact Rev. Jan Lavický (jan.lavicky@evangnet.cz).



**Univerzita
Karlova**



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