

First Presbyterian Church

870 West College, Jacksonville, IL

Bringing Hope: Every Hour, Every Day

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

~ WE APPROACH GOD IN PRAISE AND CONFESSION ~

RINGING OF THE HOUR

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 24

Leader: Stay with Christ, and Christ will stay with you.

People: Listen for God, and God will speak.

Leader: Seek the Spirit, and the Spirit will be revealed.

People: For the Spirit is already here, inviting us to stay.

*HYMN #839

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

Refrain:

This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (Refrain)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we long to recognize your presence, but the journey can be confusing. In the midst of our confusion, reveal yourself with grace and love. We yearn to hear your voice, but noisy distractions surround us daily. Cut through the distractions that overwhelm us, and bring us the clarity of your wisdom. We desire to touch the living water of your mercy and forgiveness. Grant us this life-giving water and the power of your enduring word, that we may know your forgiveness each and every day. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

*SILENCE

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

Greatorex

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.

~ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord God, pour out your Spirit upon us to bring good news to the oppressed, and let your word be fulfilled among us; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Charles C. Converse

Piano Solo: John Love

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:13-35

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was

opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SERMON

"At the Crossroads"

Rev. Jonathan Warren

*THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I Believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN #475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Nettleton

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;

tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing,

call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,

sung by flaming tongues above;

praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,

mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;

hither by thy help I'm come;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure,

safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,

wandering from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger,

interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor

daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fetter,

bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,

prone to leave the God I love;

here's my heart; O take and seal it;

seal it for thy courts above.

~ **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE** ~

PASTORAL PRAYER 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 TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Living Christ, bless the gifts we bring with the power of resurrection and hope. Amen.

~ THE SENDING ~

*HYMN #526

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Linstead

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken; the wine is poured;
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

2 Christ is able to make us one;
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.
(Refrain)

Refrain:

Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! (Refrain)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

"God Be With You"

Randolph

**God be with you till we meet again; by His counsels guide, uphold you, with His sheep
securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE VOLUNTARY

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Beethoven Ode to Joy

~ TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS ~

Special Guest Pianist: John Love

Director of Music & Organist: Christine Smith

Pastoral Assistant: John Nelson

Choir Director: Stephanie Soltermann

Sound Technician: Steve Holt

We would like to thank and recognize our special guest pianist John Love. John is from Arenzville and graduated from Triopia High School and Illinois College. He is a full time musician in Chicago now, and works as a musical director for the Second City's National Touring Company. His mom (Sally Stock) thinks he is just great!

*At our April session meeting, the session made the decision to continue our
cancelation of in-person worship and activities
and will revisit the decision on or before the May 20 session meeting.*

~ PRAYER REQUESTS ~

Megan Clemmons, great-niece of Mable Simmons; **Heather Cole**, sister of Helen Cole Kuhn; **Lila Feary**, aunt of Alexa Crumley; **Larry Ladd**; **Michael Woods**, a colleague at Illinois College; **Nancy Bradbury**; **Rachel Flynn**, neighbor of the Ladd's; **Tim Olson**; **Darrel Hittner**, father of Lisa Wade; **Kevin Brodie**, friend of many at ISD; **Richard Mansell**; **Shirley Husa**; **Shelley Cochran**, friend of the Tiffany's; **Lee Spencer**, Clayton's father; **Patsy**, friend of Barb Bucy; **LaNise Kirk**; **Bertha Bucy**, Mike's mother; **Sue Linde**; **Earl Innes**, father of Joy Tiffany; **Linda Noble**, Barb Bucy's sister; **Lori Oldenettel**; **Judy Vieira**; **Wilma Walker**; **Ted and Linda Birdsell**; **Sam and Sue Scheets**; **Mona Cody**; **Karen Ladd**; **Mari and Cornell Kane**; **Ashley Wade**; **Nathan Price**, great-grandson to Evelyn Mason; **Billy Hollendonner**; **Jennifer Bible**; **Talisa Slade**, daughter of Wanda Cody, our custodian Paul's wife; **Bob Sibert**; **Sharon Belokas**; **Herb Hedstrom**, friends of Lynne Sheaff; **Cole and Mary Bowie Henry**; **John Roegge**; **John McCombs**, Shawn's father; **Adam and Maggie York and family** at the death of his father, Ron; **Bob Black and family** at the death of his sister, Barbara Lutz. **Dale Homolka and family** at the death of his father.

Those who have family and friends who have died from COVID - 19:

Lynne Sheaff's friend from Zimbabwe **Ilgha**, her 10 year old nephew died.

Lynne Sheaff's cousin, **Malin**, (48 years old) from Sweden, 2 of the same age friends died.

Mary Mullgardt and Marilyn Webster's cousin, Lois Sager Kuehn

WAYS TO WORSHIP

- Look for the livestream video on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/firstpresjax/ The livestream will begin at 15 minutes before, and worship will begin as scheduled.
- Go to this link on our website <http://firstpresjax.org/live/> We will do our best to have this available at the beginning of worship, but at the latest it will be posted following the service.
Note: we will email the bulletins on Fridays and post a pdf link on our website and Facebook.

YOUTH GROUP AND ZOOM PRAYER – The youth group will meet Tuesday nights at 7:30 pm via zoom. Pastor Jonathan and David Albers will lead prayer on Thursday nights for the youth at 7:00 pm. If your youth does not have the codes for the zoom meetings, please have them contact the office or David Albers. Please keep our youth in your prayers.

SURVEY– A 3-minute check-in survey was sent out via email this week to our church families to complete. We just want to make sure everyone is able to participate in worship and to see how else we can help our church family. You and your families continue to be in my prayers. Please do not hesitate to call me on my cell (217) 418-3206 – Rev. Warren.

<https://forms.gle/chS6eTfmcDnZmyWk6>

SUNDAY VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR – Immediately following worship on Sundays, we invite everyone to share virtual coffee and donuts via zoom video conference. Join by clicking the link below and follow instructions to open meeting, or by calling the telephone number.

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us04web.zoom.us/j/288470660?pwd%3D3DFFzM2ErakVBSEdMamQ2aVM5aH-ZYUT09&sa=D&ust=1586202337093000&usg=AOvVaw3sEG2wsMOzUA-yHp4HBGtg>

Call 312-626-6799, enter meeting ID and Password below:

Meeting ID: 288 470 660 Password: 017724

COMMENT! COMMENT! COMMENT! – Help us spread the word by commenting and interacting during Facebook Live Worship! According to research, the Facebook algorithm rewards engagement with more organic reach. That means encouraging people to interact with each other on Facebook Live goes a long way toward getting more viewers. Therefore, I will be encouraging you to interact on Facebook Live during worship. Here are at least three comments to make during worship: 1. Before or during the announcements – announce your name/family (Warren family is here!). 2. During the Opening music comment about where you have seen or experienced God this week. 3. During the offertory comment about how you will give to God this week. After hymns, special music, children’s time, sermons, prayers, etc. you can comment with “Amen” or like, hearts, thumbs up, etc. www.facebook.com/firstpresjax

VIRTUAL COMMUNION ON SUNDAY, MAY 3 – Our church is finding creative ways to adapt our practices while maintaining the integrity of our Reformed theology for spiritual unity -- being the one body of Christ -- while separated; and so, our church will share virtual communion on Sunday, May 3.

- Each household should prepare communion elements at home ahead of time – use sliced bread or substitute (ie. crackers) and have a glass of juice or substitute (ie. wine, water) to dip into or drink. [Optional: [CLICK HERE](#) for a blog with recipes and prayer liturgy for bakers]
- During worship, Rev. Warren will lead the church family online through the communion liturgy and we will be invited to eat the bread and the cup together virtually.

EASTER MISSION CHALLENGE:

1. **Support our Jacksonville Area Community Food Center** by donating food and medical supplies or giving funds (see below).
2. **Spread Christ’s hope** to neighbors, friends and others by: drawing/coloring with sidewalk chalk, sending hand-written notes, calling and praying this Easter season (until May 31).

DONATE FOOD, TOILETRIES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES - The City of Jacksonville/Morgan County has established a drop-off location for local residents to donate food, toiletries and medical supplies to aid in community COVID-19 response/ relief. Medical supplies will be pushed out to first responders and health care providers within Morgan County. Curbside service will be provided by the City of Jacksonville staff. Please stay in your car when you arrive. Collection will begin on Monday March 30th, at 9 am and will be reevaluated at the end of each week. **Location:** Jacksonville Area Community Food Center at 316 E. State Street, Jacksonville, IL 62650. Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Suggested food/toiletries include: Juice/Gatorade, Canned meats, fruits, beans, vegetables and soups, Ramen noodles, Peanut butter, Cake/brownie/muffin mixes, JELL-O or Pudding, Boxed potato and pasta sides, Breakfast foods (oatmeal, cereal, pancake mix and syrup), Crackers, Rice and beans, Flour and sugar, Sliced bread, Dry soup beans, Instant milk, Margarine, Sliced cheese, Toilet paper, Individual bar soap, Laundry soap.

Medical Supplies Include: Boxed, unused N95 masks, Boxed, unused surgical type masks (procedural masks), Wrapped or boxed vinyl gloves (no powder), Clean, unused gowns, Clean, handmade masks, Hand sanitizer, Bleach wipes, Alcohol wipes.

JOIN OUR NEW FACEBOOK GROUP - PRESBYTERIANS WITH PURPOSE: Sharing Christ's Hope in a Crisis During these times of uncertainty and questions, there is hope and comfort in sharing our joys and our disappointments; our blessings and our challenges; our faith and our fears ... together in fellowship with God's grace and mercy. This group page is for you ... and any and all who want or need to connect with others during these times of challenges and questions. We will be sharing reflections and thoughts from several of our church family and friends in hopes that you find comfort in their words. We want this space to be a safe place to ask those questions, share experiences (both good and not-so-good), and find optimism in the reality and facts of this current crisis. This is not a place for political opinions but instead offers an opportunity for reflection and dialogue while facing these challenges. Please share this group with anyone you think might appreciate being included. And remember, we all have a purpose. Being part of a ministry that calls us to enhance our faith, especially in difficult times gives all of us a chance to be and see the light. Bringing Hope...Every Hour. Every Day. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/221761382271153/>). The Continuing Education Committee also is encouraging "Presbyterians with Purpose" members to continue our Easter Time Inspirations because Easter isn't over on April 12. Easter Season itself is 50 days long, ending on Pentecost, May 31. So, we are inviting all of our church family and friends to submit your own Easter time thoughts and reflections, which may include a scripture and/or prayer through this Facebook page. If you have any questions call Nancy Bork at 217-473-8112 or Marcy Jones at 217-370-3770.

GIVING TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN - Don't forget you can always give to support the mission and ministry of FPC, even if you are not physically in worship by mailing your check to First Presbyterian Church, 870 W. College Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650, or by setting up "Bill Pay" with your financial institution (if account number is needed use 870-870-870).

COMMUNICATION AND GRACE – Our Elders and Deacons are calling our church family to check-in with you (and your family) and to pray for you. If you have not received a call, please inform the church office office@firstpresjax.org or (217) 245-4189. Please be sure to call and check-in with one another, in and beyond our church family. There may be times we don't send information needed, please be patient and offer grace. Please let us know if you have any thoughts or if you need something. This is a difficult and uncertain time, so if you need to talk to someone, please don't hesitate to call your Jonathan Warren (217) 418-3206 or John Nelson (217) 248-0634.

MORE WAYS TO WORSHIP:

- **Listen to the sermons:** [Google Podcast](#) | [Apple Podcast](#) | [Spotify](#) (recorded and available later. Click the links or go to our website to listen www.firstpresjax.org)
- If you are still unable to worship with us with any of these options, please call the office at (217-245-4189) and we will send you a printed bulletin, sermon and/or CD.