

Easter Sunday

11:00 a.m.

March 31, 2024

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name

Prelude - *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* - Diane Bish

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

Darkness has been vanquished!

THE BRILLIANT LIGHT OF HOPE HAS COME!

Come let us worship and celebrate the Good News!

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! AMEN!!

Opening Hymn No. 302** (vv 1-4) - *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Invocation

Loving, Powerful God, joy floods over our souls on this day! Christ is risen! Fear is vanquished! Open our hearts and our spirits to receive fully the joy which has been given for us! Let us celebrate the victory of Christ and the hope for the future! Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gloria Patri (sung)

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.

Anthem

9:00 - *On the Third Day* - Allen Pote

11:00 - *Te Deum in B flat* - Charles Villiers Stanford

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem

9:00 - *He is Alive* - Buryl Red

11:00 - *Is He Worthy?* - Dan Forrest

Scripture Lesson

John 20:1-18

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon - Signs of Life

Pastor Howard Pippin

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response No. 303** - The Day of Resurrection

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bonds* (Hymn 319) - J. S. Bach

Doxology

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.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith

Hymn No. 327** - Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne,
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;

thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Benediction

Postlude - *Symphony 5: Toccata* - Charles-Marie Widor



Service Music 9:00 Epworth Choir; **11:00** Chancel Choir; Sam Garner and Kim Yoak, solos; Bohdan Subchak, violin; Daley Biddle, violin; Lauren Dudack, viola; Kellen Degnan, cello; **Both:** Chad Wagner, trumpet; Neil Lantry, timpani and drums.

Music: One License A-731491

Next Steps

Signs Of Life!

The Cross: Before His resurrection, the cross was known only as an instrument of horrible death. The cross of Jesus Christ is now a sign of life.

The Tomb: Before the resurrection, for most of the world, the grave was looked upon as the final chapter. But because of His resurrection, the tomb is a sign of life.

The Grave clothes: Before the resurrection the grave clothes are tight and constricting keeping us bound up like a mummy. Now that we have been resurrected from the dead and given the gift of eternal life Jesus is saying to your grave clothes, “loose them and let them go”.

The Rock: Before the resurrection the rock represented a barrier. But the rock has been rolled away. The rock is now a sign of life.

Questions for Reflection: How are these signs of life lived out in your everyday life? What “grave clothes” do you need to let go?

Questions for Discussion: How can the church share the good news of these signs of life with those around us?

Memory Verse: Psalm 118:17 I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Readings for this week: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1–2:2; John 20:19-31

CHURCH NOTES

Multiplied Love: Join us for a study on the book *Multiplied Love* by Dr. Paul Chilcote. **It will begin on Sunday, April 7, at 9:30 am** in the parlor. In the book he shows us how we can find new vision and vitality through an orientation, or reorientation, to the values and understanding of the Christian faith that have made Methodism a force for so much good in the world over its history. The sign up sheet is on the Welcome Center or you may call the church office.

Home Concert: On Sunday, April 7, at 7:00 p.m. the Epworth Choir will present a home concert featuring music from throughout the year and also the Lenten Sketches by Joseph Martin with a large orchestral ensemble. Come support the gem of our church!

We Need You! The International Welcome Center is a local agency that works with the State department to resettle refugees. This year, they'll begin welcoming six to eight families whose refugee status has been granted. We're being asked to provide a team of 4-6 people who are willing to welcome these new persons to the US and journey with them as they make their house a home, find a job, and get their children enrolled in school. Email Pastor Pippin (fallsfirstpippin@gmail.com) right away if you are interested in being part of this team!

Men's Time Out: All the men of First Church and the community are invited for a morning of fellowship and breakfast! The meetings take place on the first Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. The next meeting will be on April 6.

New Handbell Choir: Do you love seeing the handbells on Sunday mornings? Here is your chance to play them. Dean Wagner is putting together a new handbell choir for beginning to intermediate players. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays from 6 - 6:45 p.m. The beginning date yet to be determined. Please contact Dean at Ext. 221 or email him at hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com. <mailto:hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com>

Annual Golf Outing: It is time to mark your calendars again for the 18th Annual Bud Mills Memorial Golf Outing to benefit the Epworth tour of 2025. The outing is at Brookledge again on June 22 at 1:30. You may play in the event for \$90. We will be seeking hole and cart sponsors as well at the \$150 and \$25 levels. As always, we thank you for your support in this our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please feel free to share this with the other churches.

Chess Camp is returning this year! The program for children going into grades K and up will run in the mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. the week of June 24 – 28. Beginners through advanced chess players are all welcome for a cost of \$25. This will include lunch each day. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center, in the church office and on our website.

Work Camp: Each year a group of adults and youth from First Church go to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. There they take on projects for the folks who live there: painting, roofing, repairing. Helping these folks is a wonderfully rewarding experience. This year Work Camp will take place June 2 - 8. If you are interested in going, or just want more information, please contact Jack Steele at 330-697-8344.

Volunteer Groups: In February, Pastor Jon shared that we had begun some discussions with our neighbors on Church Square (St. John's Episcopal and First Christian) about collaborating more closely and potentially redeveloping the block to more faithfully and effectively meet the needs of our community. We are ready to begin some of these conversations in earnest this spring and summer. We will have three teams of members of each congregation; a Prayer Team, an Admin/Legal Team, and a Real Estate Re-Development Team. So that each congregation is represented equally in the groups, we may not be able to bring everyone on yet who is interested. There will be more places to provide input as the project would proceed this fall. However, if you are interested in participating in the groups forming this spring, please let me know at fallsfirstjon@gmail.com.

Anthems

He Is Alive - Buryl Red

He is alive. He is alive. He is alive. He is alive and He's shown me the way. He gives me joy to begin ev'ry day. He is alive and He's opened the door. He gives me hope to live life evermore. He is alive and so I celebrate. This is the story that I must relate. He is alive and I love Him. I am alive and He loves me. Hallelujah halle hallelujah.

On the Third Day - Allen Pote

Jesus was crucified. He died and was buried. On the third day Christ arose, He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end. Christ is risen from the dead; He is risen as He said. He is alive, Alleluia. Christ has conquered death and sin; died for us our souls to win. He is alive He is alive, Alleluia. On the third day Christ arose.

Is He Worthy? - Arr. Dan Forrest

Do you feel the world is broken? We do. Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do. But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? We do. Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do. Is all creation groaning? It is. Is a new creation coming? It is. Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? It is. Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's Root. And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave; is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory? Is He worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? He does. Does the Spirit move among us? He does. And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? He does. Does our God intend to dwell again with us? He does. Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, He is David's Root. And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave from ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue, He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son. Is He worthy of all blessing and honor and glory? Is He worthy of this? He is.

Te Deum in B Flat - Charles Stanford

We praise Thee, O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens, and all the Pow'rs therein. To Thee Cherubin and Seraphin continually do cry, Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of the Majesty of Thy Glory. The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee. The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee. The noble army of martyrs praise Thee. The holy church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee; the Father of an infinite Majesty. Thine honourable, true, and only Son; also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter. Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father. When Thou tookest upon Thee to deliver man, Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb. When Thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, Thou didst open the Kingdom of heaven to all bellievers. Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the Glory of the Fathers. We believe that Thou shalt come to be our Judge. We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood. Make them to be number'd with Thy Saints in glory everlasting. O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine heritage. Govern them and lift them up for ever. Day by day we magnify Thee; and we worship Thy Name, ever world without end. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Lord, let Thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in Thee. O Lord, in Thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
MARCH 31, 2024**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Jim Henes
Bob Ahonen	Jack Holforty
Debbie Amundsen	Kathy Jackson
Jim Beebe	Lew King
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Lee Minier
Don Corbett	Kathi Sawyer
Mary Griest	Bonnie Shultz
John Gullion	Karen & Michael Taucher
	Ken Tunstall

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Karen Doubrava on the death of her mother, Brenda Doubrava on 3/15.
Kathy Gerhardt on the death of her sister, Sue Weber Pobanz on 3/25.