

Postlude—*Improvisation on Victamae Paschali* (Hymn #319)—Charles Tournemire

The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in honor of Joe and Linda Demeter's 30th wedding anniversary.

Music—One License A-731491

Anthem Lyrics—*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*—arr. Gilbert Martin

When I survey the wond’rous Cross, On which the Prince of Glory dy’d,
My richest Gain I count but Loss, And pour Contempt on all my Pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the Death of Christ my God:
All the vain Things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his Blood.
See from his Head, his Hands, his Feet, Sorrow and Love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such Love and Sorrow meet? Or Thorns compose so rich a Crown?
His dying Crimson, like a Robe, Spreads o’er his Body on the Tree;
Then am I dead to all the Globe, And all the Globe is dead to me.
Were the whole Realm of Nature mine, That were a Present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my Soul, my Life, my All.

**Please stand as you are able.

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister
Howard Pippin, Associate Minister
Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus
Dean Wagner, Director of Music/Organist
Tim Zuschin, Assistant Chancel Choir Director
Donna Curfman, Director of Children’s Ministries
Jennifer Brooks, Director of *Weekday Christian Preschool*

Contact Information

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Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
330-923-5241

Office Hours: M-F 9am-3pm
infofumccf@gmail.com
www.firstchurchcf.com



Sunday Worship Service and Live-streaming at 10:45 am.

Second Sunday of Easter

10:45 am April 27, 2025

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord’s name.

Welcome & Announcements—

Prelude—O filii et filae (Hymn #317)—Jean Langlais

Call to Worship—

Peace be upon you, says the Lord.

And blessed are those who have not seen his hands and feet,

And yet have come to believe.

Through believing we may have life in his name.

Opening Hymn 304**—Easter People Raise Your Voices

Invocation (please be seated)—

O God, our light, our beauty, our rest: In the resurrection of your Son you have brought us into your new creation. Form us into your people, and order our lives in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading— Psalm 150

Gloria Patri—Glory Be to the Father (Hymnal p. 70)

Anthem—When I Survey the Wondrous Cross—Gilbert Martin Epworth & Chancel Choirs

Gods Word for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading—John 20:19-31

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

Sermon—”Faith Seeking Understanding” Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Hymn of Response 382**—Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—In the Garden —Charles Callahan

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.

Prayer of the People/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.

Baptism (Hymnal p. 34)—Jenna Nolen

SENDING FORTH

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

Closing Hymn 383**—This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Benediction—Up From the Grave He Arose (#322, refrain)

Up from the grave he arose; with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #304, Easter People Raise Your Voices

1. Easter people raise your voices
Sounds of heaven in earth should ring
Christ has brought us Heaven's choices
Heavenly music let it ring
Alleluia alleluia
Easter people let us sing

2. Fear of death can no more stop us
From our pressing here below
For our Lord empowered us
To triumph over every foe
Alleluia alleluia
On to victory now we go

3. Every day to us is Easter
With its resurrection song
Even when life overwhelms us
Easter people sing this song:
Alleluia alleluia
Everlasting Sunday song.

GLORIA PATRI

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.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #382, Have Thine Own Way, Lord

1. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

2. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Savior today!
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.

3. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

4. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #383, This Is a Day of New Beginnings

1. This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

2. For by the life and death of Jesus, love's mighty Spirit,
now as then, can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind our
disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths,
and sure to find.

4. Christ is alive, and goes before us
to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

Doubting Honest Thomas

vs. 27 – Why does Jesus appear to welcome Thomas’s doubt?

John 11:16 – Only Thomas didn’t question Jesus’s mission to Jerusalem

vs. 25 – He was looking for the deeper relationship with the risen Christ

Faith Seeking Understanding

“Doubt is not the opposite of faith, but rather an element of it.” – Paul Tillich

vs. 28 – Thomas’s doubt led to the deepest confession of Jesus’s divinity

Our faith is deepened through honest questioning that seeks understanding

Questions for Reflection: What is often labeled negatively as “doubting” may be a longing for a deeper relationship with Thomas’s faith in the risen Christ. A personal experience with Jesus as his fellow disciples. How has your personal experience with Jesus shaped your faith? If you haven’t experienced that, how might you lean into your faith for a deeper personal experience?

Questions for Discussion: Mother Teresa wrote, "All my heroes walk with a limp. They limp because their faith was forged in the fires of pain, suffering, and doubt." How has pain, suffering, or doubt played a role in deepening your own faith?

Memory Verse: **John 20:28** – “And Thomas answered and said unto him, ‘My Lord and my God.’”

PRAYER REQUESTS

Scott Adie	Anne Nieman
Bob Ahonen	Jerry Pecko
Joanne Ames	Robbie Robinson
Debbie Amundsen	Holly Ross
Mary Ellen Atwood	Kathi Sawyer
Dorothy Bates	Todd Schneider
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Kathy Walker
Suzanne Callahan	Bette Wenk
Mary Griest	Marcus Wilson
Jeff Iula	Mike Yeager
Dwight Konic	Rose Ann Youngkin
Judy Lewis	
Marge Magee	

In our greater world: We lift up landscapers and arborists.

Deepest Sympathy & Prayers: We lift up the family of Joan Johnson (Kristopher Katz and Kaz Lewis) who passed away on 4/9.

VBS
July 14-18, 9:00-12:00PM
Extreme, 12:00-5:00PM

330-923-5241
fumccf.mycokesburyvbs.com



**CHESS
CAMP**

June 23-27, 2025
Registering Now!

You can find more info and registration brochures at the
Welcome Center.

CHURCH NOTES 4-27-25

Registering Now: It's time to start planning for summer! Chess Camp is June 23-27, and VBS is July 14-18. Register now for Summer Camp, Chess Camp, and VBS! Summer Camp and Chess Camp brochures (with registration info) can be found at the Welcome Center. You can register for VBS online umccf.mycokesburyvbs.com.

Teatime for Peace: April 29 @7:00pm at the CF Natatorium. The City of Cuyahoga Falls, Cuyahoga Falls Library, and Church Square invite you to share in conversation with people of different belief systems, ethnicities, racial backgrounds, and cultures. Enjoy a cup of tea and light refreshments. Engage in honest dialogue in a nonjudgmental, respectful environment in which each person has an opportunity to listen and to be heard. RSVP via the QR code, or call St. John's, 330-928-2139.



Singers Companye: Join us for an evening of choral music on Wednesday, April 30 @7:30pm, here at First Church. Singers Companye will present their spring concert "Sky & Sea." This concert is free and open to the public.

Baptism: If you are interested in baptism please contact Kim Kerr in the church office 330-923-5241 x 214. The next date will be May 25, 2025.

2025 Golf Outing: The 19th Annual "Bud" Mills golf outing benefitting Epworth Choir, will be held at Brookledge on Saturday June 28 at 1:00 pm. We are looking for sponsors. See the forms at the Welcome Center for more information.

Graduate Recognition: High School Seniors are invited to our annual celebration of their accomplishments and future endeavors. We do not want to miss one of you! Please let the church office know your name and plans for attending Senior Sunday and the reception after the 10:45 service on May 18. Please RSVP by May 14.

2025 Work Camp: Registration is underway now through May 2. You can find forms with more information in the *Welcome Center*. Travel with us to the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky June 1-7, to work on community projects like painting, repair, construction, and more. No skills needed, we will teach you on-site. Contact Jack Steele with any questions, 330-697-8344.