

Everybody's Church



First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, April 7, 2024, 10:00 am, Second Sunday of Easter

Vision Statement

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

Inclusion Statement

As Everybody's Church we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other life circumstance.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Nyiri

INTROIT

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

Fishel

Beth Lackey, soloist

The music this morning is offered as an act of worship, therefore, please refrain from applause.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Samuel Moore

One: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.

Many: **From the waters of death, you raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us.**

One: Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of life with you, through Christ our Lord.

Many: **We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song!**

All: **Let us worship God!**

†HYMN 246

"Christ Is Alive!"

Hymntune: TRURO

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

After Time With the Younger Church, children 3 years old—5th grade will proceed to their classrooms.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Ted Thode

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or in spirit.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Confession acknowledges the reality of sin in our personal and corporate lives. This practice relieves us from the burden of sin and reminds us of the promise of God's forgiveness and grace sealed in our baptism.

†RESPONSE 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word.

Many: **Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit**
so we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 18:1-8

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Please follow along with the reading on page 14 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

SECOND TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 24:13-35

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Please follow along with the reading on page 90 of the New Testament in your Pew Bible.

SERMON

“A Generous Presence” Rev. Candace Veon-Nyiri

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” – Luke 24:32

OFFERING INFORMATION

Members and guests, please sign the Fellowship Pads to let us know of your presence with us.

All that we have is a gift from God. In gratitude, we return a portion of those blessings to the work of God in the church.

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND RESOURCES

MUSICAL OFFERING

“I Will Rise” Tomlin
Beth Lackey, soloist

You are invited to contribute your loose change to the offering plate. This loose change goes to the Deacons to help support their efforts to meet the immediate needs of food, clothing and shelter in our greater community. Those quarters (and dollars) really add up to help those in need!

†THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Children: Why do we give thanks at this table?

People: **We give thanks for God’s creation, for making us in God’s image.**

**We give thanks because God never gave up on us,
 even though we were not faithful to God.
 We give thanks because when it was time,
 God sent the only Son, Jesus, to show God's love for us.**

Children: How do we praise God for all this?

Leader: With all the faithful of every time and place,
 this song is sung to God's glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, Heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, - ho -
 san - na in the high - est.

Children: What do we remember at this table?

People: **We remember God's Son, Jesus:
 He healed the sick and restored sight to the blind;
 He welcomed strangers and ate with outcasts.
 Dying on the cross, He saved us from our sins.
 Risen from the dead, He gives us new life.**

Children: How are we able to remember?

People: **We are able to remember
 because of the gift of the Holy Spirit,
 God's first gift to those who believe,
 who will complete God's work in the world.**

Children: Why do we eat bread at this table?

Leader: On the night before He died,
 Jesus took bread, blessed it, and gave it to his friends.
 He told them to eat it and remember him.
 And ministering in Jesus' name, we do likewise.

Children: Why do we drink from the cup at this Table?

Leader: After the meal, Jesus took the cup, and gave it to them
 as the promise that our sins are forgiven.
 And ministering in Jesus' name, we do likewise.

Children: But this is just everyday bread and grape juice.

Leader: Let us pray that the everyday bread and juice
 will become holy:
 Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon these your gifts of bread and cup,
 that the bread we break and the cup we bless
 may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

"Holy, Holy, Holy" Land of
 Rest, Words and Music:
 Richard T. Proulx ©1986, 2011
 GIA Publications Inc.;
 Reprinted with permission
 under ONE LICENSE #A-
 702958. All rights reserved.

People: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
All glory and honor are Yours,
Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Leader: Since this meal brings us together with all Christians,
let us pray for the needs of the world, the church,
and all of God's children.

(The pastor offers prayers asking God to help all those in need.)

Leader: Now, together let us pray the family prayer that Jesus taught us.

All: 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.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*The elements will be served together in the pews; beginning with bread,
followed by the cup. Please partake as you receive. As you pass the bread say,
"The bread of heaven, broken for you." The response is "Thanks be to God."
As you pass the cup say, "The cup of salvation, poured out for you." The
response is, "Amen." ALL the bread is gluten-free.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†HYMN 250 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

†BENEDICTION

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE "Be Thou My Vision" Leavitt

Mary Beth Jones, Guest Pianist, is playing the service this morning.

Our preacher this morning is Rev. Candace Veon-Nyiri. Candace holds a BA from Grove City College, a M.ED from the University of Arkansas and her M.Div. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She is currently working on a Doctorate of Ministry in Theology and the Arts from United Seminary of the Twin Cities. Candace, a lifelong Presbyterian, has served in a variety of ministry roles: Christian educator, youth director, pediatric chaplain, associate pastor, solo pastor and as a Regional Associate for the Presbytery of Carlisle. Candace enjoys travel (especially Scotland), discussing theology and film, family hikes, visiting coffee shops for caffeinated inspiration, and taking too many pictures with her iPhone.

Our liturgist this morning is Samuel Moore. Sam is a 6th grader at Anderson Middle School in Berkley where he is a member of the chess club, the Student Leadership team, and plays violin in the orchestra. He is also a Boy Scout in Troop 1085 and just achieved the rank of Tenderfoot. He just returned from a fabulous trip to Italy and he would love to tell you all about it!

The flowers today are given by Terry and Cindy Lanzen in loving memory of those who have gone before.

Visitors, thank you for joining us today; please use this QR code to register your attendance:



Hymntune: PROMISE

Welcome in Christ's name to First Presbyterian Church!
You are welcome here just as you are at whatever place in your spiritual journey that you find yourself. If you have any questions about who we are, what we believe, or what we do, please ask one of our elders or pastors. They will be pleased to visit with you. Please know that you are invited to join us for coffee and goodies following the service in Calvin Hall.

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)
 F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)
 C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
 F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
 Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.