



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

APRIL 12, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>Was It A Morning Like This?</i> Leah Jennings-Brown, <i>soloist</i>	Jim Crogaert
WELCOME		Pastor Denise Clark-Jones
INTROIT	<i>Cry Out and Shout</i>	Knut Nystedt

Cry out and shout, ye people of God!
The Lord is strength and song!
Therefore with joy shall ye draw water from the wells of salvation.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace be with you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
who has conquered death and shown us how to live.

**We need the gift of peace for our harried days;
and we need it for our troubled world.**

God gives us counsel and instruction
and is always available at our right hand.

**Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice;
we shall not be moved.**

In hope and confidence we come to praise God
for the heritage and opportunity given to us.

**We are full of gladness in the presence of Christ,
whose ways we seek to follow.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

We come to you, O God, a believing but skeptical people.

**We have seen too much evil all around us, and within,
to be convinced that Christ offers the last word.**

**And yet we are drawn to the message and example
Jesus lived among people like us.**

**There is something genuine and compelling,
in both word and deed, that we want to explore and affirm.**

**Guide our inquiry and go with us in our struggle
to understand and trust. In Jesus' name.**

Amen.

* HYMN #254

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
2 He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the
3 From ev - ery weap - on death can wield, your own re -

out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 glo - rious wounds a - bide, the to - kens true which
 deemed for - ev - er shield; O Lord of all, with

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
 made it plain their Lord in - deed was risen a - gain.
 us a - bide in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

These Eastertide stanzas are derived from a longer Latin text that was one of the earliest hymns written especially for a season of the church year. They are set here to a tune with Christmas associations, a means of linking the two great festivals of the Christian year.

TEXT: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1852, alt.
 MUSIC: Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
 LM
 (alternate harmonization, 67)

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Brad Oglesby

How quickly we forget that we are Easter people,
 raised up out of the ways of death into fullness of life.
 The power of death leaves us shaken and afraid,
 but God in Christ calls us out of our fear to experience a presence
 that embraces us with eternal hope.
 We confess now all that keeps us from accepting the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for personal silent confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgive us, God,
for seeking to limit your truth to what we can understand.
Forgive us for chasing after gods of our own making.
We are so busy with them that we forget to open ourselves
to your larger reality.
We reduce the circles of connection and caring
that Jesus demonstrated.
Goodness is crucified by our narrow prejudices,
and our doubts plunge us into despair.
Be to us a refuge,
granting us courage to face the questions that haunt us
until they lead to deeper understanding.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE

Choir

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Congregation

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God never abandons us,
no matter how far we stray.
We have a goodly heritage which is ours to claim.
God shows us the path of life and offers us fullness of joy.
Let our hearts be glad and our tongues rejoice.
The Living Christ is in our midst.
We are granted new birth into a living hope.

Alleluia and Amen!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

* GLORIA

Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

HOLY MANNA

**Sing of one who walks beside us and this day is living still,
One who now is closer to us than the thoughts our hearts distill,
One who once upon a hilltop raised against the power of sin,
Died in love as his own creatures crucified their God and King.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

The boundary lines have fallen for us in pleasant places.

We are blessed beyond all deserving.

How marvelous is the opportunity placed before us
to share what we have received.

Let us express our thanks to God for all that is more precious than gold,
as we pass on God's gifts to us.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come, Let us with Our Lord Arise

Bruce Saylor

Come, let us with our Lord arise! Our Lord who made both earth and skies,
who died to save the world he made, and rose triumphant from the dead:
He rose, the Prince of Life and Peace, and stamped the day for ever His.

This is the day the Lord has made that all may see His love displayed,
may feel His resurrection's power and rise again to fall no more,
in perfect righteousness renewed and filled with all the life of God.

Then let us render Him his own, with solemn prayer approach this throne,
with meekness hear the gospel word, with thanks His dying love record,
our joyful hearts and voices raise, and fill His courts with songs of praise.

* DOXOLOGY #609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise, God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Brad Oglesby

Let us join our voices in prayer:

This offering is our most significant statement of faith, O God.

We give because we believe this congregation is important,

our ministry changes lives for the better,

and we are part of something much larger than ourselves.

Ultimately, we believe the church is our firmest link to your Reality.

Use our time, talent, and treasure in ways

that exceed our grandest design.

Amen.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

I Will Always Give Thanks

Eric Thiman

I will always give thanks, give thanks unto the Lord,

His praises will ever be in my mouth!

In the evening on that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, he showed them the marks of crucifixion. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!" Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my fingers in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them saying, "Peace be with you." Then to Thomas, Jesus said, "take your finger, examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe." Thomas said in response, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus then said, "You've become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' Name.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"On the Right Path"

Pastor Denise Clark-Jones

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

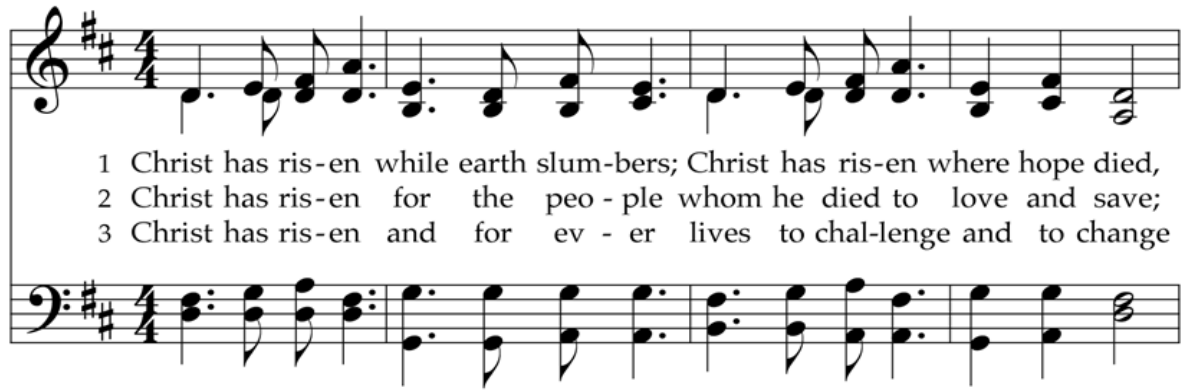
**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on 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 Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

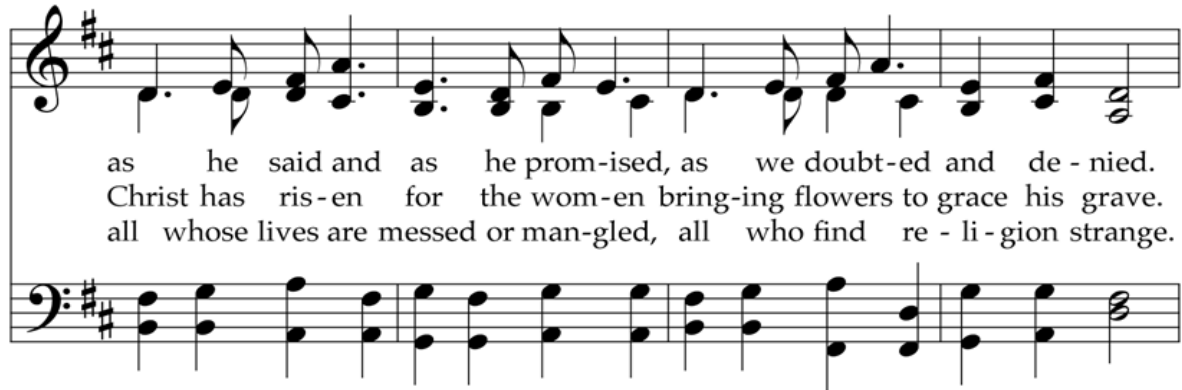
LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

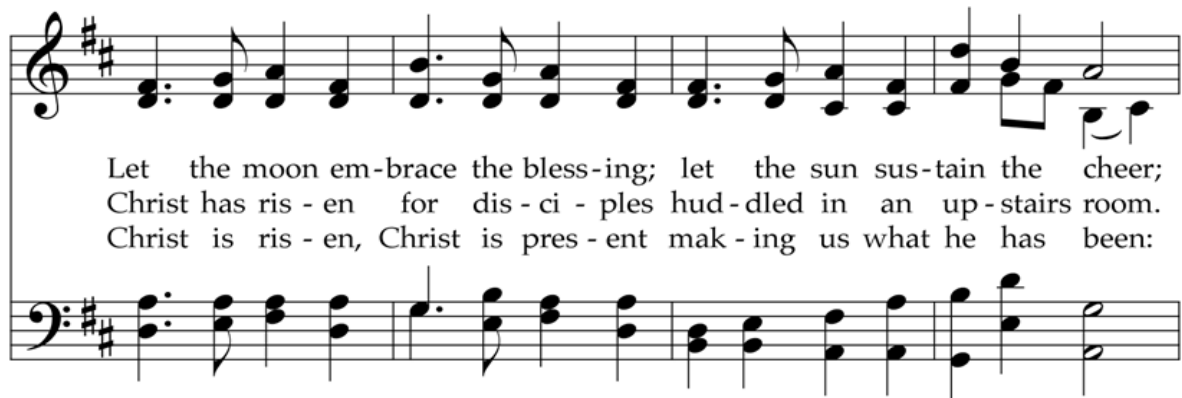
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



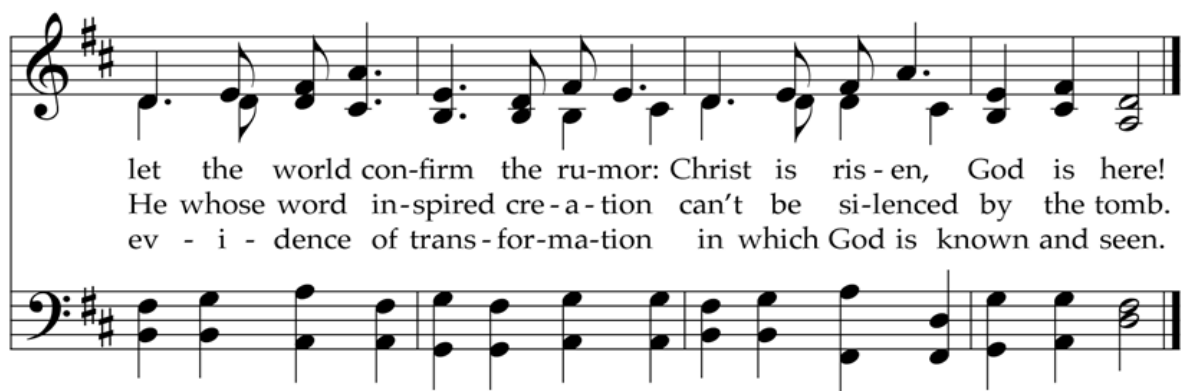
1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,
 2 Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;
 3 Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-lenge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.
 Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.
 all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;
 Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud-dled in an up - stairs room.
 Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been:



let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!
 He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.
 ev - i - dence of trans-for-ma-tion in which God is known and seen.

Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means "lullaby."

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go forth into the world in hope and peace,
sharing the promise with all you meet.

**We have been born anew to a living hope,
in Christ, who is our peace.**

Blessed are you when you learn to trust
without all the proofs in place.

**We have not seen and yet believe;
Jesus Christ is God's special gift to the world.**

Blessed are you when you forgive
without knowing the offense will never be repeated.

**We dare to forgive because God pardons us
and summons us to be forgiving.**

Blessed are you when you welcome the Holy Spirit,
not knowing where God will lead.

**We believe Christ sends us to continue the work
started by Jesus of Nazareth long ago.**

Peace be with you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
who has conquered death and shown us how to live.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

anon.

POSTLUDE

Con moto maestoso from the third Sonata for Organ
Felix Mendelssohn

*“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

Psalm 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

Lulu Myers, Balavaju, Victor Georgiev, Clarence Niles, Linda Marsh,
Anthony Buccino, Rosa Buccino, Tralaina Davis, Dorland, Addie Singleton,
Rachael Adam, Sandy Colombo, Sarah Ritari, Rajvinder Kaur, Mary Orr,
Charles Rabb, Tony & Annie Carlos, the Jackson-Dix family

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.



Please join us for Communion following the service this morning in the Chapel.

Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.



@The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday April 12 Second Sunday of Easter

- 10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary
- 11:30AM** Communion/Chapel
- 12:00PM** Guitar & Cello Recital/Chapel
- 1:00PM** Reception/Gallery

Tuesday April 14

- 12:15PM** Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room
- 7:00PM** Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday April 15

- 11:00AM** Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry
- 12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday April 19 Third Sunday of Easter

- 10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary
- 11:15AM** Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/Cuyahoga Room
- 11:30AM** Communion/Chapel
- 12:00PM** Hand Bell Practice/Gallery
- 1:30PM** Welcome and Fellowship Committee/Playhouse Square Tour
- 1:40PM** Guardians-Orioles/Progressive Field

Tuesday April 21

- 12:15PM** Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room
- 7:00PM** Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday April 22

- 11:00AM** Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry
- 12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday April 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 10:00AM** Worship/Sanctuary
- 11:30AM** Communion/Chapel
- 12:00PM** Stated Session Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Tuesday April 28

- 12:15PM** Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room
- 7:00PM** Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday April 29

- 11:00AM** Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry
- 12:15PM** Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:162 Online:342

There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Online Giving:

firstprescle.org/giving



Mail to:

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
Attn: Financial Office
1380 Ontario Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Scan the QR Code with your phone.

Checks should be made payable to "The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland."

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

Phone: 216-241-6145 **Fax:** 216-241-6149

Website: www.firstprescle.org **E-Mail:** info@firstprescle.org

Music copied under ccli#1638695
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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: Evan M. Collins

Choir

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2026

Beth Buchanan

Judy Macuga

Melissa Maffia

Harriet Niles

Marty Vassel

Class of 2027

Michelle Baron

Bernard Medie

Bob Reid

Class of 2028

Dave Finley

Don Urban

Church Deacons:

Class of 2026

Mark Corey

Forrest Diehl

Pam Daly

Ruth Finley

Alyssa Niepokny

Charlene Thornton

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari

Eric Grattan

Sunny Kunche

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler

Class of 2028

Valorie Hempstead

JoAnn Hood

Elie Medie

Brad Oglesby

Mark Pichler

Lori Montero

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Class of 2027

Dave Eifert

Class of 2027

Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027

Mike Musson

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