



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

APRIL 19, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty-Lobe den Herren* Johann Walther

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Charles D. Yoost

MINUTE FOR MISSION Dr. David Margolius

INTROIT *Cantate Domino* Giuseppe Pitoni

Cantate Domino canticum novum laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum
Lætetur Israel in eo qui fecit eum et filii Sion exultent in rege suo

Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.
Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the people assemble;
God calls each one of us by name.

**The promises of God are to us and our children,
and to sisters and brothers near and far.**

We gather as a community of faith,
united in mutual concern and caring.

**Here we break bread, learn, and pray together,
and join in outreach to a needy world.**

May our eyes and ears be open
to the special message this hour holds for us.

**We will listen for God's living and abiding Word
and strive to be obedient to the truth.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Loving God,
who raised Jesus Christ from the dead to be our Savior,
we are slow of heart to believe or accept our role as disciples.
We are closer to the priests and rulers
who wanted quiet, order, and business as usual.
When you invite us to be born anew,
we are not ready to take that risk.
Yet we gather for this venture of worship,
opening ourselves to your surprises.
Meet us here and grant us courage
to accept new possibilities for our lives.
Amen.**

* HYMN #246

Christ Is Alive!
verses 1,2, and 5

TRURO

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.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968, rev. 1995
 MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778
 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO
 LM

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Kristy Sawicki

Peter preached:

“Save yourselves from this crooked generation.

Repent...so your sins may be forgiven.”

We participate in our society’s alienation from God.

We have joined the “me” generation
 in putting our own interests before all else.

We have much to confess before we can claim the wholeness God offers.

Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for personal silent confession.

Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God,
we confess that we rush through our days
without recognizing your presence with us.
We follow our busy diversions without reference to your will for us.
We strive for financial success and personal recognition,
while you call for obedience to truth and genuine mutual love.
Purify our souls, we pray, and redirect our priorities.
May we be born anew through your living and enduring word.**
(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

The promise of forgiveness is for us and for our children,
for everyone whom God calls.
The gift of the Holy Spirit is ours to receive.
Lift up the cup of salvation every day, and call on God's name.
Give thanks for the words and deeds of Jesus,
who revealed God's love for us and enlists us as disciples and apostles.
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.

Our offerings are a sacrifice of thanksgiving in the spirit of Jesus, who gave everything, even life itself, to proclaim God's inclusive love.

God calls all people to become children of the promise, and to this end we dedicate our gifts.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Rejoice in the Lord Always* anon. Arr. David Willcocks

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto everyone. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

* 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

Kristy Sawicki

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**In the name of Christ,
whose blood was poured out to ransom and redeem us,
we bring these tokens of our intent to share.
We may not be ready for significant sacrifice
or to sell our possessions
and divide the proceeds as people have need.
However, we do want to be generous with our gifts and our time.
We are glad for the opportunity to give.
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!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures
to the disciples on the road to Emmaus
and set their hearts ablaze.
By the power of your Spirit
kindle our hearts as we hear your word proclaimed,
that we may receive you with joy.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

1 Peter 1:17-23 (Inclusive Bible)

When you pray, you call on Abba God, who judged everyone impartially on the basis of their actions. Since this is so, conduct yourselves reverently during your sojourn in a foreign land. Realize that you were delivered from the futile way of life your ancestors handed on to you, not by any diminishable sum of gold or silver, but by Christ's blood, which is beyond all price: the blood of a spotless, unblemished lamb foreknown before the world's foundation and revealed for your sake in these last days. It is through Christ that you are believers in God, the God who raised Christ from the dead into glory.

Your faith and hope, then, are centered in God.

By obedience to the truth you have purified yourselves for a genuine love of your sisters and brothers. Therefore love one another constantly, from the heart. Your rebirth has come not from a perishable seed but from an imperishable one—the living and enduring word of God.

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

With God's help we are listening.



That same day, two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus—which was about seven miles from Jerusalem—discussing all that had happened as they went.

While they were discussing these things, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them though they were kept from recognizing Jesus who asked them, “What are you two discussing as you go your way?” They stopped and looked sad. One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things that have happened these past few days?” Jesus said to them, “What things?” They said, “About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people—how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. We were hoping that he was the One who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today—the third day since these things happened— some women of our group have brought us some astonishing news. They were at the tomb before dawn, and didn’t find the body; they returned and informed us that they had seen a vision of angels, who declared that Jesus was alive. Some of number went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they didn’t find Jesus.”

Then Jesus said to them, “What little sense you have. How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! Didn’t the Messiah have to undergo all this to enter into glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to the Messiah. By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. But they said eagerly, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening—the day is practically over.” So the savior went in and stayed with them.

After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread, then began to distribute it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight.

They said to one another, “Weren’t our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road, and explained the scriptures to us?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* 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 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - ening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

The Sovereign Christ go with you,
as you depart to witness to your faith and hope in God.

**Our hearts burned within us as we recognized
the presence of Christ in our worship.**

Be alert to use your eyes and ears well this week,
lest you fail to see and hear what God has in store.

**We do not want to miss a vision of angels
or the profound encounter of table fellowship.**

Love one another earnestly, from the heart;
enjoy opportunities to give what others need.

**May our deeds be consistent with our profession
of Jesus Christ as our Sovereign and Guide.**

Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,
that you may be saved from this crooked generation.

**God gives us confidence to face life anew,
with greater sensitivity and awareness.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

anon.

POSTLUDE

Every Morning is Easter Morning

Richard Avery and Donald Marsh

*“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, Sue Blazek,
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 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 Handbell Rehearsal/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/Conference Room

12:00PM Deacons 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

Sunday May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Jazz Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

12:00PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee/
Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Tour

12:00PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee/
Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Tour

Tuesday May 5 Election Day

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday May 6

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:30PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday May 10 Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Handbell Rehearsal/Gallery

1:40PM Guardians-Twins/Progressive Field

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:70 Online:241

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The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
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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

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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*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Anthony Steward, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

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

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Class of 2026

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Forrest Diehl
Pam Daly
Ruth Finley
Alyssa Niepokny
Charlene Thornton

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari
Eric Grattan
Sunny Kunche
Amy Wheeler
John Wheeler

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Valorie Hempstead
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Elie Medie
Brad Oglesby
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Class of 2027

Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027

Mike Musson

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