



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

APRIL 5, 2026
EASTER SUNDAY WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Praise The Lord

Trad. Cameroon
arr. Ralph Johnson

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Joy In the Morning

Natalie Sleeth

There'll be joy in the morning on that day, with the light of dawn, the dark is gone,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day.

There'll be peace and contentment evermore, every heart, every voice will then
rejoice, there'll be peace and contentment evermore.

And the glory of the Lord will shine and bring the truth divine.

There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere, and the way of the Lord will that day
be restored, there'll be love and forgiveness everywhere.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day that God has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We celebrate good news: Jesus is risen!

We shall not die, but we shall live!

God is our strength and our song
and has become our salvation.

**The stone which the builders rejected
has become the head of the corner.**

Hear again the glad sounds of victory;
come and join the joyous dance of life.

**We thank you, God, that you have answered our cries
and have become our salvation.**

God's love is everlasting,
and God's faithfulness continues.

**We have found grace in the wilderness of life
and are here to renew our promises in Christ.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

**Life-giving God,
your promise of newness and rebirth
is especially real to us amid glad songs of victory,
the fragrance of flowers, and the beauty of today.
Our senses are heightened,
and we are able to feel your presence
as we seldom know you in the dullness of our low expectations.
Today we would dance with the merrymakers
and loose our voices to sing hearty praise.
We are witnesses to the resurrection.
It is not just a long-ago event; it is today.
Praise God!
Amen.**

* HYMN #232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured,
4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heav - en - ly host,

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Ruth Finley

Amid our Easter celebrations,
it is well to pause for moments of reflection.
How can we share the joy of new life
if we have not taken time to examine old ways that lead to death?
How will we recognize the risen Christ
if we have not walked with the earthly Jesus?
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray together:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God,
the message of Easter has come again
before we were ready to receive it.
The Palm Sunday parade demanded very little of us.
We could join in the hosannas.
But the betrayal and denial, the suffering and the shame,
the agony and death, have left us fearful and shaken.
We have become enemies of Jesus without intending to be disloyal.
We have left him in the tomb, lest he upset our daily lives.
The Jesus of long ago seems more comfortable to us
than the Christ who is risen today in our midst.
We confess our reluctance to let Christ claim us and change us.
O God, we need forgiveness!**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON

(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 raised Jesus from death.
Disciples who had deserted Jesus felt the embrace of forgiveness.
The spirit of Christ has come among us today,
claiming us for new life together.
God wants to forgive us. God intends that we move from death to life.
All of us are invited to share in the promise of the Easter season.

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.

**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

We have come together today to give thanks for God’s steadfast love.
Each one of us is an expression of that love.
By the way we live and the way we give,
that love is carried into the lives of others
who have had little experience of God’s care.
May our offerings represent an outpouring of thanksgiving.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Worthy is the Lamb

G.F Handel

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood.
To receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength,
and honor, and glory, and blessing.
Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne,
and unto the Lamb. For ever and ever.
Amen.

DOXOLOGY #606

OLD HUNDRETH

**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.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ruth Finley

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**When our hopes lie buried, O God, your miracle occurs.
Accomplish greater things than we could imagine
with the substance we present in these moments.
You plant vineyards and we enjoy the fruit.
Enlist us now as co-laborers with Christ,
wherever the summons to service may lead.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

I Will Always Give Thanks

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

Let us pray together:

**Almighty God,
by the power of your Spirit
roll away the stone
and reveal to us the Word of Life.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 (Inclusive Bible)

So Peter said to them, "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality—rather, that any person of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. This is the message God has sent to the people of Israel, the Good News of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is Savior of all. You yourselves know what took place throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John proclaimed. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the Devil, because God was with him. We are eyewitnesses to all that Jesus did in the countryside and in Jerusalem.

Finally, Jesus was killed and hung on a tree, only to be raised by God on the third day. God allowed him to be seen, not by everyone, but only by the witnesses who had been chosen beforehand by God—that is, by us, who ate and drank with Christ after the resurrection from the dead. And Christ commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that this is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. To Christ Jesus all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes has forgiveness of sins through this Name."

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

With God's help we are listening.



Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple—the one Jesus loved—and told them, ‘The Rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We don’t know where they have put Jesus!’

At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He didn’t enter, but bent down to peer in and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground, and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus’ head lying not with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. As yet, they didn’t understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead.

Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside, and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus’ body had lain.

They asked her, “Why are you weeping?” She answered them, “Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don’t know where they have put the body.” No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus. He asked her, “Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?”

She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, “Please, if you’re the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you’ve laid the body and I will take it away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned to him and said, “Rabbouni!”—which means “Teacher.” Jesus then said, “Don’t hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, ‘I’m ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!’”

Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. “I have seen the Teacher!” she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“New Life in Christ”

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang - ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON
8.7.8.7.D

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south
and from east and west
to sit at table in the Kingdom of God.
According to Luke,
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took the bread,
blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened,
and they recognized him.
This is the Table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast that he has prepared.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,
you are beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,
you are creative and self-giving,
generously moving
in all the near and distant corners of the universe.
Nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights
when the powers of death have done their worst,
your love has never deserted us.
Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;
your presence never fails us,
your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ,
risen to life, eternal as your love.
With the women at the tomb,
we raise the strain of gladness.

Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!
 The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom.
 And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place,
 and with angels and archangels,
 to proclaim the glory of your name:

The musical score is written in a single system with six staves. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of 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." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, and some rests.

(Please be seated)

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ,
 who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers:
 loving what he loved,
 living what he taught,
 and striving to be his faithful servants
 in our time and place.
 In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises,
 and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread,
gave thanks, broke it, and said,

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

“Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying,
Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

“This is the new covenant, remember me.”

We do remember.

We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching,
his dying, and his rising to life again.

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:



PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,
we call on you to transform these familiar things,
as you continually transform the world around us.
Bless this bread and this cup,
the wheat and the grape,
the farmer and the harvest,
the seed and the sower.
So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,
we may taste and see your goodness.
Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.

We pray for all in need of healing,
whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

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

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray;

**Gracious and Loving God, on this day of Resurrection,
we give you all honor, glory and praise:**

We are thankful for the legacy

that has been handed down to us over 206 years.

**We stand this day in the midst of your presence, in this sacred building,
and in the presence of all those who have gone on before us.**

**We honor now the founding mothers and fathers
of this community of faith,**

**and reaffirm the name that in covenant
they first gave to our beloved church—**

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland.

May we in love and truth,

continue on thus known and in faithful witness to Christ Jesus.

May we be a place of welcome and sanctuary for all who seek you.

**May we as Presbyterians and as a beloved community of faith
continue to be reformed and ever reforming,**

**as we discern the movement of your Spirit in our midst,
from generation to generation.**

And together we boldly pray

the prayer of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

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.



SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ,
the bread of life.

The lifeblood of Christ,
the cup of blessing.

The gifts of God for the people of God,
Thanks be to God!

Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.

You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.

Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

J. Stainer

God so loved the world, God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten son, that who so believeth,
believeth in him should not perish, should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son
into the world to condemn the world,

God sent not his Son
into the world to condemn the world,

but that the world through him might be saved.

God so loved the world, God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten son, that who so believeth,
believeth in him should not perish, should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us give thanks!

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.

We are fed by your love;

we are strengthened by your life.

We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy.

We are now commissioned to:

feed as we have been fed,

forgive as we have been forgiven,

love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

1 "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
 4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

All cre - a - tion, join to say:
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to you by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Je - sus died, our souls to save,
 Ev - ery knee to you shall bow,

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Originally printed as eleven four-line stanzas without alleluias, this Easter text was written during the first year following the author's life-changing conversion experience, yet it already shows his enduring emphasis on the theme of love. This lively Welsh tune sets it well.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

The stones are rolled away.
The barriers to our faithfulness have been destroyed.

**How good it is to renew our trust
and experience a rebirth of joy.**

Move beyond survival to fresh excitement.
Our lives are changed by the Christ event.

**We are part of a community of faith
on the move for Jesus Christ.**

God is building a new thing among us
and invites us to celebrate, together and apart.

**We go forth in the dance of the merrymakers,
for we have been renewed and empowered.**

Go with Christ through the Galilees of this week,
that we may return again to share our stories.

**Together we build the new story of Christ alive,
for we are Christ's body, in worship and service.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

African American

POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah Chorus” from *Messiah*
The congregation is invited to stand and sing!

G.F. Handel

Ensemble

Grant Harbison , *trumpet*
Jared Eichler, *trumpet*
Kyle Burr, *tuba*

Michael Needham, *trombone*
Ryan Whitson, *trombone II*
Andrew Pongracz, *percussion*

Amelia Korbitz, *violin*
Blake Armstrong, *violin*
Tyler Brungmann, *viola*
Eri Snowden-Rodriguez, *cello*

Tom Clark-Jones. *organ*



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,
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.

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

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

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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*

Katelyn Scites, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Samuel Jungman, *tenor*

Anthony Steward, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

Cali Jacobs, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *bass*

Adam Whanger, *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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Forrest Diehl

Pam Daly

Ruth Finley

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Charlene Thornton

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Anand Bandari

Eric Grattan

Sunny Kunche

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler

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Elie Medie

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Lori Montero

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Class of 2027

Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027

Mike Musson

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