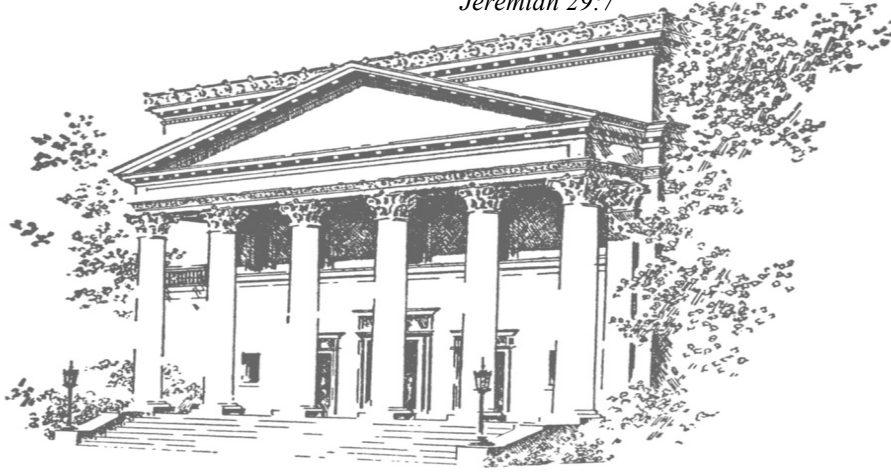


*Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...
And pray to the Lord on its behalf*

Jeremiah 29:7



First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301-2487
304-343-8961
www.firstpresby.com

Pastors:
The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
The Rev. Marietta Macy

Ministers:
All members of the congregation

The Worship of Our Lord

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024
10:30 AM

Welcome to First Presby! We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the end of the pews. We use this information for contact tracing and to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read the electronic newsletter "First Presby Press" and the weekly Green Sheet. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors. Thank you!

REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

The following scriptures are provided for silent Meditation during the Prelude.

Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

The Holy Spirit establishes the righteousness of heaven in the midst of the unrighteousness of the earth and will not stop or stay until all that is dead has been brought to life and a new world has come into being.

*Karl Barth,
The Word of God and
the Word of Man*

* indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO . . .

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE Was mein Gott will, das gescheh allezeit J.S. Bach

INTROIT Dearest Jesus, We Are Here LIEBSTER JESU
Dearest Jesus, we are here, gladly your command obeying.
With this child we now draw near in response to your own saying
That to you it shall be given
As a child and heir of heaven.

WELCOME

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP Bob Welty

One: We come to worship with joy, trusting God's holy word will inspire us.

All: **We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit's blessing.**

One: May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

All: **May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.**

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Macy

One: Because we are loved, we are called to turn to God in humility. We fall short of who God calls us to be, but we are never forsaken.

All: In faith and with the confidence of God's beloved children, let us confess our sin together.

Holy God,

You command us to love one another,

Yet we hold grudges and refuse to work for peace.

You command us to care for all of creation,

Yet we neglect the earth and abuse nature through our carelessness.

You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus,

Yet too often we walk in our own way.

Forgive us, O God.

Guide us as we work toward a new heaven here on earth.

Lead us to reconciliation and a vision for your beloved community,

As we share your love with your people everywhere.

(Silence is kept for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Macy

One: Believe in the good news: Jesus loves us, forgives us, and sets us free. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #591

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

HALLE, HALLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor Macy

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-40 (NT p. 127) & 1 John 4:7-21 (NT p. 241)

Bob Welty

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

arr. Robert J. Powell

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater son!

Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,

To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;

To help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong;

To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,

Whose souls condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

O'er every foe victorious he on his throne shall rest,

From age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest.

The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;

His name shall stand forever, that name to us is Love.

SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-8 (NT p. 109)

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Pastor Myers & Art King

Hadley Jean Wills

Duke Carter Randolph

Ashley Lioi and Brandon Wills (Parents)

Amelia Randolph and Roy "Tra" Randolph (Parents)

SONG OF JOY

One: Keep me, keep me as the apple of the eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of thy wings.

All: Keep me, keep me as the apple of the eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of thy wings.

One: Keep me,

All: Keep me,

One: Hide me,

All: Hide me. Keep me, keep me as the apple of the eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of thy wings.

(Children in grades 1-5 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117 or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.)

SERMON

"God Works in Mysterious Ways"

Pastor Myers

*HYMN #485

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Macy

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Macy

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.

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER #245 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

LLANFAIR

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!

All creation, join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Pastor Macy

Offertory

Wer weiß, wie nah emir mein Ende

J.S. Bach

(Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.)

*Offering Response #607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Pastor Macy

*HYMN #320

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

*POSTLUDE

Toccatina in G Major

Johann Pachelbel

Our worship continues in our service to others.

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.
May the gift of worship we offer today honor God and serve as a blessing to you.
Worship is broadcast at 11AM on WCHS-580AM
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel.

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
The Rev. Marietta Macy
Bob Welty

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music and Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

ALSO SERVING TODAY

Chiming the Trinity: David Cottrell
Greeters: Patty Bivens
Becky Adams

Audio & Video: Byron Goodew & David Cottrell
Custodial Services: David Feibelmann

WORSHIP NOTES

Please remember that we worship every Sunday Sabbath Day, and that is available via YouTube and the radio broadcast. Thank you for connecting for worship with First Presby.

The Staff of First Presbyterian Church

William Myers, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
Marietta Macy, Associate Pastor of Christian Education
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager