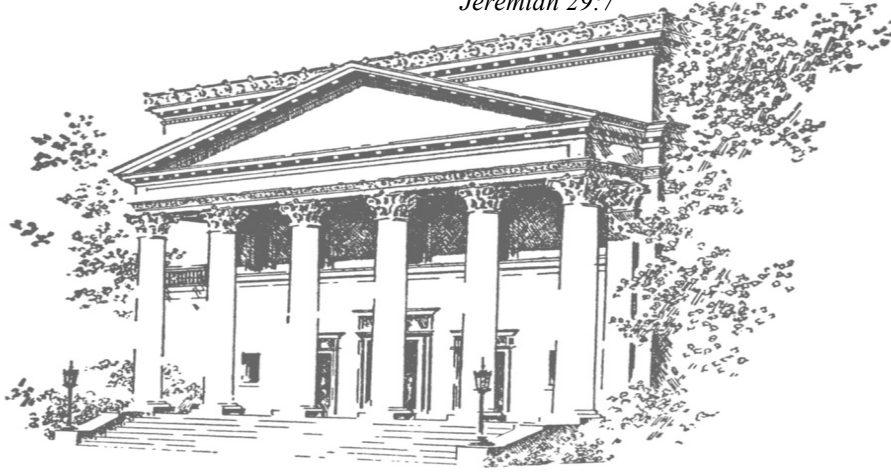


Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...
And pray to the Lord on its behalf

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

The Sunday after Christ's Ascension

May 12, 2024

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 1:1-11 Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you...
Isaiah 66:13

* indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO . . .

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on "Ich dank dir, lieber Herre" Johann Christoph Bach

INTROIT A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! DEO GRACIAS
A hymn of glory let us sing!
New songs throughout the world shall ring:
Christ, by a road before untrod,
Ascends unto the throne of God.

WELCOME

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rob Kuenzel

One: Praise the Lord, all the earth! Let creation praise the Lord!

All: Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise the Lord in the heights!

One: Praise the name of the Lord! Let all people praise the Lord!

All: People near and people far, people present and people to come, the young and those wise with age. Let all people praise the Lord!

One: Come, let us praise the Lord!

All: Come, let us worship God!

(If you brought flowers in honor or memory of your mother, or someone "like a mother" in your life, please bring them forward at this time.)

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Macy

One: Despite our best attempts to have faith in Christ, to love our siblings in faith, and to reflect God's glory to this world, we know we have not always lived up to who we have been called to be.

All: But we are children of the Most High, and we are invited to bring these confessions before God, that we might find forgiveness and peace.

Christ who was and is and is to come,
We stand looking up at the heavens,
Looking for you there.

Forgive us for believing that you have left us.
Forgive us for failing to recognize you in the world around us.
Forgive us for waiting idly for your return,
Instead of doing the work you have called us to do.

You are above us,
Around us,
Before us,
And within us.

Help us to embody you in our time and place,
Today, tomorrow, and forevermore.

(Silence is kept for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Macy

One: Hear this astounding truth: Christ is the one who reigns on high. Christ is the one with power to judge us. Christ is the one who offers us eternal love, forgiveness, and mercy.

All: All praise to Christ who lived, died, and lives again! Alleluia!

*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 1:1-11 (NT p. 118) & Ephesians 1:15-23 (NT p. 192)

Rob Kuenzel

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

O Lord Most High

arr. Richard Shephard

O Lord Most High, eternal King, by thee redeemed, thy praise we sing.
The bonds of death are burst by thee, and grace has won the victory.

Ascending to the Father's throne you claimed the kingdom as your own;
And angels wonder when they see how changed is our humanity.

Be thou our joy, O Mighty Lord, as you will be our great reward;
Let all our glory be in thee both now and through eternity.

This hymn of glory, let us sing, new hymns throughout the world shall ring;
By a new way none ever trod, Christ takes his place, the throne of God.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to thee let earth accord,
Who art, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit, One. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24:44-53 (NT p. 91)

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN		Pastor Myers
	(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	"Divine Presence"	Pastor Myers
*HYMN #302	When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace	O WALY WALY

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—from the <u>Confession of 1967 - PC(USA)</u>		Rob Kuenzel
<p>God has created us for personal relations with God that we may respond to the love of the Creator. God has created people and given them a life which proceeds from birth to death in a succession of generations and in a wide complex of social relations. God has endowed humanity with capacities to make the world serve human needs and to enjoy its good things. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use human creativity for the fulfillment of human life.</p>		

JOYS & CONCERNS		Pastor Macy
-----------------	--	-------------

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		Pastor Macy
<p>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.</p>		

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER #245	Christ the Lord Is Risen Today! <i>"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!</i> <i>All creation, join to say: Alleluia!</i> <i>Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!</i> <i>Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!</i>	LLANFAIR
------------------------------	---	----------

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD		Pastor Macy
Offertory	Ich dank dir, lieber Herre (Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.)	J.S. Bach

*Offering Response #607	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow <i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;</i> <i>Praise Christ, all people here below;</i> <i>Praise Holy Spirit evermore;</i> <i>Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.</i>	OLD HUNDREDTH
-------------------------	---	---------------

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication		Pastor Macy
--	--	-------------

*HYMN #301	Let Us Build a House	TWO OAKS
------------	----------------------	----------

*BENEDICTION		Pastor Myers
--------------	--	--------------

*POSTLUDE	Toccata in D 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
Rob Kuenzel

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music and Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

ALSO SERVING TODAY

Chiming the Trinity: David Cottrell
Greeters: Emmett, Emma and Adlai Pepper
Brent and Kristi Walker

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

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