



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

April 28, 2024

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

MISSION STATEMENT

First Presbyterian Church of Easton strives to be a vital and energetic congregation by increasing our devotion to God, our fellowship with one another, and our outreach to all, so that we may be a witness to Jesus Christ in our community and world.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Ubi Caritas – Where Charity and Love Abide

Callahan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 22

From you comes my praise in the great congregation.

My vows I will pay before those who fear the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

All the families of the nations shall worship before the Lord.

For dominion belongs to the Lord.

And the Lord rules over all the nations.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 487 (V.1-4)

When Morning Gilds the Skies

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, when morning gilds the skies and we marvel at the diversity of your creation, we take a moment to reflect on the many blessings that fill our days and give thanks to you, O Lord, for your mercy and goodness. Yet before the sun climbs to the noon day sky, we find our hearts dimming and our minds closing towards others who don't seem to conform to our standards. Perhaps they are shabbily dressed or speaking a language foreign to us, or reaching out to us for help.

Despite ourselves, we walk across the street or look the other way or reverse our direction just to avoid them and we do this out of our own fear, insecurity, or just plain prejudice. Lord, we do know better so send your Spirit to help us live out what we know to be your will. In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, God understands that we find the path that we are to follow a difficult if not an impossible one to tread faithfully. In God's wisdom and mercy, God sent Jesus to teach us and the Holy Spirit to guide us. Therefore, believe that we are righteous people in the sight of God. Praise the Lord! Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR YOUTHFUL PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26-40 (*NT, p. 119*)

John 15:1-8 (*NT, p.103*)

SERMON

Close Encounters of the Third Kind

Rev. Larry Van Hise

ANTHEM

Now the Green Blade Rises

Noel Nouvelet
15th Century French melody
Words by John M. C. Crum
Richard Taylor, soloist

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
Thinking that their Love would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that bare and dead have been:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

*Please leave your offering in the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary
or make your gifts online or via mail.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, our offering seems all too small in relationship to the blessings from your heart and the grace that is provided to us through the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Yet we make these offerings in your name and dedicate them toward furthering your Kingdom here on earth. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 324 (V.1-3)

Open My Eyes That I May See

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Hymn 376)

Callahan

Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Candy Gulotta, Liturgist

Carol Butler and Noralee Manzek, Coffee Hour Hosts

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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