

First Presbyterian Church

Cleveland, GA

March 31, 2024



“Growing together by sharing Christ’s love”

**First Presbyterian Church
Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024**

We Gather to Worship God

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE TO WORSHIP “Low in the Grave He Lay” arr. Mark Hayes

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” GtG #232

GREETING FOR EASTER

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!
Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Based on Psalm 118

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

In our anguish, we cried to the Lord,
and He answered by setting us free.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

The Lord is our strength and our song;
he has become our salvation.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his love endures forever.

We will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the Lord has done.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his love endures forever.

The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone;

The Lord has done this;

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

***GATHERING PRAYER**

***CHORAL INTROIT** “Alleluia, Christ Is Risen” J. Althouse

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If, at times, we deny you, God forgive.

When the risks of discipleship are high, and we are nowhere to be found.

God forgive.

When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth,
or prejudice keeps us from believing it.

God forgive.

In the bright light of Easter morning, O God,
our sin is exposed,
and your grace is revealed.

Tender God,

**raise us in love so that, with joy,
we may witness to your awesome deeds,
in the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Based on 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God for the new life we have in Christ our Risen Lord.

***SONG OF RESPONSE**

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 the Word of God in Scripture and Song

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Becky Clark

ANTHEM

“He Arose” Pepper Choplin

GOSPEL

Mark 16:1-8

SERMON

“For”

HYMN

“The Day of Resurrection”

GtG # 233

We Respond to the Word of God

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Based on Matthew 16:16; Mark 16:9;
John 20:28; 1 Cor. 15:1-6; Rev. 22:13

This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins ac-

cording to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING

HYMN FOR MEDITATION “I Exalt Thee” arr. Mark Hayes

SONG OF GRATITUDE

Doxology

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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***HYMN:** “He Lives” FPC Songbook #74-75

*CHARGE AND BENEDITION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** “Christ is Alive!” (v. 1) GtG #246

POSTLUDE “Thine Is the Glory” arr. Mark Hayes

Devotion for Discernment

Scripture: Matthew 11:20-30

Focus Text: “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” (v. 28).

Listening to God:

Your walk with me was never meant to be a weary slog. If you are feeling worn out and overburdened, check your load to make sure that you are not carrying things I have not called you to carry. When you get in the yoke with me, I always provide what you need to carry the load. When you load yourself up and try to go it alone, I can’t help you. Try putting the things that are making you weary in my hands right now. Call on me to do what only I can do. I will give you rest.

My Prayer:

Announcements & Upcoming Events

PW CT Meeting will meet Wednesday, April 3, at 2:00.

Youth to meet at FPC - The young people from local Presbyterian churches will meet at FPC on April 14 at 3 p.m. The participants will be assembling hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The goal for this mission project is to assemble 100 kits and our congregation has been asked to provide 100 combs and 100 nail clippers. There is a basket in the upper narthex for contributions.

There will be **Yard Sale at FPC** - to benefit The Growing Place preschool on Friday, April 19, (9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) and Saturday, April 20 (8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) The “yard” will be in Fellowship Hall. Donations from the FPC family would be greatly appreciated. For donations, especially furniture, you must be able to bring it in sometime between Tuesday, April 16, and Thursday, April 18, when the church office is open, and set it up yourselves.



The flowers in the sanctuary are provided by Mary Ann and Mil Clyburn for love of Jesus.

The Week at a Glance

Monday, April 1st
Office Closed

Tuesday, April 2nd
9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours
8:00 - 12:00 TGP

Wednesday, April 3rd
9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours
8:00 - 12:00 TGP
12:30 Bible Study
2:00 PW CT Meeting
6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 4th
9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours
8:00 - 12:00 TGP

Friday, April 5th
9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

Sunday, April 7th
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
10:00 Coffee & Conversation
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Hospitality Hour

Remember in Your Prayers

Members' Special Needs, at Home, or Hospitalized

Cheryl Cook

Family and Friends

Judy Lummus

Mark Harless, nephew to Bernice and John Rogers
Salvatore Ciriello, father to David Ciriello

In the Military

Zack Ciriello.....Ciriello and Murdoch family
Greyson Ekdahl-McBrideCiriello and Murdoch family
Charlsie Maddox Maddox family
Tyler Lovell Royds family

THE SESSION
Reverend Burnetta Armour, Moderator
Bruce Morgan, Clerk of Session
Jim Hiers, Clerk of Session, Emeritus



Class of 2024

Phil Baughman
Worship

Jim Crawford
Membership

Class of 2025

Bruce Morgan
Administration & Finance

Hugh Walters
Building & Grounds

Class of 2026

Judy Massingale
Membership

Nancy Webber
Communications

Elaine Wiegert
Mission and Discipleship

THE DIACONATE
Rita Morgan, Moderator
Judy Massingale, Session Liaison

Class of 2024

Viveca Cooper
Debbie Wessely

Class of 2025

Rita Morgan
Adele Page

Class of 2026

Kim Ciriello
Bob Thomason

Pastor:

Director of Music:

Accompanist:

Organist

Usher:

Greeters:

Liturgist:

Elder of the Month March:

Deacon of the Month March:

Rev. Burnetta Armour

David Arvold

James Geiger

Rachel Ficklin

Phil Baughman

Charles Massingale

Hugh Walters

Collin Armour

Becky Clark

Jim Crawford

Debbie Wessely