

****Below are the Bulletin and Announcements for Sunday, April 4, 2021.**

It includes the Zoom link to join during Worship Service.

Sunday WorshipTime: This link will open at 9:30 AM on Sunday. Worship will begin at 10 AM; we will leave it open for 30 minutes after worship ends for conversation.

To join by

Computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004448057?pwd=UUh4aWV6ZUxhY3A4eDgzTWw5U0V2UT09>

To join by telephone: 1 (929) 205 6099

Meeting ID: 820 0444 8057

Passcode: 155613

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wappingers Falls, New York

April 4, 2021 ✕ Easter B

We Gather to Celebrate

Today is a communion Sunday. Please have communion elements ready.

Prelude

Opening Prayer

God of surprising things, we gather in the shadow of the crucifixion;

we gather with the events of Holy Week resting on our hearts.

On this most mysterious of mornings, we gather as a people of God.

Like the women who found the stone rolled away,

may we be observant to new insights,

may we encounter this story anew within our hearts.

Open us to new understandings of how the reign of God might be.

May we hold lightly the mystery of Easter Sunday morning! **Amen. Alleluia!**

***Hymn #123 “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”**

We Open Our Hearts to God

INVITATION to CONFESSION

Let us turn our hearts to God, that they may be emptied of darkness

and filled instead with the light and joy of God’s grace and peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Today is Resurrection Day.

For this one day, let us set aside our habitual attention on ourselves

and lift our eyes to the wonders around us:

the wonder of God’s bountiful earth,

the wonder of Christ’s astonishing resurrection

the wonder of grace, mercy and abounding love.

Forgive us when we fail to make the risen Christ evident

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Communion Feast

(Congregation reads bold)

Friends, hear the good news.

A day begun in mourning and fear has turned to joy and witness.

A table left for the shadows of the garden has become a table drenched in light.

Come from the north and the south, the east and the west,

come from your fears and your grieving, your lost hopes

and forgotten dreams – and come to a table

set with a grace and power that will not be deterred for Christ is risen. Alleluia!

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you.

Lift up your hearts. Let us give thanks to our God

because it is right to give God thanks and praise.

Your steadfast love, O God, has ever been before us.

Even when we have lost sight of that love, you do not forsake us.

By the urgings of prophets, by the witness of faithful ones,

you sought us out with a love that would not let us go.

And in the fullness of time, you made your seeking and your love incarnate.

In birth that pointed to good news for all,

in life and ministry that embodied grace and justice and compassion,

in passion and death that challenged the core of our fears,

in raising that unmasked inability of death itself to destroy that love,

in all these things, you have revealed yourself and your good for us and all creation.

We do praise and thank you, loving God, for all the many things you have done for us, your people.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels,

with prophets, apostles, martyrs,

and with all the faithful of every time and place,

who forever praise the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy One, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, this meal which we share today is indeed the celebration of your faithfulness and love.

You have shown us that nothing, not even death, can stop you from loving us. On this great day of celebration, we recall Jesus' instruction to remember him by sharing bread and wine.

We recall, too, how he appeared to disciples after the Resurrection, and they recognized him when he broke the bread.

And so, we remember Jesus, and recognize your love made real in this joyous feast.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, but death does not have the final word;

Christ is risen, and Easter begins for us when Christ calls us by name.

Christ will come again and lead us into God's glory.

The Words of Institution

We celebrate also how the language of your love became audible through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, our beloved Lord; and how the nature of your love became visible through his life and sacrificial love. He graced lives with healing and hope, with compassion and power *and as if that were not enough*, he gave his very life for us.

On the night of his betrayal, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said:

Error! Filename not specified. "Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you.

Remember me each time you do this."

After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said:

"Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you – the beginning of a new relationship with God."

God of all power, breathe your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and wine,

that they may be for us the life of Christ and that we may make that life visible through our faithful witness to him.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray,

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 your 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.**

Sharing the Bread & Cup

We eat this bread and drink this cup so that we can all share in the life of Christ.

The Gifts of God for the people of God.

During the hymn, please share communion with members of your household.

HYMN #106 Bells – Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks

PPRAYER of THANSGLIVING AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison)*

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have opened to us the scriptures
and made yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread.
May we go from here, refreshed and eager, to share that life with others.
Stay with us, that in the strength of your presence and truth,
we may go through our journey, and at its end,
see you face to face in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

We Respond in Joy

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

If you would like to share your joys and concerns with the congregation, please call or email the church office.

As we move from the purple of Lent to the white and gold of Easter,
hear our prayers for all who suffer, in a world that is unjust and unkind for far
too many.

May we live and work and witness toward wholeness. *(silence is kept.)*

As thorns give way to crowns, hear our prayers for the joys
that lighten our hearts and offer us hope. *(silence is kept.)*

May we live and work and witness toward liberation for all. *(silence is kept.)*

May we live and work and witness toward *your* shalom. *(silence is kept.)*

Let us gather up these prayers of our hearts with the words of Psalm 118:19-
24:

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

We Go Forth in Blessing

*HYMN #108 “Christ is Alive”

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

May the love of the risen Christ nourish and sustain you. **Alleluia!**

May the eternal light of the world renew and inspire you to lives of care and compassion. **Alleluia!**

Go! *Be* the body of the risen Christ.

Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #583 Amen!

*POSTLUDE