

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 18, 2021



Resurrection
Solomon Raj



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

Making God's Love Visible

* HYMN

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

GAUDEAMUS PARITER

As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

1. Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ has burst his pris - on,
3. Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4. Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal;



loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem. who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

GATHERING

Please know that, in recording all the parts of this liturgy — spoken, sung and played — we have carefully observed responsible norms of social distancing.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**. It is not yet safe to sing together as a congregation. (The choral ensemble sings with special singers' masks.) As you listen to the hymns and responses, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the texts.

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Confession are by Beth Merrill Neel.

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Arietta on "Gaudeamus Pariter"

Thomas M. Kuras

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: To know the warmth of love,

All: to have the assurance that someone cares,

One: to be confident of our worth,

All: to be bold to love in return,

One: to be washed over with grace,

All: to be accepted as we are: this is to know a bit of God.

One: With eyes to see, and ears to hear,

All: with lips to sing, and hands to help...

One: let us worship God with the fullness of our being.

* HYMN

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

GAUDEAMUS PARITER

This hymn is found on the preceding page of this bulletin. As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day,

and offer the truth of our lives:

the fear that stifles us,

the prejudice that blinds us,

the ignorance that hobbles us,

the doubt that plagues us.

Help us, we pray, that we will

find courage in unlikely place,

see the world with new and gracious eyes,

move to those places where love is needed,

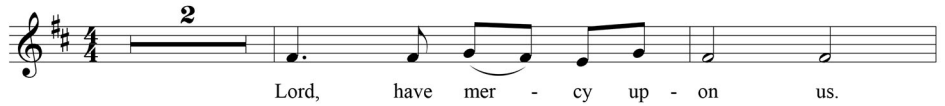
have faith that you are with us.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

Lee Afdahl



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

As you listen to the response, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;

eternal truth attends thy word:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,

till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

This is Stanza 3 of Hymn 327, From All That Dwell Below the Skies (LASST UNS ERFREUEN).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 4

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 24:36b–48

The grass withers, the flower fades;

the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON

At First Pres, we strive to use inclusive language for God.

The use of only masculine nouns and pronouns for God and of masculine generic terms for humankind has hidden the rich feminine imagery for God and God's people in scripture. The rediscovery of the complementarity of female and male metaphors in the Bible and the literature of the early church forbids Christians to settle for literary poverty in the midst of literary riches.

RESPONDING

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Elder Bill McPherson will be installed to an unexpired term in the Session Class of 2022. Elder Jeff Teucke will be installed to an unexpired term in the Session Class of 2021.

Questions to the Congregation

One: Do we, the members of the church, accept these people as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

All: We do.

One: Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

All: We do.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Shalom

Dan Forrest

Peace. Shalom. Peace I leave with you,
Peace I give to you: Peace. Shalom.
Not as this world gives, I give to you,
Do not be afraid.

*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

As you listen to the response, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service. As you consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbors in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Ways to give: online on the First Pres homepage ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use our Give+ app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below.



SENDING

* HYMN 246

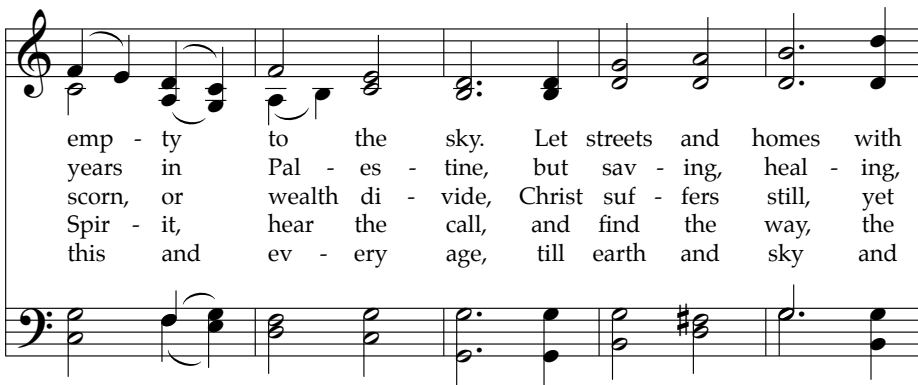
Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

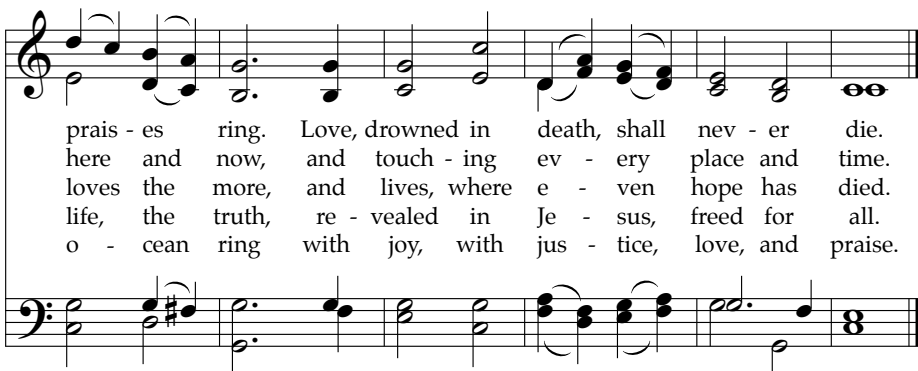
As you listen to the hymn, we encourage you to read along and reflect on the text.



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Christ Ist Erstanden

H. Schroeder

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click below to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website at <https://bit.ly/2Rliq2l>

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Eastertide at First Pres – Held By Baptism

Jesus himself was baptized by John in the Jordan River – but his only mention of baptism was in his final appearance in the Gospel of Matthew (28:19–20): "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Maybe one sign of the holiness of what we've come to call a sacrament is that its assurance of God's company in our lives touches us on a level deeper than words. "And remember," Jesus said, "I am with you always, to the end of time."

For us, baptism is foundational to the family of God: a mark of grace upon each life touched by the waters, a sign of welcome into beloved community. At First Pres this spring, the season of Eastertide will be bracketed by celebrations of this most joyful sacrament: with the Glanda family on April 11, and the Stelter family on May 23. These weeks will help us, each and all, to feel held by grace in the Spirit-ed company of the One who is with us always and forever as we consider how to be faithful to our mission to "make God's love visible" in our community and in the world.



Baptism by Fulvia Prundeanu

A note from the artist: "I am a traveler through the world of art. Each of my pieces is a snapshot of my young journey, a colorful celebration of life's many blessings. May *Baptism* bring you all peace and joy."

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Evans McGowan; Liturgists – Jay Sanderford and Andrew Frazier; Scripture Reader – Shanna Hoskins; Children's Message – Khayla Johnson and Beca Torres-Davenport; Preacher – Melissa Anne Rogers; Vocalists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, Catherine Moore, David Magumba, Tyrese Byrd, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey; Violinist – Jennifer Berg; Organist – David Hufford; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound Technician – Rol Kibler

Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for the life of Ruth Sutton by her grateful family; in loving memory of Susan Rose Reynolds by her family, who will always miss and cherish her; and in loving memory of Joe Savarino by his wife Maya Savarino, in honor of what would have been their 62nd wedding anniversary.

A red rosebud celebrates the birth of Isaac Lee Fuller, born to Elizabeth and Brian Fuller, on February 28, 2021. Grandparents are Carol and Jeff Teucke.

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour immediately following the Closing Voluntary today. Please join us around 10:30 a.m., via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/329423603>. **Today's conversation topic is:** Where do you "see" God's love through First Pres working in our community and our world? What are the visible signs that make you proud to be a part of our congregation?

Fast Track to Membership TODAY. You already belong, of course — for all are welcome at First Pres, and membership is not required to participate in our ministries. However, by becoming a member formally, you have a voice and vote in congregational meetings, and express to us your commitment to First Pres to be an active part. Your joining allows us to support you more fully and help you stay engaged and grow in faith. The first step toward membership is to attend today's Fast Track meeting where you will get to know a few of our elders and staff. May the Spirit move you there! Join us today at noon via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84143125355>).

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets today at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85415813175>) for a discussion on "How to Lose Your Life Every Day," Chapter 9 of Barbara Brown Taylor's *Always a Guest: Speaking of Faith Far from Home*.

Exploring the Faith meets today at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133>). Shahnaz Broucek, Jennifer Hurand, and Cara Rosaen will share their inspiring examples that invite all to consider how we can make compassion more real in our lives.

Bible Study @ 5 meets today via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620>) at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Ed Koster facilitates a study of the Gospel of Mark.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport (btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org), Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families.

The Children's Choir meets virtually today, 10:30–10:55 a.m. Contact Director Kellie McInchak (kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org) for Zoom information. All children ages 5 through sixth grade are encouraged to participate.

All children's faith formation classes meet today at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. The Story Bible and curriculum materials are available from the church.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Please contact Rev. Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org), Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time.

All youth faith formation classes meet today at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. When you log on, please make sure Zoom names are updated to reflect each youth present and what class you will be participating in (Middle/High/Confirmation). **Our Confirmation Class** meets on Zoom the second and third Sundays of each month, and in person for the fourth Sunday.

High School students meet with Rev. Evans McGowan and other leaders throughout the semester to talk about faith and current events as we take time thinking, talking, and imagining how our faith forms us in our everyday lives.

Middle School and High School Youth Group gatherings alternate between in-person (first and third Sundays) and virtual (second and fourth Sundays) of each month. We gather together for games and fellowship as a large group and break out into Middle School and High School groups for conversations. Contact Pastor Mark for more information. All are welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship Attendance has been temporarily suspended. The Reopening Recommendations Work Group (RRWG) has made the following recommendation:

In solidarity with the broader community, and at the request of the governor and recommendation of the CDC, the Reopening Recommendations Work Group (RRWG) recommends pausing in-person worship attendance for at least two weeks (April 18 and 25) as we continue to monitor the concerning COVID-19 situation in our county and state. The RRWG will continue to work closely with the Session and our staff to ensure the safety of all our members, while also continuing to offer meaningful worship and other opportunities to connect with each other as the body of Christ.

Please contact Rev. McGowan or RRWG Co-Chair Nancy Janz Clark if you have questions.

The prayer team meets Monday mornings via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86466149357>) from 9:00–9:30 a.m. with Rev. Rogers. Join us to offer prayer for others or bring the needs of you and your loved ones for prayer. Questions? Contact Rev. Rogers.

Greetings, College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Each Sunday at 12:15 p.m., via Zoom, there are virtual college lunches. Contact Rev. McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

A Virtual Art Exhibit by Benjamin Winans is available at www.benjaminwinans.weebly.com.

First Pres women are pilgrimaging in 2022! If you are interested in walking the Northumberland Way in England, and having a spiritual experience as a group of women while walking the beautiful, ancient route, contact Rev. Rogers for more information. Dates are TBD, but approximately May 15–28. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a4ac283-pilgrimage>. Deposits are fully refundable for now.

Women: Stay Connected! PW Moderator Ginny Bell sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact Ginny (virginiabell2013@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

Journeys Bible Study meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>) on the second and fourth Thursdays monthly at 11:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Frazier (afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

Mature Singles are enjoying dinners in restaurants on Friday evenings, but planning only one or two weeks at a time. Please call Marcy (995–2519) if you would like more information.

A Virtual Hymn-Sing by the Sanctus Ringers, Chancel Choir, and FPC Section Leaders is available on YouTube and Facebook. (<https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-hymn-sing>)

Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of April will benefit Community Action Network (C.A.N.). If you are donating by check, please make it payable to First Presbyterian Church, noting the recipient of your contribution on the memo line. Checks and food may be dropped off at church Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Checks may be mailed to the church to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee is committed to being open and transparent in our search for a Lead Pastor. We meet weekly and can be reached at pnc2021@firstpresbyterian.org. Information about our search is available at: <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/pastoral-transition-first-presbyterian>

Share your talent at the All-Church Variety Show on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. Your act must be three minutes or less. You may record your act or talent from home or schedule a time to record yourself in the Sanctuary. Is there an act you could perform with members of your family? Contact Dave VanderMeer (dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. Videos must be submitted by May 12.

Do you know someone with lots of creativity and technical experience? First Pres is expanding its Communications Department and seeks individuals to fill three part-time positions: Audio/Visual Producer, Communications Coordinator, and Technology Coordinator. Applicants do not need to be a member of First Pres to fill these positions. Send questions and resumés to jobs@firstpresbyterian.org. Complete job descriptions are available at <https://www.firstpresbyterian.org/about/staff-leadership/job-opportunities>.

First Pres strives to be as diverse as God's kingdom, and as wide and hospitable as the Spirit's embrace. Here, we don't all look, act, or pray alike. God knows we do not all think alike. We Presbyterians do not read the Bible the same way. Our questions are different, our burdens are diverse, and our aspirations are distinct. But every Sunday, we worship as one, unified by the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We worship a living God who calls us to love and support one another. Together we can do marvelous things – and grow closer to God and one another along the way. Come visit us – everyone is welcome! If you are new to us we invite you to visit and explore our many programs and service opportunities.

Did you know? There are two unisex bathrooms available in our building. One is on the second floor, near the kitchenette and one is on the Lower Level, just inside the maintenance wing.

2022 Nominations for Church Leadership

The 2021 Congregational Nominating Committee is tasked with, and has begun to discern, through recommendations and the power of the Holy Spirit, whom God calls to serve First Pres as Elders, Deacons and Congregational Nominating Committee members, with terms beginning in January of 2022. We humbly seek insight and help from congregation members to identify potential church leaders. We seek to represent the diversity of our congregation in ages, stages of faith development, ethnicity/race, gender and sexual orientation.

For those who may be interested and want more information to assist in their decision to suggest members for consideration, Elder and Deacon job descriptions are found at www.firstpresbyterian.org. Those who are selected will receive training at times TBD, beginning in September, whether virtually or in person, and based upon the status of Covid-19 at that time.

According to the *Book of Order*, those called to these ministries should be persons of faith, discipleship, and love of Jesus as Lord and Savior. Those suggested should be members of at least two years, and have given of their time, talent, and if possible, their financial means in some way, at least in the few years prior to election. The Congregational Meeting for election will be in September of 2021. The terms begin in January of 2022 and are:

- Three years for Elders and Deacons
- Two years for members of the Congregational Nominating Committee

Please submit suggestions for these important positions by May 6 in care of the Congregational Nominating Committee by mail (1432 Washtenaw Ave. A2 48104); by email (CNC@firstpresbyterian.org), or by dropoff in person to the church in the CNC box in the Welcome Center, Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Suggested members should have agreed to have their name submitted. Please indicate your name, their name, and the position, and why you are submitting the name of this person, and the qualities that you believe make this member a good candidate.

If you have further questions, please contact Chairperson, Katie Parker, Elder (734-218-0033; mgobluebarn47@yahoo.com), or any of the CNC members noted below. We are all happy to speak with you about your questions.

Members of the CNC are:

Becky Gaffney, Deacon (734-474-1472; bandbgaffney@gmail.com)

Downs Herold, former Deacon and Elder (734-665-2588; jdherold@comcast.net)

John LeDuc, Deacon (734-846-2910; john@jleduc.com)

Pat Liljestrang, former Deacon and Elder (734-455-3441; lilypat2@gmail.com)

Bill McPherson, Elder (734-604-2504; wbmcperson@comcast.net)

Cassee Stem, T2A2 (269-921-9218 (evenings); cassee.stem@gmail.com)

Jeff Teucke, Elder (201-709-2772; jteucke1@gmail.com)

Elisabeth VanVliet, T2A2 & Cong Life (614-565-7146 (evenings); evanvliet88@gmail.com)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant

Barbara DeLancey, Parish Nurse & Wellness Coordinator

J. P. DiMaggio, Interim Bridge Administrator

Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister

Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Coordinator

Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist

David Hufford, Organist

Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister

Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families

Reverend Evans McGowan, Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries

Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director

Anna Miller, Finance Manager

Stacey Pakela, Parish Nurse & Wellness Coordinator

Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager

Linda Robinson, Office Manager

Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor

Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor

Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's & Family Ministry

David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts

Alyssa Walker, Finance Assistant



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