

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

We Gather in God's Name...

Prayer of Preparation for Worship

{for silent prayer before starting the worship playlist or conference call}

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralyzed but whose presence is overwhelming: Breathe on us with your abundant life, that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you.¹ AMEN.

Announcements and Greeting

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 16:1-11, *NRSV*; choose one person to lead)

One: Bless the Lord who gives us counsel;

All: in the night also our hearts instruct us.

One: Keep the Lord always before you;

All: because he is at our right hand, we shall not be moved.

One: Therefore our hearts are glad, and our souls rejoice;

All: our bodies also rest secure.

One: The Lord shows us the path of life.

All: in his presence there is fullness of joy.

All: Let us worship God!

Hymn of Praise "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

Call to Confession (*led by one*)

Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.² Trusting in God's grace let us confess our sins. Let us pray.

Silent Prayer of Confession (*about 30 seconds*)

Corporate Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory. We have doubted him, his resurrection, and his power. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord

Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.³ AMEN.

Assurance of Pardon (*led by one*)

By the wounds of our Lord Jesus, we have been healed from sin. We were all going astray like sheep, but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls.⁴ May we ever follow the shepherd, deny the temptations of sin, and rest in that steadfast guardian. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace. AMEN.

The Passing of the Peace (You may say: "The peace of Christ be with you." and respond: "And also with you.")

...to Proclaim God's Word

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 <https://bit.ly/2yr6N0r>

{Pick someone in your household to read this scripture passage.}

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9 <https://bit.ly/2wQAgrI>

{Pick another person, if possible, to read this passage.}

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31 <https://bit.ly/2Vveafm>

Sermon

Rev. Andy Smothers

Hymn

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism (Q21)

One: What is true faith?

All: True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit. Amen.

Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer

{I invite you to pray as a household offering your various praises, thanksgivings, and requests to God aloud. Close with 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.

...to Give Thanks to God...

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*in unison*)

Almighty God, thank you for your scriptures that explain God to us, explain his expectations to us, and demonstrate human struggles with understanding and with living into true faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This day we particularly thank you for the Apostle Thomas — that we can understand his struggles in understanding and trusting in the resurrection but, also, in his realization that you were truly the Jesus he knew, the one crucified. In his words, “My Lord and my God,” we see through his wrestling that he comes to understand you as his true Lord but also as very God. Father, continue to grow our faith that we might hold steadfast to the same confession. May you be our Lord and our God! In this day, we thank you, also, for all those who are serving us and our community in this pandemic. Thank you for all essential workers serving in healthcare facilities, grocery stores, distribution facilities, our transportation industry, pharmacies, general stores, restaurants, fuel stations, prisons, social services organizations, government, and other places. Thank you, also, for emergency workers such as police, fire, and ambulance workers. Protect them and their families, give them much needed rest, and eliminate this pandemic from our world. We thank you, also, for the ways you sustain each of us in all our days. Bless those, also, who have been able to give to the church, and enable our session members and staff to allocate it to your glory and for your work on earth. For those who suffer hardship in this time, encourage them to make their needs known that we might be a help and blessing. In the name of the same Lord and God Thomas confessed, our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

...and to Be Sent in God’s Name.

Closing Hymn “Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen”

Charge and Benediction

Response “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

First Presbyterian Church



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Clerk of Session: Marla Bruner

Church Secretary: Wendi Dayrider

Join the online worship playlist from Sunday at 11am at <https://www.conradfirstpres.org/covid-19-worship>. Alternatively, you can listen to the Gospel lesson and sermon at 11:30 am on Sunday by calling (978) 990-5110 and using access code 749966# when prompted. Make sure to include the # key on your phone.

¹ *Book of Common Worship*, 326.

² 1 Peter 2:24, *NRSV*.

³ adapted from *Worship Sourcebook*, 644. Reprinted by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

⁴ Based on 1 Peter 2:24-25, *NRSV*.