

April 28, 2024

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.



First Presbyterian Church

609 South East Second Street

Evansville, Indiana 47713

(812)423-6297

www.fpcevv.com

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

Please visit the church website: www.fpcevv.com to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.

Please visit our [Facebook](#) page - First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana. We hope you'll "like" us!

Please note that this service is being livestreamed on our Website and Facebook page, and the recording will be posted to our [YouTube](#) channel.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

THE PRELUDE

"Christ Lay in Death's Strong Bands" (BWV 718)

Johann Sebastian Bach

THE INTROIT

"Shout with Joy to the Lord"

Robert Nicholls

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands. Lift up your voice, give thanks, and sing.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One In the wilderness, water brings life.

All Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

One In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

All Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

One In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

All Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

One Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

All Let us praise the vine that gives all goodness.

***THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 234**

St. Kevin; Arthur S. Sullivan

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

John of Damascus

**Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke Jacob’s sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.**

**’Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days’ sleep in death as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.**

**Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus’ resurrection!**

**Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb’s dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal:
but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing
your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.**

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*in unison*)

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 363, verse 1**

Darwall’s 148th; John Darwall

“Rejoice, the Lord is King!”

Charles Wesley

**Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Announcements

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALM

Psalm 22:25-31

- One My praise is of God in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord.
- All The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall give praise: "May your heart live for ever!"**
- One All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.
- All For sovereignty belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.**
- One To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before God.
- All My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**
- One They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that God has done.

THE ANTHEM

"Christ lag in Todesbanden"
from *Christ lag in Todesbanden*

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Christ lag in Todesbanden
Für unser Sünd gegeben,
Er ist wieder erstanden
Und hat uns bracht das Leben;
Dess wir sollen fröhlich sein,
Gott loben und ihm dankbar sein
Und singen halleluja. Halleluja!*

Christ lay in death's bonds
handed over for our sins,
he is risen again
and has brought us life;
For this we should be joyful,
praise God and be thankful to him
and sing alleluia. Alleluia!

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that

we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

One The Word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Following the Children's Moment, those in PreK through 5th grades may go to Sunday School. Parents may pick up their children after worship from Room 107 in the education wing.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

One The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

“The Gifts of God’s Pruning”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 237 *Christ lag in Todesbanden; Geystliche gesangk Buchelyn*
“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” Martin Luther

Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands for our offenses given;
but now at God’s right hand Christ stands and brings us light from heaven;
Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully
loud songs of hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Our Savior Jesus, God’s own Son, here in our stead descended;
the knot of sin has been undone; the reign of death is ended.
Christ has crushed the power of hell; now death is but an empty shell.
Its sting is lost for ever! Hallelujah!

Here the true Paschal Lamb we see, whom God so freely gave us.
He died on the accursed tree so strong His love to save us.
See, His blood now marks our door: faith points to it;
death passes o’er, and Satan cannot harm us. Hallelujah!

So let us keep the festival whereto the Lord invites us;
Christ is the very Joy of all, the Sun that warms and lights us.
Now his grace to us imparts eternal sunshine to our hearts;
the night of sin is ended! Hallelujah!

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*in unison*)

We are not alone, we live in God’s world,
We believe in God:
 who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
 to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation,
 to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at fpcevo.com/giving

“Hier ist das rechte Osterlamm”

Johann Sebastian Bach

from *Christ lag in Todesbanden*

*Hier ist das rechte Osterlamm,
Davon Gott hat geboten,
Das ist hoch an des Kreuzes Stamm
In heißer Lieb gebraten,
Das Blut zeichnet unsre Tür,
Das hält der Glaub dem Tode für,
Der Würger kann uns nicht mehr schaden.
Halleluja!*

Here is the true Easter lamb
that God has offered
which high on the trunk of the cross
is roasted in burning love,
whose blood marks our doors,
which faith holds in front of death,
the strangler can harm us no more.
Alleluia!

*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 606

Old Hundredth

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

Thomas Ken

**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.**

*The Prayer of Dedication

The Choral Response

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Schumann

*We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

- William Walsham How

THE PRAYERS

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People

One God who makes us one,
All hear our prayer.

The Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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 DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*THE CLOSING HYMN . . . no. 235

O filii et filiae; French melody
att. Jean Tissarand

"O Sons and Daughters, Let us Sing"

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**O sons and daughters, let us sing with heavenly hosts to Christ our King;
today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**That night the apostles met in fear; among them came their Lord most dear,
and said, "My peace be with you here." Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**When Thomas first the tidings heard, how they had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**"My pierced side, O Thomas, see; and look upon my hands, my feet;
not faithless, but believing be." Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**No longer Thomas then denied; he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**How blest are they who have not seen, and yet whose faith has constant been,
for they eternal life shall win. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"Chorale" from *Christ lag in Todesbanden*

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Wir essen und leben wohl
Im rechten Osterfladen,
Der alte Sauerteig nicht soll
Sein bei dem Wort Gnaden,
Christus will die Koste sein
Und speisen die Seel allein,
Der Glaub will keins andern leben. Halleluja!*

We eat and live well
on the right Easter cakes,
the old sour-dough should not
be with the word grace,
Christ will be our food
and alone feed the soul,
faith will live in no other way. Alleluia!

THE POSTLUDE

"Allegro" from *Sonata IV* (Op. 65)

Felix Mendelssohn

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Anna von Winckler
Liturgist	Tracy Shaw
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church	

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

All are welcome to **stay for lunch following today's 10:30 service**. The Generosity Committee extends a special thanks to the Deacons for their help with today's carry-in luncheon. There's always plenty, so let's enjoy a time of grateful fellowship together!

The PNC continues to review both self-referred and computer-matched profiles from potential pastoral candidates. We have invited some of those matched profiles to accept an invitation to apply, with a few of those invitations accepted so far. The committee reviewed a second batch of matched profiles to discuss at our meeting this week. We will likely request another batch of computer-matched profiles next week as we continue to review each candidates qualifications and training as well as their responses to the narrative questions outlining their experiences leading worship in their past roles as church leaders. As always, we thank you for your prayers and your patience as we work through the discernment process!

- Yours in Christ, Steve Wylie, PNC Chair

The Choir of First Presbyterian Church will present its **spring concert on Sunday, May 5 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary, featuring JS Bach's cantata, *Christ Lag in Todesbanden*. This event is a feast not only for the ears, but also for the body: the Music Support Committee welcomes all to a Taco Bar following the concert. Tickets for the Taco Bar are \$15, payable at the door. All proceeds from the meal help send First Pres musicians to summer camp experiences.

Plan to start next weekend downtown! All are welcome to May's **First Friday concert**, when we will welcome Emily Ballentine Erb from the IU Jacobs School of Music. Bring your friends and start your weekend with beautiful music on **Friday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.**

The Justice and Peacemaking team invites you the **CAJE Nehemiah Action on May 6 at St. Benedict Cathedral** in the auditorium. This powerful community event is where executive and legislative leaders in our city and county are asked to stand up for the issues CAJE congregations advocate for. This year, the projects seeking support are continued funds for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, restoration of funding for Aurora's second case worker (it was cut for the next budget year), and for school leaders to allow community members to support teachers and students to improve literacy. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the program kicks off at 6:30 p.m. Your presence will make a difference. Talk to Gina Robinson Ungar or Jake Kohlmeyer if you have any questions. Learn more here: <https://www.greaterevansvillecaje.org/our-process>.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 28

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Children's Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. Carry-In Luncheon
- 5:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, April 29

Tuesday, April 30

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. Choir Teen Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. Handbell/Chime Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 1

- 7:00 p.m. Education Committee

Thursday, May 2

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Beginner Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. PNC
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 3

Church Office Closed

- 7:00 p.m. First Friday Concert: Emily Ballentine Erb

Saturday, May 4

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal



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First Presbyterian Church
is a partner congregation with
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