

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**Sunday, May 17, 2026**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**ACCOLYTES (Bringing in the Light)**

At the beginning of worship, the acolytes carry the light of Christ into the sanctuary. This symbolizes Christ's presence among the gathered people — a reminder that we don't create the light ourselves; God brings it to us.

As the candles are lit, we remember Jesus' words, "*I am the light of the world.*" Worship begins in that light.

**PRELUDE**

Tommy Clay, Jr.

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**Liturgist: Kenia Lopez**

This week's prayer is: God of our land and people, we pray for rain. Let it pour down upon us in life-saving and life-giving streams. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

The flowers today were provided by Presbyterian Women for the celebration of our 108<sup>th</sup> birthday at Frist Presbyterian Church of Palatka.

Everyone is invited to the final Gathering Luncheon for the year on Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> in Westminster Hall. The installation of officers for next year.

We remember the journey that brings us together here today and we look forward as that journey continues toward Pentecost.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!**

And also with you! (We greet each other in appropriate ways.)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** [Psalm 34, vs 1 &2, 5-7]

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.**

God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.  
**Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.  
**Together let us worship God!**

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

**God of all grace, we come to you in the in-between —  
between what has been and what is still to come. You  
have not left us without your Word, without each other,  
or without your care. As we gather, humble our hearts,  
quiet our anxious minds, and draw us into the prayer  
Christ prays for us even now. Through Jesus Christ our  
Lord, Amen.**

**HYMN**            “The Day of Resurrection!”            Hymn #233

1 The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad,  
the Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from sin’s dominion free,  
our Christ has brought us over  
with hymns of victory.

2 Let hearts be purged of evil  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light,  
and listening to his accents,  
may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own “All hail!” and hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful;  
let earth its song begin;  
the round world keep high triumph

and all that is therein.  
Let all things seen and unseen  
their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen,  
our joy that has no end.

## **CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**Eternal God, you have loved us from generation to generation. You have shown your faithfulness more often than we can recall. The Bible tells us of your steadfast mercy. You even pray for us. Yet we live holding on to past hurts; we are not open to your new creation. We prefer the safety of what we know to the excitement of discipleship.**

*And now in this moment of silence, those sins which are ours alone*

**Forgive us, O God. Turn us again to your life-giving ways; teach us to do what is right with gentleness and reverence, to resist harm, and to seek the good with courage. By your Spirit, make us a people who embody your justice and tender care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**GLORIA PATRI**      “Glory Be to the Father”      Hymn #581

“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.”

**ANTHEM**                      “Majesty”                      Chancel Choir

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE                      (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)**

***First Reading***

Acts 1:6-14                      p.90, NT

***Gospel Reading***

John 17:1-11                      p.85, NT

Acts 1:6-14                      p.90, NT

### **The Ascension of Jesus**

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

### **Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas**

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

John 17:1-11            p.85, NT

### **Jesus Prays for His Disciples**

**17** After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received

them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Ricky Kirby

“A Prayer That Changed Everything”

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostle’s Creed)**

Hymnal p.35

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (with the Lord’s Prayer)**

Hymnal p.35

**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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**OFFERING/OFFERING MUSIC**

Tommy Clay, Jr.

**DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Hymn #606

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”

**HYMN**

Hymn #837

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine” (Leaning on the  
Everlasting Arms)

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain:*

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain:*

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain:*

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

## ACCOLYTES (Taking the Light Out)

At the end of the service, the acolytes take the flame back out of the sanctuary. This is not extinguishing Christ's presence — it is sending it.

The light that gathered us now goes ahead of us into the world, where we are called to carry Christ's love, justice, and compassion into our daily lives.

## BLESSING AND CHARGE

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Because He Lives"

Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future.  
And life is worth the living just because He lives

## POSTLUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Details on our website, Facebook, Realm & 386-385-3040.)

**This week's prayer**: God of our land and people, we pray for rain. Let it pour down upon us in life-saving and life-giving streams. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

#### **Church Activities**

**Small Groups**-Sunday 9:15 am; Tues. 3:00 pm; Wed. 4:30 pm.

**Presbyterian Women**-every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 10:30am & 6:30pm.

**Social Connections**-Thurs.1pm in Zoom Rm. Contact

**Quilting Group**-Friday's at 10:00 in the Zoom Room,

Welcoming new members.

#### **Outreach Ministries**

**Shower Ministry**-Thurs. from 2-6pm

**PC3 Ministry**-Monday 2-6pm

**Meridian/Grace Market Place**-Thurs. 2-4pm in the Bartram Rm a representative for assistance.

**CDC (Chemical Dependency Counseling)**-Mon. 8-12; Tues. 8-6, Wed. 8-6, Sat. 8-6.

#### **Church Calendar**

**5-19** ARK/pets 9:00am WH/Parking

**5-26** ARK/pets 9:00am WH/Parking

#### **Financial Report**

2026 Financial Report/Operating Budget through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Total Received      Total Spent      Surplus

\$73,129

\$69,747

\$3,382

**The Brick Opportunity** *Let's get those orders in to build a space rooted in legacy, community, and faith, one brick at a time. (#39)*

For more details go to our website [fpcpalatka.com](http://fpcpalatka.com). **(profits through April \$2,868)**