

March 31, 2024

Resurrection of the Lord ~ Easter Sunday

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are so happy that you are here today to share in our service of worship of the Living God!

Gathering around the Word

The congregation is asked to make use of the prelude as a time of preparation, meditation, and prayer.

*All who are able, please stand.

Prelude:

Lift High the Cross

arr. Lani Smith

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Duke Dixon

Choral Call to Worship

Easter Entrada

by Robert Wetzler

*Call to Worship (responsively)

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.

All: God has claimed us as his own. He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world. Alleluia!

*Opening Prayer

O Father, God of the risen Christ in whose resurrection we find new life, send your Spirit to dwell among us in this day of worship. O risen Christ, Son of the Father, may we hear your word of peace today. O Spirit of the living God, teach us to pray. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise: 232

EASTER HYMN

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

Call to Confession

Leader: Jesus’ rising from the dead assures us that we, too, have been given new life. Let us repent of our sin before God and one another, certain of God’s mercy.

Prayer of Confession (responsively)

All-knowing, all-powerful God, we confess that, even on this most holy day, we are unable to believe in the victory over death shown to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We confess our utter dependence on you, not only for life but also for faith, hope and love. Without your astonishing appearance to our ancestors and your stunning presence throughout the ages, we would be lost. Forgive us and transform us, that in every way our work and prayer will make whole what is broken and give peace on earth. Amen.

Confession Response: 572 (Old Book)

“Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us”

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: If we confess our sin, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

All: We know that we are forgiven because Jesus died for our sins, and he has risen from the dead. Thanks be to God.

*Response to God’s Grace: 581

GLORIA PATRI

“Glory Be to the Father”

Proclaiming the Word

Time with the Young Disciples

Pastor Duke

All preschool and elementary children are invited to come down front. Afterwards, children 2-4 years old are welcome to go to extended care with adults.

Prayer for Illumination

God of life, your Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture. Your Spirit draws us to Christ and helps us to acknowledge him as Lord. We ask that you will send your Spirit now to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope through the proclamation of the Easter gospel. Amen.

Scripture Readings

First Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem

Easter Anthem

by William Billings

Second Lesson: Mark 16:1-8

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Surprise Ending

Rev. Duke Dixon

Responding to the Word

*Resurrection Hymn: 238

JUDAS MACCABEUS

“Thine Is the Glory”

*Statement of Belief – A Brief Statement of Faith—Presbyterian Church (USA)

In life and in death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Please be seated as we prepare for prayer.

Choral Meditation

“Christ We All Adore You”

by Theodore Dubois

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.”

Call to Offering

Offertory

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

arr. by Mary McDonald

*Offering Response: 606

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Holy God, you shower us with gifts so abundant, we cannot measure them all. You give us life itself and the power to befriend our companions in this world. Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Leader: Followers of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.

ALL: In the Eucharist, Christ offers his own crucified body and shed blood to his people, assuring them a share in his death and resurrection. By the Holy Spirit, he feeds us

with his resurrection life and binds us to each other as we share one loaf and cup. We receive this food gladly, believing, as we eat, that Jesus is our life-giving food and drink and that he will come again to call us to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Leader: So let all those who acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Savior come and partake of this meal. It is for you. Let us pray.

ALL: With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us— even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, by his glorious resurrection, overcame the power of sin and gave us new life. Therefore, we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

Choral Meditation

Sanctus

by Urmas Sisask

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

*Sending Hymn: 233

“The Day of Resurrection”

LANCASHIRE

Charge and Benediction

Choral Benediction:

“Gaelic Blessing”

by John Rutter

*Postlude:

Christ Has Triumphed, Alleluia!

arr. Edward Broughton

Thank you to Holbrook Raynal for serving as liturgist.

Please Remember in Prayer		
Church Family	Friends of Church	Bereavement
Margaret Addison	Joshua & Julianna Bleil	Boney & Threatt families
Bebe Ademy	Stuart Britt	Hope & Goodbar families
Mary Nell Askew	James Buckland	Bob Link family
Chandra Coleman	Betsy Burton	Ray Scarborough family
P-Nut Dowdle	David Eubanks	Kristy Gambrell & family
Betty Gross	Betty Goodman	Pam Warren & family
Doris Milam	Nancy Hope	Peters’ family
Gin Jacobs	Julie Young Keadle	Carolyn Payne & family
	Susan Presseau	Bishop family
	Kim Purcell	Donley family
		John Dowdle family
		Bill Tyler family
		Ann Hall family
		Gumina family
		Gearheart family
		Elizabeth Lusby & family
		Jackie Waldron & family

This prayer list will be updated quarterly. If you would like to be added to or taken off the list before that time, please let the church office (833-1062) know.

Announcements



The congregation extends love and sympathy to Jackie Waldron and her family at the death of Jackie’s father, John F. “Jack” Bleil, on March 25, 2024.

FPC Clinton seeks a creative and inspiring individual to serve as Director of Christian Education on a part-time basis (20 to 25 hours per week). This individual needs to be grounded in their Christian faith and demonstrate a commitment to fellowship and service. To inquire more about this position, please send your resume, including three references, to FPC, P.O. Box 29, Clinton, SC 29325; or email to lisa@fpccClinton.org.

Worship Bags for Children: All children are encouraged to pick up a Worship Bag from the rack in the narthex or basket in the sanctuary entry near the chapel. These bags contain resources that will help children worship and praise God. **Please return bags to the rack or basket after worship.**

This sanctuary is equipped with an Oval Window Audio Induction Loop Assistive Listening System. Please switch your hearing device to “T” (telephone) or request assistance. Headsets are also available in the narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.



Scan the QR code with your mobile device to be directed to OnRealm, where you may make your offering or tithe. (Text/Data rates may apply)

This Week at FPC

Sunday, March 31

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. – Church-wide Covered Dish Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt (children 5th grade and under), and Flowering of the Cross - Fellowship Hall and church yard

10:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship Service – Sanctuary

Monday, April 1

Church Office Closed – Easter Monday

1:30 – 4:00 p.m. – Stephen Ministry training – CE office

6:30 p.m. – Undecorate the Church – Music & Worship Committee

Tuesday, April 2

5:30 p.m. – Administration Committee – library

7:00 p.m. – Global Mission Committee - library

Wednesday, April 3

5:15 p.m. – Handbell rehearsal – room 217

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Choir rehearsal – choir room

Thursday, April 4

5:30 p.m. – Music & Worship Committee - library

Friday, April 5

Church Office Closed

6:00 p.m. – Rehearsal for Addison-Werts wedding - sanctuary

Saturday, April 6

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – CLC Reserved – Chelsie Carter Ministries

5:00 p.m. – Caroline Addison & Hunter Werts wedding ceremony – sanctuary

Core Values of FPC Clinton

UNITED IN CHRIST – The grace of God in Jesus Christ is for all people, and with joy we celebrate our unity in Christ. Guided by our confession, we embrace our Presbyterian heritage by practicing a faith that calls us to love and serve God and to love our neighbors.

INSPIRED IN WORSHIP – Worship is at the center of the Christian faith. We gather to encounter the living God through the reading and preaching of God’s word, the celebration of the sacraments, the songs, prayers, and fellowship of the people, honoring God with our very best.

EQUIPPED IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – An understanding of the scriptures and reformed theology is vital to our belief that we are a priesthood of all believers. Therefore, we strive to be diligent and effective in encouraging a varied program of Christian Education that engages people of all ages. Through Sunday school classes, bible studies, children and youth ministries, and special learning events, we aim to offer Christian Education that is well organized, well led, and well supported in the church and the community.

ENGAGED IN ACTS OF LOVE THROUGH SELFLESS SERVICE – The love of God is unconditional. We respond to God’s steadfast love through acts of compassion, reaching beyond the boundaries of race, economics, and culture to serve our church, our community, and our world with hope and confidence in God’s purposes.

JOINED IN FELLOWSHIP - The church is a family in Christ. We strive to bring all generations of the church family together with activities both to celebrate joyful encounters and to support each other through grief and hardship. We share the burdens of those in our congregation and community and encourage each other as we develop faith and trust. In God’s love we celebrate and recognize the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit in our lives through fellowship.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2024

Kay Cleveland

Danny Cook

Will Ferguson

Chad Gambrell

Donna Jackson

Jean Johnson

Bob Link

Ron Zimmerman

Class of 2025

Derrick Adair

Katherine Addison

Austin Barnes

Maecy Burton

Cyndi Coker

Van Mattison

Harold Nichols

Jackie Waldron

Class of 2026

Marty Ademy

Emily Holder

Holbrook Raynal

Andy Sullivan

Susan Tallman

Stan Walsh

Church Staff

Dr. Duke Dixon, Interim Pastor

Lisa Keen, Front Office/Communications

Carolyn Payne, Financial Secretary

Dr. Chuck Neufeld, Part-time Director of Music

Dr. Karen W. Buckland, Organist

Laura James, Interim Part-time CE Coordinator

Sheryl Owens, Custodian

Email

duke@fpccClinton.org

lisa@fpccClinton.org

carolyn@fpccClinton.org

cneufeld@lander.edu

kbuck@presby.edu

laurajames@lcsd56g.com

sasowens1961@gmail.com

Phone: 864-833-1062

ext. 12

ext. 11/ (text) 575-937-1641

ext. 10

864-554-3640

864-833-8467

Missionaries: Donald Marsden (Siberia), Pam (Turkey), Al and Ellen Smith (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus)

Weekday Preschool Staff: Pam Jennings, Preschool Director & Teacher; Sheryl Owens, Teacher