

First Presbyterian Church
Clinton, South Carolina

April 20, 2025

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 Raney
Handbell Choir, piano, organ

Chiming of the Hour

Words of Greeting

Introit Resurrection Fanfare Carlson
Alleluia! The Lord has risen! He has arisen! He’s alive! Alleluia!
He broke the bonds of death forever! Alleluia! His tomb now empty,
He has arisen! He’s alive! Alleluia!

*Call to Worship (responsively)
Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
Leader: This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:
All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
Leader: That Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day.
All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
Leader: He appeared to Peter, to the twelve, and to many faithful witnesses.
All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!
Leader: At last he came to us, that we might come to believe and proclaim this good news to the world.
All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

*Opening Prayer:
As we gather for worship, we pray, “Glory to you, O God; you have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life. Glory to you, O Christ. For us and for our salvation, you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit; you lead us into the truth. Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.”

*Opening Hymn: 232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today EASTER HYMN

*Prayer of Confession (unison)
Leader: Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.
All: Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

A time for silent prayers of confession.
Confession Response: 572 (Old Book) Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us arr. Healy Willan
Kyrie Eleison
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Assurance of Pardon
Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
All: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri: 581 Glory be to the Father GLORIA PATRI (Greateorex)

Proclaiming the Word

Time with the Young Disciples Charli Holder
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 of Illumination
Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day. Open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to believe the good news, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings
First Lesson: Luke 24:1-12
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem:	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	Dan Forrest
Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou has been, Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see! All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest; Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,	join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide. Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow: Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see! All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me. Amen.	

Second Lesson: Luke 24:36-49
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Message “*The Best Day Ever*” Dr. Duke Dixon

Responding to the Word

***Resurrection Hymn:** 260 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* HYFRYDOL

***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.

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 *Victory in Jesus* Patricia Sanders
Handbell Choir

***Offertory Response** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication** (unison)
We praise you, O God, and give you thanks that you have given us such joy, such grace, and such hope, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let your lives be proof of that good news. Let all our words and actions, our love and service bear witness to your resurrection power; for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Invitation to the Table
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. Let us pray. By your power you raised Jesus from death to life. Through his victory over the grave we are set free from the bonds of sin and the fear of death to share the glorious freedom of the children of God. In his rising to life you promise eternal life to all who believe in him. We praise you that as we break bread in faith, we shall know the risen Christ among us.

Words of Institution

Communion Hymn: 240 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO. 1

Partaking of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ’s redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

***Closing Hymn:** (insert) *Victory in Jesus* HARTFORD
***Choral Benediction:** 80 *You Shall Go Out With Joy* Stuart Dauermann
***Postlude** *Christ Hath Triumphed, Alleluia!* Edward Broughton

Thank you to Lee Atkinson for serving as liturgist and to Charli Holder for leading Time with the Young Disciples.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family	Friends of Church	Bereavement
Margaret Addison	Chris Branham	Latha Gearheart & family
Mary Nell Askew	Hugh & Sherry Dishman	Jackie Waldron & family
Chandra Coleman	Nancy Hope	Mike Owens & family
P-Nut Dowdle	Julie Young Keadle	Donna Jackson & family
Steve Floyd	Kim Purcell	Lee Counterman & family
Nancy Goodbar	Marie Cox	George Copeland & family
Gin Jacobs		Duke Dixon & family
John Lapomarda		The Henley family
Liz Pinzon		
Dot Smith		
Elisabeth Zimmerman		

Please take a moment to reflect on the power of prayer and the deep connections it nurtures within our church family. If you wish to be added to or removed from the prayer list, please reach out to the church office (833-1062).

Announcements

Worship Bags for Children – Before worship each Sunday, 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. **Bags should be returned 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 available in the narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected today. Offerings received will give food to the hungry, give aid and shelter to people overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and give resources to communities in need.

The Women’s Evening Bible Study group will meet **Monday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m.** at the home of Laurie Counterman (108 Shellcreek Court). We will pick up from the last session of our study book, *We Saved You a Seat*. All women of the church are invited to attend and welcome to bring a friend!

Friday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.: The Laurens County Chorale and the PC Choir present “Rock, Ragtime, and Rutter” in the sanctuary at FPC. Cost of admission is \$10. PC students admitted free with student ID.

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).



The Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Derrick Adair	Marty Ademy	Lee Atkinson
Katherine Addison	Emily Holder	Danny Cook
Austin Barnes	Bob Link	Amanda Donley
Maecy Burton	Holbrook Raynal	Chad Gambrell
Cyndi Coker	Andy Sullivan	Jean Johnson
Van Mattison	Stan Walsh	Bob McLean
Harold Nichols		
Jackie Waldron		

Pastor Duke and J. Lynne will be traveling north to Maryland immediately following the Easter service to visit and care for J. Lynne’s parents. Please keep the Dixons in your prayers for safe travels, and for healing, peace and comfort to come to J. Lynne’s parents, Hugh and Sherry Dishman. Pastor Duke will return to the office on Monday, April 28th.

This Week at FPC

Sunday, April 20

9:45 a.m. – Church-wide breakfast and Flowering of the Cross – Courtyard/churchyard
10:30 a.m. – Easter Sunday Worship Service

Monday, April 21

Church office closed in observance of Easter Monday

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – PNC (workroom)
6:30 p.m. – Women’s Evening Bible Study – home of Laurie Counterman

Tuesday, April 22

9:30 a.m. – Weekly Walk with The *Classics* – CLC
4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit information for Steeple People Newsletter

Wednesday, April 23

12:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Sunday bulletin
5:30 p.m. – Christian Education Committee (library)
5:30 p.m. – Handbell practice (Room 217)
6:30 p.m. – Choir practice (Choir room)

Thursday, April 24

4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Worship News

Friday, April 25

Church office closed

7:30 p.m. – “Rock, Ragtime & Rutter” - PC Choir and Laurens County Chorale (sanctuary)

Church Staff

Dr. Duke Dixon, Interim Pastor
Lisa Keen, Front Office/Communications
Carolyn Payne, Financial Secretary
Mac McDougal, Director of Music
Karen Buckland, Organist
Sheryl Owens, Custodian

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