

*The Service of Worship*

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Chimes**

**Prelude**

*The Feast of Victory*

Darla Korrey Gertner

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Introit**

*We Gather Here in Jesus' Name*

Chancel Choir

Bryan Leech

**\*Call to Worship and Opening Prayer (responsive)**

Alleluia! Christ is risen;

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Let us praise the Living God.

**Long ago, faithful women**

**proclaimed the good news**

**of Jesus' resurrection,**

**and the world was changed forever.**

May we keep faith with them.

**May our witness be as bold,**

**our love as deep,**

**and our faith as true.**

Let us pray.

Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption,  
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.

As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,

uphold us with knowledge of the final morning

when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,

we will share in his resurrection,

redeemed and restored to the fullness of life

and forever freed to be your people.

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*We Gather Here in Jesus' Name (vv. 2 & 3)*

**#510**

## **\*Call to Confession**

### **\*Prayer of Confession** (responsive)

Forgive us for the ways we fail or forget  
to live in and for your love.

**We say, Alleluia!**

**And yet, we are quick to lose  
the joy and promise of Easter,  
and our praise fades into indifference,  
worry, and distraction.**

Creator of the universe,  
you made the world in beauty,  
and restore all things in glory  
through the victory of Jesus Christ.

**We pray that, wherever your image is still obstructed  
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,  
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace.**

Let us participate in this new creation, according to your will.

Make us into people of the resurrection;

**Form us into Easter people,  
to the glory of your name.**

**Amen.**

### **\*Declaration of Forgiveness** (responsive)

...Christ still rises,

**whether we believe it or not.**

Christ still rises,

**even when we forget or lose faith.**

Christ still rises.

**The work of God in Christ is effective and eternal.**

Hear and believe the good news today:

**Christ is risen from the dead,  
trampling down death,  
and giving life to those in the tomb!**

This is the good news of salvation:

**In Christ, we are forgiven.**

**In Christ, we are alive.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

### **\*The Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*Response**

*Thine Is the Glory (Refrain)*

**#238**

**Thine is the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.**

**Prayer for Illumination** (unison)

**Spirit of the Living God,  
illumine the reading and the hearing of your word,  
that we might be formed and transformed  
into people who are fueled by resurrection hope.  
Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 24:13-27

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*How Beautiful*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Benjamin Harlan

**Scripture Readings**

Luke 24:28-35

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*Christ Is Risen, and Yet... We don't see him walking with us.*

Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (responsive)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**By God's great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead  
and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,  
kept in heaven for us.**

We are being protected by the power of God through faith  
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**In this we rejoice,  
even though we suffer various trials,  
even though our faith is tested by fire.**

Our faith will result in praise and glory and honor

when Jesus Christ is revealed.

**Although we have not seen him, we love him,  
and even though we do not see him now,  
we believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,  
as we receive the salvation of our souls.  
Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Response**

*Day of Arising*

**#252**

## **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

INVITATION

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Living Hope*  
Darla Korrey Gertner

arr. Korrey

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (responsive)

For all the ways that you meet us,  
**in ordinary elements like bread and cup,  
in ordinary people like us,  
we give you thanks.**

We have been nourished at your table and by your presence,  
**so send us out  
to share the love and hope we have received here today.**

In the name of Christ, our risen Lord, we pray.  
**Amen.**

## **Giving of Ourselves and Our Offerings**

**\*The Doxology**

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (responsive)

Generous God,  
your love is so powerful  
not even death can stop you from finding us,  
lifting us up,  
and setting our feet on a path of faith and hope.

**Receive the offerings of our life and labor.**

We give to you from what you have already given to us.

**Sanctify our gifts and our lives  
for your kingdom  
which is coming on earth.**

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (vv. 1-4)*

**#543**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

*May the Love of the Lord*  
Chancel Choir

Choo/Hong

**\*Chimes**

**Postlude**

*Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen*  
David Chrisp

*\*Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

**Worship Notes – Sources Used in Today’s Liturgy**

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession: adapted Revised Common Lectionary Prayers © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Affirmation of Faith: adapted from 1 Peter 1:3-9

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## Prayer Concerns May 3, 2026

### Military Personnel

Luke Brigham (Randy & Terry's son)  
Thomas Gage Snyder (Kim Schlup's son)

### Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

Sidney, Light Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Those with Special Needs or Concerns

Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)	Delinda Korrey McDowell
David Balabanis Family	Jim Leh
Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)	Rose Neblett
Jackie Barton	Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's step-father & mother)
Sharon Bennett (Neblett's son-in-law's mother)	Mari Paradise (Jim Neblett's sister)
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)	Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
Clark Bernhardt	David Prince (Tanna's brother)
Norm Blackburn	Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)
Brenda Boeff	Cadie, Hailey, and Austen Rose (Jason Rose family)
Randy Brigham	Leslie Rudolph (sister of Mike Tyson)
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Rounph)	Betty Scharf
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)	Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)
Cooperating Ministry	John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)	Darrell Smith and family
Dylan Cranwell — Peace Corps	Montelle Smith
Jeanne Crouch & Family	Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Dave & Marsha Davis	Roseanne Thompson (friend of Nebletts)
Sarah Davis	Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)	Amy & Byron Urich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)	Under the Umbrella
Family Resource Center	Jeff Underhill
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)	Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)	Laurie Weskamp Wagner (Jeff's sister)
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)	Jeff Weskamp
Highlands Camp	Family and friends of Jean Williamson
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)	Michelle Wilson (friend of David Chrisp)
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)	
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)	

#### Prayer List Updates:

Do you have an update on anyone listed on our church prayer list? We'd love to hear the good news of recovery, healing, and answered prayer. If you have a joy to report, let us know!

***Announcements—May 3, 2026***

*We invite you to join us in our work and worship at First Presbyterian Church.*

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**At a Glance**

May 3	10:30	Worship Service with Communion Sunday School
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee
May 5	12:00	Membership/Stewardship Meeting
	5:00	Zumba
May 6	10:00	Worship & Sacraments Meeting
May 7	4:30	Zumba
	5:30	Bells
	6:30	Chancel Choir
May 10	10:30	Worship Service Sunday School
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee with Birthday Celebration

**Church Office hours:** Mon/Wed/Fri: 9:00 am—Noon; and Tues/Thurs: 1:00-4:00 pm

**VBS is coming up the week of June 8.** We are getting ready for an amazing week. There are still some spots that need to be filled. If you would like to help, please contact Jan Mari at 520-0665. VBS is a fun filled week educating our young children about God. Please join us.

**Food Pantry Items:** Throughout the month of May we are collecting: Cake Mixes and Frosting, and Egg Cartons (for donated eggs). You may bring your donations to the church and put them under the table outside the church office, or in the box in the elevator vestibule.

**Tithes & Offerings:** Thank you... your support makes mission & ministry possible.  
Donate online at [tinyurl.com/FPCPayPal](https://tinyurl.com/FPCPayPal) or [tinyurl.com/FPCSterlingGive](https://tinyurl.com/FPCSterlingGive)



# First Presbyterian Church

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130 South 4th Street | Sterling, CO 80751 | 970-522-2708  
www.firstpressterling.org

## *Church Staff*

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Pastor	Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon
Music Coordinator/Organist	Elsie Fetzer
Choir Director	Darla Korrey Gertner
Bell Choir Director	Lindsey Jackson
Office Administrator	Rashell Fritzler
Bookkeeper	Karlee Manuello
Property Manager	Janet Kloberdanz

## *Serving Today*

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Liturgists	Michelle D. Witherspoon, preacher Jeff Rice, liturgist
Acolyte/Bible Bearer	Pam Trimble, Tanna Prince
Ushers	Brenda Christenson, Laura Guenzi
Communion Preparers	Sue Weingardt, Tanna Prince
Communion Servers	Tanna Prince, Cheryl Kaan, Michelle Hawkins
AV	Jeff Christenson (Sound), Myra Westfall (Slides)
Count Offering	Bev Cumming
Fellowship Coffee	Property Committee
Bulletin Delivery	Liz Chaney