

the
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Christ is risen! Alleluia!

EASTER

APRIL 5, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

✠We rise in body or spirit.

We say words in bold together.

Prelude *Crown Him Lord of All* Lloyd Larson, arr.

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Gathering Prayer

God of good news, we come this morning with our alleluias, banners, lilies, trumpets, and song. For you are risen, indeed! Beyond our comprehension, you startle us again and again with resurrection life, bringing grace and hope and joy. You, in your risen power, are shaping all our days, and so we praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introit *The Strife is O'er* Hopson, arr.

Call to Worship Liturgist: Elizabeth Smith

Beloved church, behold the victory of our God:

Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave!

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Sin and death shall reign no more!

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Let this place resound with joy!

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Christ is risen, indeed!

✠Hymn 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!

suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!

who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

sinner to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!

our salvation have procured. Alleluia!

Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!

where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

✠Prayer of Confession

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. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we ignore the cries of the oppressed, and are indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and do not care for the fullness of your creation. 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. Amen.

✠Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

✠Hymn 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*
*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

✠Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Acts 10:34-43*
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

p. 157 in the pew Bible
p. 694 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem *To the Lamb on the Throne* Dan Forrest/Charles Wesley

*Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name all victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.
Salvation to God, who sits on the throne! Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.
God rules in the height, almighty to save;
though hid from our sight, His presence we have,
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.
Then let us adore and give Him His right,
all glory and pow'r all wisdom and might;
All honor and blessing with angels above
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.
"Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb!"*

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 28:1-10*

p. 41 in the pew Bible

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

More to Say

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 722

Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.

As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet.

O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.

And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of manna heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow

in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where

until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

✠Affirmation of Faith from the *Confession of Belhar*

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; . . . that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Natasha Taylor

. . . forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors . . .

Presentation of Offerings

Gifts, tithes, and offerings may be placed in the plates at the Sanctuary entrance. We also give thanks to God for offerings given via mail and online at fredericksburgpc.org/give.

✠Doxology (Hymn 609) *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

✠Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

✠Hymn 246

Christ Is Alive!

***Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.***

***Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.***

***In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.***

***Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.***

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Choral Response *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah* George F. Handel

✠Postlude *Christ Arose* arr. Lani Smith
Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.



*The flowers on the pulpit are given by David and Tammy Hancock in celebration
of the birth of their first grandchild, Miles Alexander Thomas Ebron,
born on January 24, 2026.*

Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Michele Coffman, Steve Davis

Elevator Assistant: Paul Kukla

Sanctuary Guild: Mike and Michelle Gibson

Videographer: Kristen Betsill

Brass Ensemble: Darren Secrecy, Joe Brown, Jenny Stonebarger,
Trey Talmadge

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The Easter flowers at the front of the Sanctuary are:

given by:

Kim and John Baker
 Dick and Judy Balch
 the grandchildren of Pete Beattie
 Linda Benn
 Kristen and Brett Betsill
 George G. Cralle, Jr.
 Joan Darby

The Fino Family
 Lee and Jeannette Gibbons
 Mike and Michelle Gibson
 David and Tammy Hancock
 John and Barbara Howe
 David and Doris Johnson
 The Land Family

Patricia P. Langfitt
 The LeFebre family
 Judy Lowman
 Joe and Betsy Mathias
 Bill and Jacqui Nix

Theresa Roys
 Carl E. Snedeker
 Steve and Linda Spratt
 Opal Stroup
 Doreen and Gary Vaughn

given by:

Mary Lou Cramer

 Steve and Elizabeth D'Andrea
 Caroline Deaderick
 Lee and Jeannette Gibbons
 Mike and Michelle Gibson
 John and Barbara Howe
 Joe and Betsy Mathias
 Laura Miller

in memory of:

Peter Baker and Michael Baker
 our dear friends, Mike and Carole Fariss
 Pete Beattie
 Bob Benn
 Rev. Thomas Holmes
 Mr. and Mrs. George Cralle, Sr., and Alex B. Cralle
 Adelaide L. Darby, Drew E Darby, and Patricia D. St. Onge—
 loving mom, brother, and sister
 Ray and Jean Fino
 our parents: John and Jeannette Harris, and Clifton and Olyve Gibbons
 Lloyd and Becky Gibson (Mike's parents)
 Kathryn Vaughn Hancock and Thomas John Hancock
 our parents and siblings, Dianne Portner, Barbara Huston, Tom Howe
 friends who have died this past year
 Robert W. Pierson, Jr., Penelope and Benji's grandfather and
 Chelsea's dad
 The Reverend Dr. Donald K. Langfitt
 Kaci LeFebre
 my sweet sister, Anne DeFreytas
 our parents
 our parents, J. Robert and Jacqueline Morrison & John and Barbara Nix,
 and our grandsons, Myles Nix and Elliott McGhee
 Kevin Chase Elkins and Frank Roys
 my beloved wife, Dianne M. Snedeker
 loved ones
 Earl B. Stroup and Iris Soscia
 our dear friends, Kaci, Carole and Mike

in honor of:

Nancy Raines with deepest gratitude for her friendship and
 service to the congregation
 our family and the grace that our Lord has given us
 David Worth Deaderick and Thursday Morning Bible Study friends
 our children— Jac, Connie, and Clifton
 Stephanie Swanson (Mike's sister)
 our grandchildren: McCully, McCrae, McKane, Riley, and Rowan
 our grandchildren, David and Claire
 3 daughters and families: Paulla Loder, Debby Newcomb, and
 Helen Scherbenske, and Patti Kerns— Faith Circle Leader