

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

MARCH 31, 2024

## PREPARATION, PROMISES AND PRAISE

*Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord., Amen.*

### OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

Prelude "The Day of Resurrection" by Brenda Austin  
Carillonneurs

Gathering Music "Celebrate Jesus! He's Alive!" by L. S. Bailey  
FirstKids

Call to Worship Rev. Don Hardman

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: He has given us new life and hope.**

**He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

Leader: God has claimed us as his own.

**People: He has brought us out of darkness.**

**He has made us light to the world.**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

—based on 1 Peter 1:3-5

\*Hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" No. 277

\*Prayer of Adoration

\*Prayer of Confession (unison)

**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. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the Good News! "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of Christ's atoning work, all those who are in Christ are completely forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

—1 Corinthians 15:54-57

\*Gloria Patri No. 735

(Let the children come forward during the singing of the Gloria.)

## LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Children's Time

Children's Worship is provided for ages 4–2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Room 205.  
Parents, please escort your children to this room.

Wendy Andree

\*Hymn "Thine Be the Glory" No. 274

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-2 Page 738

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem "Joy to the Heart" by K. Lee Scott

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8 Page 1010

Sermon "The Hope of the Resurrection"

Rev. Don Hardman

### RESPONSE IN DEDICATION AND OBEDIENCE

Prayers of the People of God and Our Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your 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.

\*Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' Creed" Page 845

**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 on 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**

Offering of Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory "The Strife is O'er" arr. Held

\*Doxology No. 731

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn "He Lives" Insert

\*Benediction No. 739

Postlude "Hallelujah" Handel

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\*The Congregation is asked to stand, as you are able.

# WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us on this Easter Sunday. May God embrace us with His love and mercy. We invite everyone to complete the “blue” card that is in our bulletin and especially the “prayer” section. Also if you would desire personal prayer or more information about First EPC, there will be an Elder near the piano following our service who would like to pray with you.

## CALENDAR

**Today, 3/31** Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:30 am;  
**Monday, 4/1** Church office closed on Mondays  
**Tuesday, 4/2** Sisters in Bible Study (SIBS), 10:00 am; Men’s ZOOM Bible Study, 12:00 pm; Adult Bible Study (ABS), 5:15 pm; Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday, 4/3** Feast @ First, 6:00 pm; FirstKids & FaithWeaver Friends, 6:30 pm; Youth Group, 6:30; Carillonneurs, 7:00 pm  
**Thursday, 4/4** Staff Mtg., 10:00 am  
**Friday, 4/5** Prayers for the Church, 9:30 am

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## REMINDERS

**Elders:** Michael Ridenhour, David Smith  
**Sound System:** Kaye Wilkerson, Scott Rice, Rea Brown  
**Greeters Ramp Room** (8:50-9:00 & 10:00-10:30): March 31 - Don & Wendy Andree; April 7 - Donna Broyles; April 14 - David & Kathy Akers; April 21 - Teal Bennett; April 28 - Charles Speck  
**Greeters Narthex** (10:00-10:30): March 31 - Barry & Anne Webb; April 7 - Robert Broyles; April 14 - Sandy McCullar; April 21 - Jeff & Pat Povtak; April 28 - Andrea Guillard  
**Deacons on Duty:** April 7 - Cameron May, Susan Blanding; April 14 - Karen Brooks, Mary Thornhill; April 21 - Bob Caudle, Jr., Helen Gearhart Thompson; April 28 - Debbie Bennett, Marcia Ridenhour  
**Acolytes:** March 31 - Emma & Kylie Woolard; April 7 - Bryleigh Trevett; April 14 - Elizabeth Rice; April 21 - David Bean; April 28 - Emma & Kylie Woolard  
**Children's Worship:** March 31 - No Children’s Worship; April 7 - Easter; Leader: Natalie McLaughlin; Greeter: Mike Trial; April 14 - Road to Emmaus; Leader: Anne Webb; Greeter: Chris Ayers; April 21 - The Good Shepherd & the Lost Sheep; Leader: Anne Webb; Greeter: Pat Povtak; April 28 - The Good Shepherd & the Wolf; Leader: Diana Harvey

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**PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK:** - Pray for a repentant heart. Psalm 51:17, Psalm 66:18

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**PCC Food Needs** - Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta

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*Hearing devices are located in the Narthex to assist in listening to today’s service*

Pastor: Rev. Don Hardman  
Interim Director of Music: Rev. Keith Olivier  
Director of Youth & Christian Education: Mr. Pete G. Guillard  
Organist: Mr. William Turner  
Handbell Director: Dr. Erma Rose