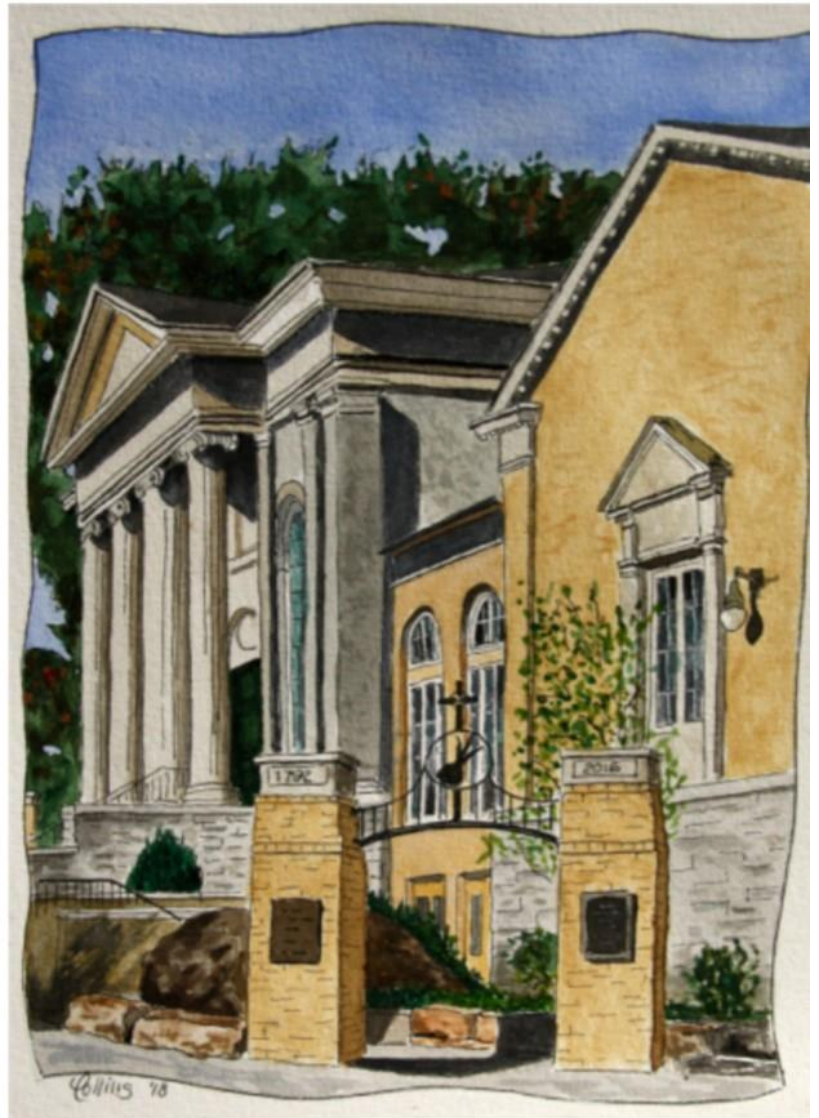




*“For Christ in the Heart of
Knoxville,” the First Presbyterian
Church seeks*

- *to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ*
- *to nurture those within its influence*
- *to serve spiritual and human needs*



First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE 

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Meredith Loftis, Associate Pastor

Mr. Mark Pace, Organist/Choirmaster

Mr. Alex McGavic, Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator

Bikyeombe Kisubi, Crucifer

Harper McAdoo, Bible Bearer

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 24, 2022

✦ THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✦

PRELUDE

Trumpet Pastorate

Richard E. Frey

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed!

Leader: God is alive...

People: New birth is given.

Leader: Hope is alive...

People: A new age is dawning.

Leader: Joy is alive...

People: Redemption is here.

Leader: Love is alive

People: Death cannot harm us.

Leader: We are alive...

People: New life is within us.

Leader: The church is alive...

People: God's spirit is within us.

All: God of life, we worship you. God of creation, we praise you. God of revelation, we learn from you. God of resurrection, we come to celebrate you.

† OPENING HYMN 234

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

St. Kevin

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Come, you faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel
Into joy from sadness,
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot
Through the Red Sea waters. | 3. Now the queen of seasons, bright
With the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts
Comes its joy to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem,
Who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection! |
| 2. 'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ has burst his prison,
And from three days' sleep in death
As a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins,
Long and dark, is flying
From the Light, to whom we give
Laud and praise undying. | 4. Neither could the gates of death,
Nor the tomb's dark portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal
Hold you as a mortal:
But today, among your own,
You appear, bestowing
Your deep peace, which evermore
Passes human knowing. |

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, we confess that too often we are skeptics. At times we doubt that You exist because of the evil we have seen in the world. Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see Your love and light. Sometimes, even those who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways. Help us to see Your goodness in this world. Help us to know Your love. Forgive us for our lack of faith and fill us with Your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith. Amen. *(a moment for silent confession)*

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† MUSICAL RESPONSE 248

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (vs. 1)

Hymn to Joy

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed. In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

† MUSICAL RESPONSE 250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

✠ THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD ✠

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 5:27-32

Jane Luhn

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

ANTHEM

O Song and Daughters of the King

Paul Sjolund

*O sons and daughters of the King, whom heavenly hosts in glory sing, today the grave has lost its sting; Alleluia!
On this most holy day of days, to God your hearts and voices raise. In songs of joy and shouts of praise; Alleluia!
And we the holy Church unite, as evermore is just and right, in glory to the King of Light.*

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

Rev. Meredith Loftis



✠ THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE ✠

- † **HYMN OF RESPONSE** 235 *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing* Victory
- Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
1. O sons and daughters, let us sing
With heavenly hosts to Christ our King;
Today the grave has lost its sting!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
 3. When Thomas first the tidings heard,
How they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
 4. "My pierced side, O Thomas, see;
And look upon my hands, my feet;
Not faithless, but believing be."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
 5. No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Mark Curtis
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.

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed or you are invited to mail in your tithes and offerings to the church office or give online at www.fpcknox.org/donate.

OFFERTORY *In Joseph's Lovely Garden* Arr. Clarence Dickinson
In Joseph's lovely garden the Lord Christ's tomb was made. And there His broken body to rest was gently laid. A great rock strongly sealed it, that Death might have full sway; But God sent down His angel, to roll the stone away. When dawn was faintly breaking across the garden fair, three women entered weeping, and bearing spices rare. Then spake the guardian angel, in shining raiment bright, He whom ye seek is risen, and Death is vanquished quite. O angel of the garden descend to us today, and comfort all our sadness, and drive death's fear away. We all are sorrow laden, speak to our hearts we pray, "He whom ye love is risen, and lives with Christ alway." O Jesus, blest Redeemer, all praise to thee we bring, No power of death could hold thee, our Savior, Lord and King! As Thou hast risen all glorious, may we one day arise, O'er sin and death victorious, in Thy blest Paradise.

† **DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** 606 *Old Hundredth*
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed*
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.

† **SENDING HYMN** 236 *The Strife Is O'er* Victory

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
The victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!
2. The powers of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed:
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!
3. The three sad days are quickly sped;
Christ rises glorious from the dead:
All glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!
4. Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
From death's dread sting thy servants free,
That we may live, and sing to thee:
Alleluia! [Refrain]

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Toccata on Come, Ye Faithful Raise the Strain* Arr. James Biery
† - Please stand if you are able.