** First Presbyterian Church**

 *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Helen Hutchison, Pastor

 Janet Adams, liturgist

April 21, 2024

**Prelude** David Pérez, organist

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Friendship Pads:** Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please include your email address if you wish. We invite you to note the names of those sitting near you and greet them before leaving today.

**Cards of Encouragement:** Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate.

**Introit** *Grazioso* Westminster Ringers

 ARNOLD B. SHERMAN Carol Fleeger, director

**Call to Worship**

 One: We are led

 **All: Beside still waters.**

 One: We are fed

 **All: At a huge banquet table.**

 One: We are accompanied

 **All: Through valleys of shadow and death.**

 One: We are guided

 **All: To do justice and righteousness.**

 One: We are anointed,

 **All: Blessed and filled.**

 One: We sing

 **All: Of God’s goodness and mercy.**

\* **Hymn of Praise** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* ***Glory to God*** #65 CWM RHONDDA

\* **Call To Confession** Janet Adams,liturgist

One: Beloved, we are God’s children because of the love God has for us, yet we sometimes fail to respond

 to God’s outpouring of love. Let us confess our sins together.

**\* Prayer of Confession** (unison) Janet Adams, liturgist

 **Gracious God, like sheep we are prone to wander from our Good Shepherd. We know that you**

 **lead us to right paths, streams of living water and pastures that feed us, but we are easily distracted,**

 **frequently frightened and stubbornly bent on making our own way. Still, you call us. Still,**

 **you whisper words of life and peace. Thank you for your relentless pursuit of us. In humility and**

 **faith, we turn to you again and follow you. For the sake of Christ our Shepherd, we pray.**

**\* Silent Prayers of Confession**

**\* Pouring the Water**

**\* Declaration of Forgiveness** Janet Adams, liturgist

One: We know love by this, that Jesus laid down his life for us. Friends, hear the good news and believe: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.

**\* Passing the Peace** Janet Adams, liturgist

One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

 **All: And also with you**.

*(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)*

\* **Hymn** *Glory Be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;*

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

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

 *Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

 **Children’s Moment** Pastor Helen

 **Prayer of Illumination** Janet Adams,liturgist

 **Interrupt us, O God, with your presence. Intrude upon our preoccupation, our restlessness, our discontent, and our boredom that we might center our hearts and minds on your Word as it is read and proclaimed. Amen.**

 **Gospel Reading** John 10:11-18 Janet Adams, liturgist

 **Bell Choir Anthem** *The Heavens Are Telling* Westminster Ringers

 HAYDN, arr. by MARTHA LYNN THOMPSON Carol Fleeger, director

 David Pérez, organ

 **Psalter Reading** Psalm 23

**Sermon** *“Everything Happens So Much”* Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

 **Hymn** *The King of Love My Sheperd Is (vs.1,2,4)* ***Glory to God*** #802

 ST. COLUMBIA

 **Prayer of the People and the Lord’s Prayer** (as translated by the Maori people)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,**

**Source of all that is and that shall be,**

**Father and Mother of us all,**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom**

**sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trial too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

 **Moment for Mission** Justice Matters Margie Dyck

 **Call To Offering**

 **Offering** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* Chancel Choir

CRAIG CURRY, arrAngela Pérez, director

David Pérez, piano

\* **Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* ***Glory to God*** #606

 *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

 *Praise God all creatures here below*

 *Praise God above ye heav'nly host*

 *Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

**\* Affirmation of Faith**

 **Easter turns doubts upside down, sets loose new possibilities, reveals a God stronger than**

 **death, a love mightier than despair.**

 **Easter brings us the risen Christ, who knows our wounds, forgives our denials, sends us out to**

 **love and serve; who is not bound by a period in history but finds us wherever we journey; who**

 **receives our questions, whispers a word of peace and causes our hearts to be warmed.**

 **Easter releases the Holy Spirit, setting us free from sins that wound, resentments that smolder,**

 **anger that burns; empowering us to be witnesses to truth and obedient to a higher authority; causing**

 **us to walk with joy in our steps, hope in our hearts and a song on our lips.**

**\* Hymn** *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* ***Glory to God*** #250

 PROMISE

**\* Charge and Benediction**

 **Postlude** David Pérez, organist

\* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

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**Welcome!**

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and be in community with us! Whether you are joining us virtually or in-person; as a long-time member or a first-time guest, we are happy to have you with us anytime! If you are new to First Presbyterian Church, please let us know you are here by signing the **Friendship Pad.** If you are worshipping with us online either live or recorded please **email us at** **firstpreslawrence@gmail.com**letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you.

**Prayer List***Cares, Concerns and Celebrations*

* Loren Dolezal is in St. Luke’s Plaza Hospital following surgery.
* Steve Rauch, father of Holly Oertel, suffered a heart attack while the family was in Tulsa, OK. He is waiting for more information and probable surgery.
* Barbara Knops, daughter of DeeDee and Guy Dresser, had lung surgery this week. Prayers that it went well and healing has started.
* We celebrate with Djifa Gavi and Joel that their husband and father, Kassenge Soklou has been cleared to travel to the United States. Update: Kassenge is scheduled to arrive in mid-May! Prayers for safe travel.
* Tonja and Adam Rounds ask for our prayers as Tonja recovers from brain surgery. The MRI showed that they removed all the tumor, and we are grateful for that good news!
* Allison Clunn-McPlin and family, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
* George Crump is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
* Kristi McAlister, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

**Sunday Helpers**Ushers: Larry Flottman, Charles and Jennifer Tuttle

Greeters: Linda Burton and Sandy Groene

Securing the Offering: Melinda Fischer and Jan Roth

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Julie Simon

**Care**

**Deacon Family Groups - 2024**

A-Ca Charles Tuttle N-Q Peggy Southard

Ce-Do Janet Adams Mc-Mz Becky May

Dr-F Diana Schoneweis R-Si Linda Longino

G-Ha Larry Schlosser Sl-T Russ Heikes

He-Ko Mary Warren U-Z Allen Macfarlane

Kr-Ma Lois Dutcher

**Birthdays in the Congregation**

April 23 April 25

 Linda Watts Bowen Savage

 Melinda Fischer April 27

 Katie Luckie Joan Golden

 Rose Ekpon

**Calendar**

 April 21

 9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open

 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School

 9:15 am Judeo-Christian Themes in Musical

 Theater

 10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Meet and Greet with Pastor Helen

 11:30 am Presby Pickers Rehearsal

 April 22

 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

 12:30 pm Lunch for 7 or 8 at Perkins

 1:15 pm Staff Meeting

 2:00 pm Lemon Tree class

 6:00 pm Pack 3059 Den Schwaller

 6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

 7:00 pm First 5 Years Board Meeting

 April 23

 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

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 1:00 pm Small World Classes

 6:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting

 April 24

 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting

 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

 April 25

 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

 1:00 pm Small World Classes

 April 26

 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

 10:00 am Men’s Group

 April 27

 10:00 am Session Retreat at Lawrence Public

 Library

 April 28

 9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open

 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School

 9:15 am Judeo-Christian Themes in Musical

 Theater

 10:30 am Worship

 11:30 am Presby Pickers Rehearsal

 11:30 am Youth Lunch

 12:45 pm Youth to KU Baseball Game

**Children and Youth**

* **We are excited to welcome all children** to our Sunday School classes and all events. On Sunday mornings all the children will meet first in the Chapel for music and stories. Then they move to their classrooms for lessons and more. Check at the Welcome Center or come to the Chapel for more information. All children are welcome to join anytime!

**Adult Sunday School Classes**

* **Paul Laird is leading a Sunday School class entitled "Judeo-Christian Themes in Musical Theater"**. Meeting through May 5 in Fellowship Hall, we will consider the following shows: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Joseph, Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Godspell*, and *Children of Eden*. Please come and see how Broadway creators have dealt with some of the important stories of our faith.

**Adult Offerings during the week**

* **Pastor Helen’s Class meets on Mondays at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room**

She is using the book, “Lemon Tree” by Sandy Tolan. This story provides a good foundation of the centuries long conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians and shows how understanding can bring hope and transformation in the Middle East.

* **The Men’s Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room for a time of fellowship (pun intended). Come join the discussion which can cover almost anything! Contact Charles Tuttle for more information at cftuttle@gmail.com.



**Let’s Get Together!** If you are new to First Presbyterian Church and would like an opportunity to meet Pastor Helen and learn a little more about our church and ministries, please join us today at 11:30 am in the Library which is to your right as you exit the Sanctuary. We will have some treats for you and look forward to meeting you!