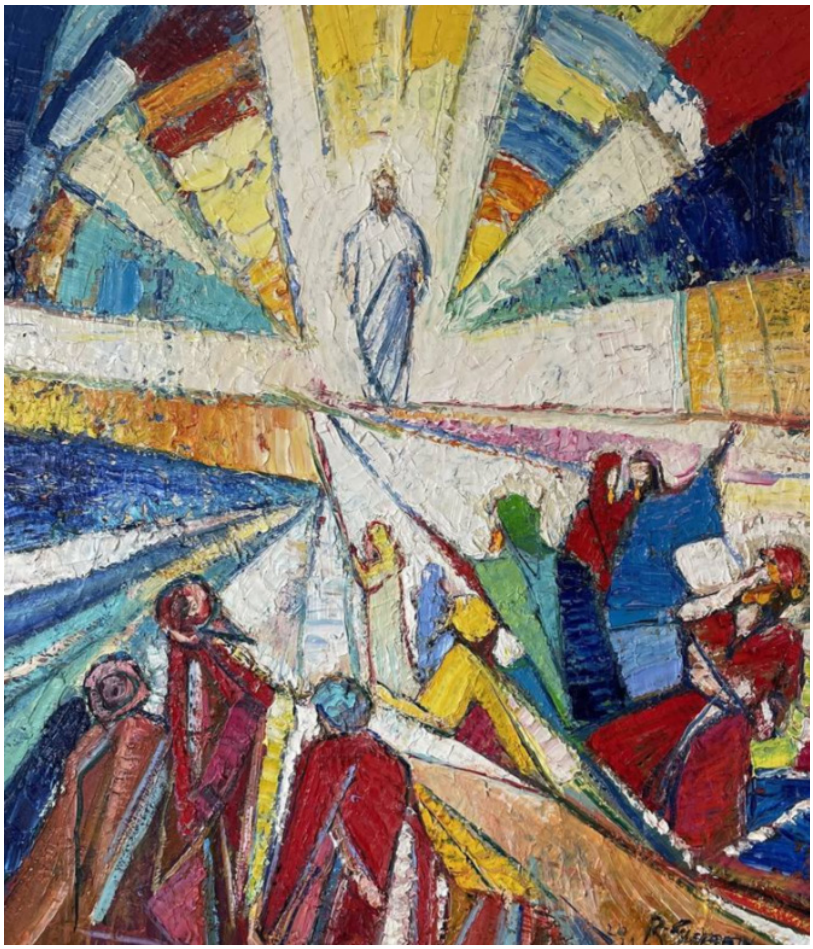
First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



March 31, 2024

Service for the Lord's Day

Resurrection of the Lord

8:30am Early
9:00am Contemporary
11:00am Traditional

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg – we are delighted that you are joining us for worship today! First Presbyterian is a community of believers in the heart of Spartanburg seeking to know and share the transformative love of Jesus Christ with others. Here you will encounter people who come from all walks of life representing diverse beliefs and faith experiences. What binds us together is our common hope in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship, and mission we seek to root our lives in scripture, nurture our unity in Christ, and serve our neighbors in faith! No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

Peace,

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out-of-town, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with a pastor before or after today's worship, fill out the friendship register, or visit fpcspartanburg.org/discoverfpc. We would love to get to know you better!

Pastoral Concern? Please let us know how we can be praying for you by visiting with a pastor before or after worship. If you need to contact a Minister, call 864-208-2142 day or night.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship!

Activity Bags, located in the welcoming areas of each worship venue, are available for your child to use during worship. After worship, please return the crayons and bags to the baskets. The activity sheet is for your child to keep.

Nursery is available for infants through age 3 in the Clark Building in Room 105 beginning at 8:15am.

After *The Word for Children* in the 11:00am Traditional Service, children 3K-1st grade may attend Children's Worship with Ms. Kara. After the service, families are asked to pick their children up from Room 202 of the Clark Building.

To Aid in Worship Advanced listening technology, large-print hymnals, and large-print bulletins are available upon request for the Chapel and Sanctuary. Please locate an usher for assistance.

Worship Online Livestreaming of the Contemporary and Traditional Worship Services is available at fpcspartanburg.org/worship. Additionally, sermons are on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, or wherever you find your podcasts!

Ways to Give There are many ways you can support the missions and ministries of First Presbyterian. During worship, you may place your gift in the Offering Plate or you can scan this QR Code; it will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you may mail a check to the church office (address on back of bulletin). Thank you for your gifts. *Questions? Contact Church Financial Officer Lynise Clarke; 864-208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.*

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome		Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
✞Call to Worship		
✞Song of Praise		*Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. L. Craig Foster
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Anthem		*Sunday Is Coming*
First Reading	Isaiah 25:6-9	
Second Reading	Mark 16:1-8	
Sermon	*Why Jesus? Risen Savior*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Affirmation of Faith		
A Declaration of Faith		
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*Because He Lives (Amen)*
✞Benediction		

Easter is the central event of our faith, a celebration of our transformation into God's new people. It is not simply the miracle of a dead person raised from a grave, but a celebration of power that can shatter death in order that people can freely serve the God of life. Resurrection shouts "no" to everything in our world that works against God's will, and "yes" to God's victory.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Traditional Worship
8:30am & 11:00am
Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Easter is the central event of our faith, a celebration of our transformation into God's new people. It is not simply the miracle of a dead person raised from a grave, but a celebration of power that can shatter death in order that people can freely serve the God of life. Resurrection shouts "no" to everything in our world that works against God's will, and "yes" to God's victory.

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Voluntary — *Easter Fanfare* — Antonio Soler

Acolyte — Huntington Clark

Introit — *The Day of Resurrection* — Thomas Matthews

✞Call to Worship — (8:30) Dr. Lewis F. Galloway / (11:00) Rev. Ansley B. Page

Christ is risen!
Alleluia!
The tomb is empty!
Alleluia!
Christ is alive!
Alleluia!

✞Hymn 232 — *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* — Easter Hymn

Prayer of Confession — (8:30) Rev. Leslie A. Lang / (11:00) Rev. L. Craig Foster

Loving God,
we confess that at times we do not share in the joy
of the resurrection but are instead caught in the worries of the world.
We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life
but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious.
Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News.
Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and
complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ.
Call us back to Your ways, O God,
to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon — (11:00) Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

Come into the light of God's love! Christ is risen!
Death has been swallowed up in victory!
Know beyond all doubt that God's love is always with you and be at peace.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! AMEN.

✞Response: Hymn 236 — *The Strife Is O'er* — Victory

The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!
Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee, from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee: Alleluia!

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✞Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us greet one another as we share the love and peace of Christ.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children

Following the Word for Children, all children are invited to return to their pews during 8:30am Traditional Worship. Children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship during 11:00am Traditional Worship.

Anthem *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* Eleanor Daley

Christ the Lord is risen today! All on earth with angels say, Alleluia.
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Sing ye heavens and earth reply, Alleluia.
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Christ has burst the gates of hell, Alleluia.
Death in vain forbids His rise, Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia.
Soar we now where Christ has led, Following our exalted Head,
Made like him like him we rise, Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
Hail the Lord of Earth and heaven. Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia.
Thee we greet triumphant now, Hail, the resurrection thou, Alleluia.
(Charles Wesley)

First Reading Isaiah 25:6-9

Second Reading Mark 16:1-8

Sermon *Why Jesus? Risen Savior* Rev. Alan F. Dyer

"People have an idea that the preacher is an actor on a stage, and they are the critics, blaming or praising the preacher. What they don't know is that they are the actors on the stage; the preacher is merely the prompter standing in the wings, reminding them of their lost lines." —Søren Kierkegaard

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith

A Declaration of Faith

We are certain that Jesus lives.
He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God.
He lives as one of us with God.
Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love,
we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.
We declare that Jesus is Lord.
His resurrection is a decisive victory over the
powers that deform and destroy human life.
His lordship is hidden.
The world appears to be dominated by people and systems
that do not acknowledge his rule.
But his lordship is real.
It demands our loyalty and sets us free from
the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.
We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to
Jesus Christ in every sphere of life.
Jesus is Lord. He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's 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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Rejoice, Ye Heavenly Powers* Stephen Main

What is this mystery, so great and new?
Trembling for joy, all creation cries; the Lord has risen from the dead, and Death beneath Him lies.
Rejoice, ye heavenly powers, O sing, ye choirs of angels!
Exult all creation around God's throne,
For Christ our king is risen, sound the trumpet of salvation. Rejoice!
O mystery great and glorious that mortal flesh should conquer death and sin,
and all our human pains and wounds the Lord should heal by bearing them.
Rejoice, ye heavenly powers.
Rejoice, O ye earth in splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King!
Rejoice, holy Church, exult in glory, the light of Christ shines upon you.
Let the earth resound, and echo the song of God's own people. Rejoice!

(Melito of Sardes: 2nd century; Saint Ambrose: 4th century; the Exultet: 6th century)

✠Doxology

Hymn 606 *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.
Old Hundredth

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 238 *Thine is the Glory* Judas MacCabaeus

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response *Hallelujah Chorus* G.F. Handel

Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ.
And He shall forever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
(Revelation 19:6, 11:15, 19:16)

Closing Voluntary *Postlude on "The Strife is O'er"* Derek Holman

The closing voluntary this morning is based on a lesser known Easter hymn tune, written in 1609 by the German composer Melchior Vulpius. The tune is proclaimed loudly throughout the pedal notes on the organ, and can be sung to the hymn text listed in the title as well as to "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing," Hymn #239.

Today's Musicians

Contemporary Worship
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals; Kolby Carrouth, drums; Landon Hammett, keyboard/vocals; Anna Harkey, violin; Matt Kelly, guitar/vocals; Jeff Key, electric guitar; Corey McDaniel, bass guitar

Traditional Worship
Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Chancel Choir; Thomas Cotter and Matthew Gill, trumpet; Kaci Cotter, Horn; Jeff Key, trombone; Matthew McDaniel, timpani

Life of the Church
Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter
March 31, 2024

6:30am - ***Sunrise Service in the Columbarium***

8:30am - ***Early Worship in the Sanctuary***

9:00am - ***Contemporary Worship in Fogartie Hall***

10:00am - ***Fellowship on the Front Lawn with Hot Cross Buns***

11:00am - ***Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary***

Cross of Flowers

Members and guests are invited to place flowers on the rough-hewn cross on the lawn of the church as they come to worship on Easter. This cross, full of spring flowers, represents the new life we receive through Christ's resurrection.

Surprised by Hope
The Easter story is one of surprise. The women go to the tomb expecting to find one thing, but instead find something very different. The tomb is empty, Christ is risen! This Easter Season, we invite you to join us as we explore how the resurrection continues to surprise us with God's hopeful vision for our future and our present.

Dr. Victor Aloyo Next Week
The Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo will join us as guest preacher in both Contemporary Worship and Traditional Worship next week. Dr. Aloyo currently serves as the eleventh President of Columbia Theological Seminary. Previously he served as the Associate Dean of Institutional Diversity and Community Engagement at Princeton Theological Seminary and Lead Pastor of Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras in Plainfield, New Jersey.

At the Well: Church Retreat
Tomorrow is the last day to register for the Church Retreat, *At the Well,* May 3-5. There will be programs for all ages and free time to explore Black Mountain, play games, or take a nap. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/retreat or scan the QR code to register!

Register for VBS!
It's nearly time for a summer camp adventure with God at Camp Firelight! VBS will be June 3-6 from 9:00am-12:00pm for rising 4k through 6th grade. Registration is now open at fpcspartanburg.org/vbs or scan the QR code. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to Kara Clark, Director of Children's Ministry, at kclark@fpcspartanburg.org.

Women's Connection
Women's Connection 2024 will be held in Montreat August 9-11 and will be a time to connect with old and new friends, a time to care for yourself, and a time for space and Sabbath. This year's keynote speaker is Becca Stevens, founder/president of Thistle Farms. The cost of $425 includes housing and registration. Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/womensconnection for details!

Joy Fellowship Tour & Lunch
Join the JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship on April 18 for lunch and a tour of Hatcher Garden ($12 per person). Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/joytour to register by April 15!

Chamber Singers Concert
Please join the Chambers Singers on May 2 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary as for a spring concert, *A Day in the Life.* The program will take you on a journey through the joys, sorrows, and wonder of the everyday, beginning at dawn and concluding at bedtime. All music is from living composers. Enjoy soloists and a guest string quintet to accompany several pieces.

For more Life of the Church announcements and a full calendar of events, visit fpcspartanburg.org.

Front Cover: "The Resurrection of Jesus" by Roman Sleptsuk
Parts of today's liturgy are from Abingdon Worship Annual and the work of Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"The resurrection does not solve our problems about dying and death.
It is not the happy ending to our life's struggle,
nor is it the big surprise that God has kept in store for us.
No, the resurrection is the expression of God's faithfulness….
The resurrection is God's way of revealing to us that
nothing that belongs to God will ever go to waste.
What belongs to God will never get lost."

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

Ministers: All Members of the Church

We are a community of believers committed to "Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together through Word and Deed."

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor Discipleship

Dr. Lewis F. Galloway
Interim Associate Pastor
for Congregational Care

Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Pastoral Associate for Engagement

Holt Andrews
Pastoral Musician

Marcia Andrews
Associate Director of Music; Organist

Kara Clark
Director of Children's Ministries

Carrie Coleman
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Grace deMaine
Associate Director, Youth Ministry

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Jane Mullins
Director of Hospitality

Pano Stathakis
Kitchen Assistant

Kris Graham
Director of the Weekday School

Lisa Cunningham
Contemporary Worship Music Leader

Lee Raines
Facilities Administrator

Jim Pitts
Campus Safety and Services Manager

Lynise Clarke
Church Financial Officer

Monteigne Campbell
Office Manager and
Admin to the Senior Pastor

Cathy Bagwell
Visitor and New Member Coordinator

Caroline Goodman
Communications Director

Ian Ritchings
Communications Coordinator

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin
to Music and Mission

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians

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