First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



April 20, 2025

Service for the Lord's Day

Resurrection of the Lord

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

Easter Greeting from First Presbyterian

Today, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ — the triumph of life over death, light over darkness, and love over fear. We are overjoyed that you are joining us on this most joyful and hope-filled day in the life of the Church. First Presbyterian is a community of believers in the heart of Spartanburg seeking to know and share the transformative love of the risen Christ. We are a congregation made up of people from many walks of life, united by the hope we find in the empty tomb. Whether this is your first time with us or you've been part of our community for years, we pray that this Easter morning fills you with peace, joy, and a deep sense of belonging. No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

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 or fill out the friendship register. 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.

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 the QR Codes. The ShelbyNext QR code will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you may give via Venmo or 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.*

ShelbyNext Venmo

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome	Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Instrumental Prelude	*In Christ Alone*
✞Call to Worship	
✞Song of Praise	*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (He Is Not Dead)*
Prayer of Confession	Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Sung Assurance of Pardon	*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*
✞Passing of the Peace	
Life of the Church	
Children's Time	
Anthem	*Trust in God*
First Reading	Isaiah 65:17-25
Second Reading	Luke 24:1-12
Sermon	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	

These lines from the hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" say it best. 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 "Alleluia!" to God's victory.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

Gathering Around the Word

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 — *An Easter Fanfare* — Carla J. Giomo
(11:00) Acolyte — Jay Kennedy

These lines from the hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" say it best. 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 "Alleluia!" to God's victory.

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

Christ the Lord is risen today.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Love's redeeming work is done.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Prayer of Confession — Rev. L. Craig Foster

God of resurrection,
we confess that we are slow to believe the good news.
You have rolled away the stone, but we remain trapped in fear.
You have triumphed over death, but we cling to old ways of living.
You call us to bear witness, but we hesitate to speak.
Forgive us, O Lord. Fill us with the joy of your risen life.
Open our hearts to see you at work in the world and in our lives.
Strengthen us once more to live as Easter people,
proclaiming your saving love and grace in all we say and do.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The tomb is empty! Christ is alive!
Sin is defeated, and we are made new.
Friends, believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✞Response

Hymn 236, v. 1-2 *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!
The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

✞Passing of the Peace

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

The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, the ultimate peacemaker. In the midst of divisions, we symbolize our unity through handshakes and hugs. Likewise, when we regularly pass the peace we practice God's call to make every effort to maintain the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3).

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children (11:00) Rev. Leslie A. Lang

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 11:00 Traditional Worship.

Anthem *I Am the Resurrection* Kevin Hildebrand

First Reading Isaiah 65:17-25 (11:00) Rev. Ansley B. Page

Second Reading Luke 24:1-12

Sermon Rev. Alan F. Dyer

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.
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 (11:00) Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

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 *The Lord Is Risen Indeed* Craig Phillips

The Lord is risen indeed! Now is his work performed;
now is the mighty captive freed, And death's strong castle stormed.
Then hell as lost his prey; with him is risen the ransomed seed to reign in endless day.
He lives, to die no more; he lives, the sinners cause to plead,whose curse and shame he bore.
Attending angels, hear! Up to the courts of heaven with speed,the joyful tidings bear.
Then take your golden lyres, and strike each cheerful chord;
join, all ye bright celestial choirs, and sing to our risen Lord. Alleluia!

✞Doxology Lasst Uns Er Freun

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below; alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

✞Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

✞Hymn 238 *Thine Is the Glory* Judas MacCabaeus

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.

✞Charge and Benediction

✞Benediction Response *Hallelujah* G.F. Handel

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

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, tuba; Jeff Kuntz, trombone; Matt McDaniel, timpani

Life of the Church
Sunday, April 20, 2025

Easter
April 20, 2025

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 (No Sunday School)***

10:30am - ***Receiving New Members in the Parlor***

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.

FPC Vision Team Update
The FPC Vision Team invites you to pray daily for our congregation in the coming months as we seek to discern where the Risen Lord is calling us as a church towards mission, discipleship, and a supportive campus. In the coming weeks, you will hear more about ***your*** important role in this process as we pray, listen, and learn together where God is leading us.

Wednesdays at First - April 23
Full Schedule

5:00pm Outdoor Dinner & Games
6:15pm Younger Women's Bible Study (F207)
6:30pm Youth Fellowship
7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Pre-register for dinner by 4:00pm on Monday. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/waf or scan the QR code. All are welcome to join us on Wednesday for outdoor dinner and games.

Used Bikes Needed for Thornwell
The older children living on Thornwell's campus are in need of gently used small to medium adult bikes. Eight female 24-inch bikes and four male 26-inch bikes have been requested. Please only donate the sizes requested. Drop off at the recreation desk (near the gym) during gym hours by **April 30**.

Young Adult Fiesta
All adults ages 22-40ish adults are invited celebrate Cinco de Mayo (a day early) with a kid-free evening of festive food and drinks. We'd love to see you on May 4 at 5:30pm! Scan the QR code for details and to RSVP.

Women's Connection
Pull up a chair and join other women for a time of renewal and discernment, with powerful worship and rich engagement with the Bible on **August 8-10** in Montreat, NC. Well-known New Testament scholar Dr. Amy-Jill Levine will be the keynote speaker, and you are sure to leave enlightened and enriched by her teaching. Our church has reserved 20 spots for this event. Registration is now open at fpcspartanburg.org/womensconnection.

VBS - Register Now!
This year's Vacation Bible School, *Road Trip! On the Go with God,* will help us discover that God's presence is everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together. Register your child(ren) now for engaging activities, interactive games, and meaningful lessons **June 2-5** from 9:00am-12:00pm. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/vbs or scan the QR code.

Front Cover: "I AM the Resurrection" by Mike Moyers
Parts of today's liturgy are from Abingdon Worship Annual.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Christian faith, if it is anything, is resurrection faith."

- Rev. Dr. Joanna Adams

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

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Associate Pastor
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
Director of Finance

Joanie Shackleton
Assistant Director of Finance

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

Kerri Bell
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin
to Music and Mission

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians

First Presbyterian Church

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