

Third Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2020

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke:24-13-35

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"

Luke 24: 33

The Church Gathers To...

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Styr

Preparation for Worship

Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude.

Prelude

Allemande & Courante from *Suite No. 3 in C, BuxWV 228*

Dietrich Buxtehude

Praise Almighty God

Call to Worship

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

(Water may be poured into the font as we give thanks.)

L: We give you thanks, O God,

C: for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

L: We praise you for your salvation through water,

C: for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



1. Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris - en where hope died,
 2. Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;
 3. Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-lenge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.
 Christ has ris - en for the wom - en bring - ing flowers to grace his grave.
 all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Let the moon em - brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus - tain the cheer;
 Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud - dled in an up - stairs room.
 Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been:



let the world con - firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!
 He whose word in - spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.
 ev - i - dence of trans - for-ma-tion in which God is known and seen.

Confess to a Forgiving Creator

Call to Confession - Sing "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" one time.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der-ness, call - ing and free. Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less - ness, stir me from plac - id- ness, wind, wind on the sea." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end of the fourth staff.

Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

One: Together we pray -

All: We come running, looking for you, Risen Christ, but you are not where we expect you to be.

As always, you are to be found among the living — those living at the edge, those living with uncertainty, those living in ways we cannot imagine and may not approve. We come running, our hands full of things and our minds full of self-reliance, only to find that you have been here already, you have rolled away the stone and called us to trust your word.

One: If this good news is true, it means everything is different now. We confess that our excitement is a little bit nervous — it's hard for us not to be in control.

All: Today as we journey with your disciples to Emmaus, remind us of and equip us with all you have taught us, and guide our feet to follow. Fill the empty tombs of our hearts with your love that cannot be contained. Breathe new life into us, into your church, into your world, and overcome our fear of change so that we too may be found among the living. Turn our expectations upside down, and lead us into the new and different world you are creating, even now, even here. Amen.

Following the Prayer of Confession, please sing "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" one time.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news: God loves us in our joyful days, our anxious nights, and every time in between.
Through Jesus Christ, your sins have been forgiven!
One: The peace of the Risen Lord be with you all
Many: And also with you!

Anthem

Glorious Dawn
Don Wood, handbells

Jason W. Krug

Listen for God's Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:13-35

The New Testament page 90

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Open Your Eyes!

Rev. Mark Galbraith

Respond to God's Word

Hymn

Now the Green Blade Rises

NOËL NOUVELVET



1. Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2. In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3. Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain;



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

One: God has made us God's people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith. **Many: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

The Lord's Prayer - *(Traditional) Page 16 in the hymnal.*

Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God

In the gift of money, we offer something of our work and selves to God.

Sarabande & Double from *Suite No. 3 in C BuxWV 228*

Dietrich Buxtehude

Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God

Please sing the Doxology - Hymn Tune: Old Hundredth, 592 in the hymnal.

To donate, please visit the church website, fpcdavenport.org, and click on "Donate Now," use the link: <https://bit.ly/2V8nEgm>, or mail your check in to the church office.

Prayer of Dedication

L: Merciful God,

C: our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Use these gifts so all may be blessed from your storehouse of provisions and riches, in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

Go To Serve With God's Blessing

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Gigue from *Suite No. 3 in C, BuxWV 228*

Dietrich Buxtehude

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Death: Gary Ewoldt, April 12, 2020

Prayers are Welcome for: Carlen Brinser; Nancy Buening (*mother of Rebecca Buening-Ferris*); family of Gary Ewoldt (*death of Father*); Luann Field (*death of mother, Ann Snyder*); Leona Hill (*mother of Julie Belman*); Jolene Keeney; Wilton Retirement Community; families and victims of abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

God's beloved people of First Presbyterian Church:

Grace and Peace to you from the One is was, is and is to come, Amen.

I'm writing to give you a brief update as to continuing work in the interim process.

First of all thank you, thank you for all your positive comments, expressions of support, and prayers as received in person, on social media, and emails.

During this challenging, but opportune time we are ever about finding creative ways to remain connected and to be in ministry together.

Thank you to all of you who participated in the missions study groups in February and March. I was very pleased to see the amount and thoughtfulness of the responses to the questions. Your Session, staff, and Mission Group leaders are combing through the responses, picking out the highlight reel from each group of responses.

The purpose of this review is to identify Mission Goals that surface, to be formatted in the Power Point for consideration and consensus. These are missional priorities that will inform the MIF (**Ministry Information Form**, the document that communicates all pertinent information about a congregational setting in call process, including its Mission Goals) narrative, so the next Pastor /Head of Staff understands what these are, and that the congregation is invested in them.

It was my goal to present a subsequent PowerPoint presentation of the summary and recommendations from these mission study groups by May 3, after worship service, but as you know, the pandemic has upended all of our lives and schedules. We are going month by month to discern when it will be appropriate for us to resume normal ministry and operations, and to be together in-person as a community.

I'm confident that God will provide the right and best moment for us to be together as a community again, including sharing this PowerPoint presentation.

When the way is clear for the MCC (**Ministers and Congregations Commission**: The oversight board of the Presbytery for all transition and interim processes) to authorize and recommend the nomination of a PNC (**Pastoral Nominating Committee**), The PNC will use this summary of the mission study groups as one of the resources to complete the MIF.

As many of you know, that as a outcome of the departure of your previous pastor, there were questions raised by some of our members in the courts of the church. One of these questions is being answered by the GAPJC (**The General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission** is a permanent commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that exercises church discipline through judicial process), which functions as the Supreme Court of the Presbyterian Church USA.

In the next few weeks a written decision will be passed on to the Presbytery.

Upon rendering and writing of a decision, with communication to the Synod and Presbytery, Dr. Rebecca Blair, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of East Iowa, and Pastor Jennifer Jennings, chair of the MCC and liaison to our congregation for the interim process, will meet with the Session to provide information and interpretation of the decision, as well as recommendations for next steps, including a reconciliation process that will involve our congregation.

Continued on the next page

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This conversation will happen, either at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Session in May, or another scheduled special meeting, depending upon the timing that the GAPJC communicates their decision.

The events leading up to this appeal process has had a significant impact on the life and health of this congregation, including the relationships with multiple parties. Included in the tasks of the interim work (as stated in my contract) are to *"Assist the congregation to review its history"*, and to *"Renew and strengthen the relations of the Congregation with the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly."* It is my calling as Interim Pastor to help bring our entire congregation to a healthy place of readiness to consider candidates who will partner with you as Lead Pastor in your next chapter of ministry.

The MCC and the PCC (**Presbytery Coordinating Commission**: The PCC functions as the strategic leadership team that coordinates the ministry and mission for the Presbytery. This team is comprised of a teaching and ruling elder (one of which is the moderator) from each standing team and the Presbytery officers) insist that we have healthier relationships, both in our interior life and in our relationship to Presbytery, prior to allowing the nomination of a PNC.

My calling and focus is to help you as an entire congregation to be ready for this next and desired step, however hard or time-consuming it is, and whether or not any one of us perceives the need for such a process.

Because I am a preacher . . . I ask that you please recall that reconciliation is a biblical calling we are obligated to pursue as ordained officers as a community bearing Jesus' name.

As the Apostle Paul challenges us to embrace *"all this (responsibility) is from God, who reconciled us with himself through Christ, and gives us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)."* Peace on earth begins within and between all those of good conscience who have been part of this conflict.

Also, although we are in a hurry, and this feels like more "hurry up and wait", I for one am encouraged that in God's providence no time is wasted time. In fact this is a rich teaching time (during a pandemic, to boot!) for all of us to learn much about ourselves, each other, and God.

Thank you for all you do, and being the best part of this ministry.

Keep the faith, keep the prayers coming, and be safe.

Respectfully,
In Partnership,

Pastor Mark Galbraith
Interim Pastor, Head of Staff, and Moderator of the Session

A Prayer from Pastor Pilar

Merciful God, Full of gratitude we come to you, so that you take us in your hands and save us from all evil. We are in your hands of mercy. In this time of pandemic we have many risks: the risk of distancing ourselves, the risk of forgetting your love, the risk of falling into despair. May your Holy Spirit fill us with strength and hope to endure and endure this time of uncertainty. Come Holy Spirit to our sister Churches in Iowa and Illinois and for each and every one of our brothers and sisters in the United States. Our faith and hope is to be close to each other in solidarity and love. Jesus the Risen One fill us with his Grace to know how to walk with wisdom in this time. Amen.

Other Ways to Experience Worship

We know that not everybody is comfortable with sharing worship services digitally. If you would prefer to receive a DVD of Sunday worship, please contact the church office with your information. If you would prefer a written transcript instead, let the church office know. We want everybody to be able to praise God during this strange time!

Worship Watch Party

Our worship services are pre-recorded so that they can have closed captions and higher video quality. However, we miss praying with you all at the same time! If you do too, join us on Facebook every Sunday at 9:30 AM. Go to our church Facebook page and join our worship video watch party - you'll be able to chat with other people and know that we're worshipping together. Be with you then!

Online Harpsichord Recital - Tuesday, April 28 at Noon

Matt Bishop will offer a free online harpsichord recital on Facebook Live on Tuesday at noon. This will be 30-minute recital featuring works by Antonio Soler and J. S. Bach on the church's Lindholm harpsichord. The live video will be available on the church's Facebook page. Enjoy some Baroque music with your lunch!

Bible Basics 201 – Holy Days and Festivals

We will meet online via Zoom until further notice. Our meetings will be Wednesdays at 6:15 PM. To join the study, you can click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/104294135>. If you already have a Zoom app, enter the meeting ID: 104 294 135. If you'd rather call in instead of using a computer, dial this number: 1 253 215 8782 and then input the meeting ID. Contact Pastor Katie for tech support or if you need the event password.

We continue our post-Easter study focusing on the Bible stories which led to holidays, either for Presbyterians or other believers. Join us for stories of triumph, hope, and praise. Contact Rev. Katie if you'd like to get on the email list for more information!

April 29: Jubilee, Leviticus 25 and 27

May 6: Yom Kippur, Leviticus 23:26-31 and Exodus 34

One Great Hour of Sharing Collection

At the beginning of Lent, we handed out fish-shaped banks and asked you to donate your change for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Since we were unable to bring our banks to worship on Easter Sunday, we'll have to donate another way. If you have cash to donate, bring your fish bank by the church office from 10:30 AM to noon on Wednesdays - ring the doorbell and drop off your fish! If you'd rather donate online, go to <https://bit.ly/2V8nEgm>. These donations go to help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and support community-based aid programs. This year more than ever, we need your support!

Monday Funday

Calling all kids! Join us on ZOOM (<https://zoom.us/j/985357599>) at 4:00 PM each Monday for a mini-Kirkwood Club! We'll have time to catch up with each other, pray, and play together. Kids of all ages are invited; contact Pastor Katie if you need tech support or the event password.

Musikgarten and Cherubs Have Gone Virtual!

We launched on Sunday, March 29 and will continue our Zoom classes until we can get back to seeing each other in person. We'll meet for Cherubs at 8:45 AM on Sunday mornings and continue right into Musikgarten from 9:00-9:30 AM. You can stay on for both classes or choose the one you want to attend. If you are reading this and have young children who would like to join us but are not on my email list, reach out to me and I will add you so I can send you the link each week. It's probably going to be noisy, we'll probably have a glitch here and there and it will undoubtedly be a little chaotic but that's ok! We all need to see each other and talk and laugh with each other. For more info, contact Kathy Middleton, kathryn15@gmail.com.

Dear Friends in Divine Drama class and the great people of First Presbyterian Church:

"The Divine Drama Part II: Our Narrative" continues with the third of three units on The Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Yes, a baffling topic for all of us. But we will continue our exploration through a user-friendly pathway to understand how "Trinity" is an all-purpose handle to understand God's covenant to be God for you and me. For those of you who haven't joined us, but still wish to, there is no better time to do so than now!

"The Divine Drama: Our Narrative" is a 14-unit overview of the biblical basis for core Christian teachings we all share together.

Even though on-campus gatherings are postponed until further notice, the ministry of FPC never is "cancelled". Your pastors and staff are ever at work finding ways to bring to you ministry resources, because the ministry of FPC continues forward in confidence and strength.

As a friendly reminder on another important note: As we are navigating our way through this pandemic, please continue to faithfully and kindly support God's and your church with your pledges and offerings. Your pastors, staff and leadership are committed to continuing to provide at maximum productivity the ministry in partnership with you, faithfulness to God's calling on all of us.

The Divine Drama will continue as scheduled in this format until further notice. Please join me for the Divine Drama class via the Zoom links provided below. These are for both the 9:30 AM and 7:30 PM Divine Drama classes.

Please RSVP your intentions to attend so I can know how to plan. I look forward to seeing you on Divine Drama, the Zoom way.

In Partnership with you,

Pastor Mark <https://zoom.us/j/928313279> Tuesday mornings 9:30-11:00 AM
 <https://zoom.us/j/483545060> Tuesday evenings 7-8:30 PM

Broadway Musical: Guys and Dolls

NEW DATES! Saturday, June 27, 7:30 PM, Sunday, June 28, 4:00 PM

\$15 adult/\$10 student

The talented singers, actors, and dancers of First Pres. return us to the Broadway stage with a production of the multiple Tony Award-winning show *Guys and Dolls*. After running for 1,200 performances following its 1950 opening on Broadway, the fast-paced musical comedy is revived frequently and continues to captivate audiences and critics alike. Made famous by a 1955 movie adaptation starring Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons, Frank Sinatra, and Vivian Blaine, the show includes such great number as "Luck Be a Lady," "The Oldest Established," and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat."

All musicals at FPC are produced with in-house talent and a topnotch creative team from the church that handles set design, props, costuming, choreography, and directing. Come experience the multitude of great talent within our community, from the live band of local musicians to the superb acting talents of many of our congregants.

Stump the Organist!

Join us Friday at noon on Facebook Live for Stump the Organist! FPC Principal Organist Alex Gilson will take your requests for sacred hymns and work his improvisatory magic. Tune in from the comfort of your home to test the knowledge and creative prowess of your organist.

Midweek Prayer

Join us on Facebook live for a brief time of prayer and scripture! Go to the church's Facebook page at noon on Wednesdays for community prayer. Post your prayer requests in chat during our time together, or watch the video devotional anytime.

Information from the Finance Committee

The church applied for and received \$50,000 from the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program on April 16, 2020. The program provides cash in the form of a forgivable loan. The loan will be forgiven (meaning no principal or interest will ever be repaid) if the church payroll is maintained at the same dollar amount during the next 2.5 months as it was in the preceding month or two. It is the church's intention to maintain payroll. Your pledges and offerings continue to be necessary to maintain our programming and staff during the pandemic and throughout the year.

Need a Mask?

Need a mask? The CDC recommends wearing a cloth mask for times when it is difficult to keep a six foot distance, such as grocery shopping. If you need a mask, please contact Pastor Katie.

Earth Week is Here!

Earth Week is here! 1,000 trees in the quad cities! Red Oak, White Swamp Oak and Persimmon tree saplings are available at the church for all who want them. Planting trees is one of the most helpful, enduring things we can do to mitigate and heal our climate crisis. Particularly in this time of the COVID19 pandemic, **planting trees is an act of profound hope for the future**. Planting trees also helps reduce erosion and runoff, improves our water and air quality and provides food and shelter for local wildlife and migratory birds.

The public is reminded to wear masks and use safe physical distancing when picking up their saplings. Even if you can only take one tree – please come and get one to plant at your home! This is a fun project for families who need some outside time. The trees are waiting for you by the Kildalton cross in our parking lot.