

April 18, 2021  
Third Sunday after Easter

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3: 1-7

Luke 24: 36b-48

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Jesus said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?’”

*Luke 24:38*

### The Church Gathers To...

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala

**Preparation for Worship**

*Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude.*

**Prelude**

Improvisation

Alex Gilson

### Praise Almighty God

**Call to Worship**

*based on Psalm 95: 1-2*

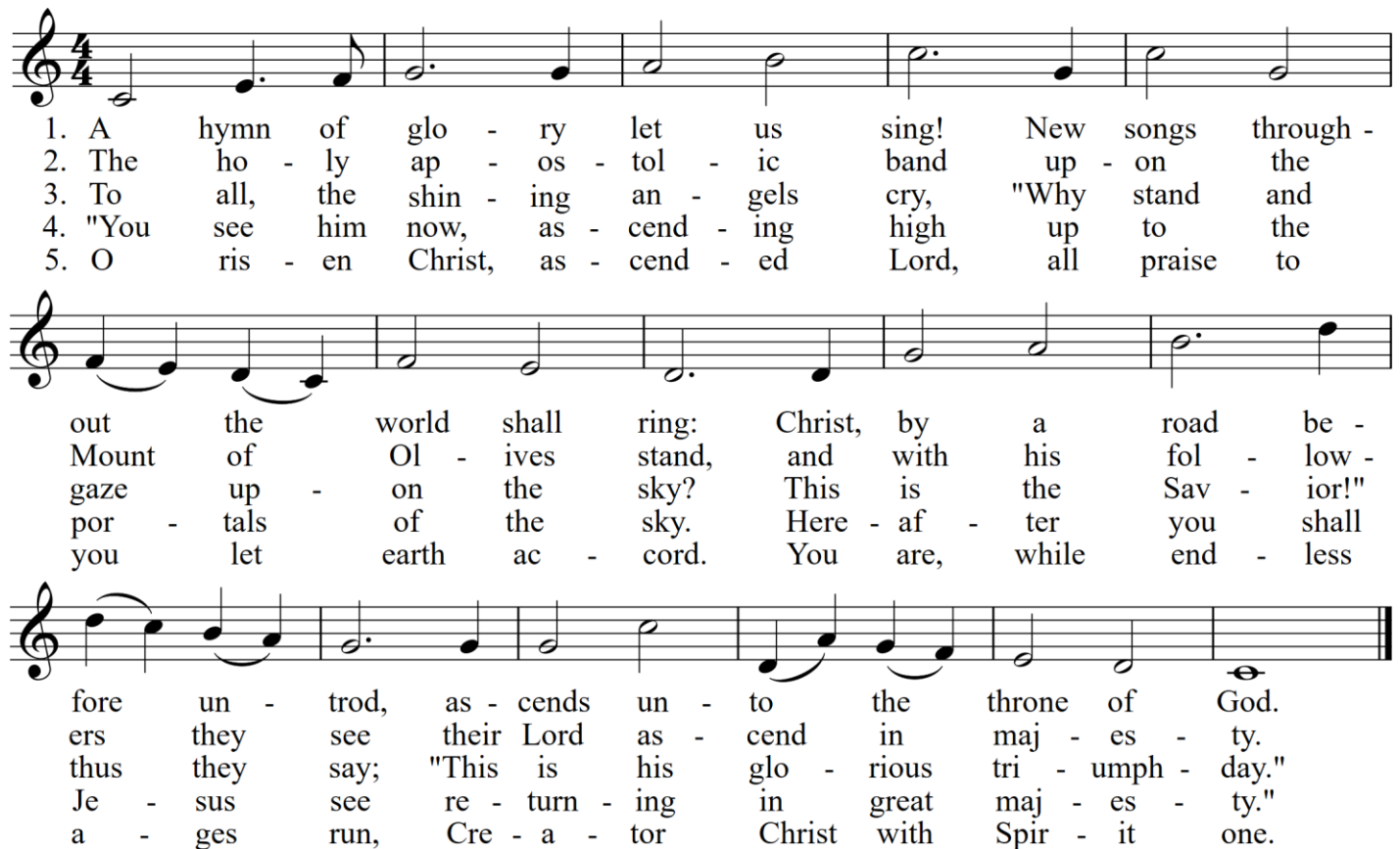
O come, let us sing to the Lord

**and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,

**and joyful songs of praise!**

Let us worship God.



1. A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through -  
 2. The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the  
 3. To all, the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and  
 4. "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the  
 5. O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to

out the world shall ring: Christ, by a road be -  
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, and with his fol - low -  
 gaze up - on the sky? This is the Sav - ior!"  
 por - tals of the sky. Here - af - ter you shall  
 you let earth ac - cord. You are, while end - less

fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
 ers they see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
 thus they say; "This is his glo - rious tri - umph - day."  
 Je - sus see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
 a - ges run, Cre - a - tor Christ with Spir - it one.

## Children's Message

Sarah Greim

## Call to Confession

*based on Collect for Purity, 10<sup>th</sup> century*

May almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts. Please pray with me:

## Prayer of Confession

*Book of Common Prayer*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name; Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

*1 John 3: 1*

"See what love God has given us,  
 that we should be called children of God;  
 and that is what we are."

Friends, I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

# Listen for God's Word

## Prayer for Illumination

*Book of Common Worship, PC(USA)*

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today; Amen.

## Scripture Readings

Psalm 4  
Luke 24: 36b-48

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

## Sermon

This Is Not a Ghost Story

Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala

# Respond to God's Word

## Affirmation of Faith

*Selected from Romans 8*

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

## Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God

*2 Cor. 9:7*

"Give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."  
We give of our life and labor to the Lord.

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

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

Sometime a Light Surprises  
The Sanctuary Choir

Craig Courtney

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here be -  
low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, in Je - sus ful - ly  
known: Cre - a - tor, Word and Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Invitation to the Table***based on Luke 13 and Luke 24*

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!  
People will come from east and west, and from north and south,  
to sit at table in the reign of God.  
This is the Lord's table.  
Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast he has prepared.

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.**

Holy God, we praise you.

Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad.

We bless you for creating the whole world,  
for your promises to your people Israel,  
and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life.

Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.

Guiding his children, he leads us.

Visiting the sick, he heals us.

Dying on the cross, he saves us.

Risen from the dead, he gives new life.

Living with you, he prays for us.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord.

Receive our sacrifice of praise.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord.

Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love,  
that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God,

through Christ your Word made flesh,

in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

We pray in Jesus' name, using the words that he taught us:

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Words of Institution**

## Communion of the People

*We partake of the elements that we brought with us today.*

*If you have no elements with you, for everyone's safety in these pandemic times, we extend a blessing to you:*

May you always remember:

God is with you, just as with those Hebrew ancestors so long ago.

God is with you, just as with Jesus and his friends that night on which he was betrayed.

May you always remember:

Even in pandemic times, you are still God's beloved.

You are still the followers of Jesus, who washes our hearts of doubts and fears.

You are still comforted by the Spirit, in whom you trust, you hope, you live.

May you always remember:

God is with you . . . God is with you . . . God is with you ...

... in remembrance; Amen.

## Prayer Following Communion

*Book of Common Worship, PC(USA)*

**Loving God, you feed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. May we be strengthened in your service; may we tell of your glory and truth; and may we see you face to face; for you have made us your own people; Amen.**

# Go To Serve With God's Blessing

Hymn

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

HYMN TO JOY



1. Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
2. Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.  
3. Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.  
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.  
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

**Charge and Benediction**

*adapted from <http://www.liturgylink.net/2014/11/19/charge-and-benediction-ctk/>*

As you go out into God's world,  
keep your eyes open for those who are hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or imprisoned.  
See Christ in them and serve them.

And may you always remember:  
You are God's beloved.  
The Holy Spirit lives in you.  
Christ's compassion shines forth in what you do.

**Choral Benediction**

God Be with You 'Til We Meet Again

Arr. Fred Bock

**Postlude**

Improvisation

Alex Gilson

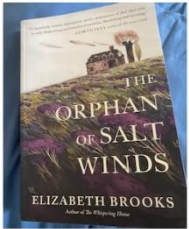
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## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**In Our Prayers:** Bev Koos; Rebecca Koos; Barb Thede; families and victims of gun violence, abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters; FPC members and all others receiving the COVID vaccine.



**Between the Covers (BTC) Book Club** – Monday, April 19, 1:00 PM

Between the Covers Book Club (BTC) will meet by zoom Monday April 19 at 1:00 PM. The group discussion on *The Orphan of Salt Winds* by Elizabeth Brooks will be led by Cheryl McCulloh. All are welcome whether you've read the book or not. Please contact Lois Boyer at 564-940-3024 for zoom information.

### New at FPC: The Caring Closet

It's spring and time to clean out those closets. If you have any items that you no longer need, bring any kids, adult clothing or shoes to our new Caring Closet which will be open for business prior to school opening. What is the Caring Closet? It is a free "store" for whoever can use it. We will be accepting items every Monday and Friday beginning April 12 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Please bring your items to the Iowa door. Can't make it then? Contact RuthAnn Tobey-Brown at 563-370-6215 and we will set up a time. Please make sure all items are clean and ready for our customers. We are also looking for volunteers to help set up the store or help in the store once it opens. If you would like to help out call me or email me at [ruthsobeybrown1@gmail.com](mailto:ruthsobeybrown1@gmail.com)

### Highlights from March 2021 Session Meeting

Welcomed Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala to her first FPC Session meeting as our Moderator.

- Heard from the Darren Long and the Building and Grounds Committee about a long list of repairs and deep cleaning that has been accomplished in the time that the building has been largely unused.
- Heard a report from the Commissioners to the 196<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Presbytery. Concerns at Presbytery included the low receipts from Per Capita and the recent closing of several small congregations. Camp Wyoming is accepting registration for summer camps. Alex Gilson provided beautiful music for the meeting's worship service. Thanks, Alex.
- The Personnel Committee is currently working on annual staff performance reviews. They anticipate completing these soon.
- Approved funding for equipment that will allow for live streaming of outdoor worship and other outside events.
- Reviewed the Synod Administrative Review Committee final report. Approved immediate distribution of the report to the congregation. Links to this report will be provided over the next several weeks in the bulletin and E-news. Copies will be mailed on request.



### **Motion 1 - Distribution:**

- Whereas, the Synod Administrative Review Commission (SARC) told Session that it is Session's decision about if and how to distribute their report to the congregation, and
- Whereas, the Presbytery of East Iowa made the SARC report available to all who receive their e-news on Monday, March 8, 2021, and
- Whereas, many members of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church – Davenport have keen interest in the SARC report,
- Session directs Staff to make the SARC report available as quickly and widely as possible. Session expects that distribution will include, but not be limited to, placing the report or a link to the report on the church website, including a link to the report in the next 4 e-news distributions, mentioning the SARC report in the weekly bulletin over the next 4 weeks, mentioning the SARC report in the next edition of the broadcaster, posting the SARC report physically on at least one bulletin board in the church, and mailing a physical copy to anyone who requests it.
- Session further directs that no commentary be attached to the report when it is distributed.

*Please visit the FPC website ([fpcdavenport.org](http://fpcdavenport.org)) to view the Synod Administrative Review Commission (SARC) report.*

### **Adult Christian Education (ACE):** Sundays, 10:45-11:45 AM

**Today:** Testimony Series – God Who Saves

**April 25:** Testimony Series – God of Action

The goal of the Testimony Series is to free people to live their Reformed faith by remembering, reclaiming and rearticulating what we believe about who God is and who we are so the patterns of our lives embody the liberating love and grace of Jesus Christ.

We will continue to meet via Zoom at 10:45 AM on Sunday mornings:

<https://zoom.us/j/91539050753?pwd=b2JYN0VyOW52N0ZESHQ2YUhyelhtUT09>

Meeting ID: 915 3905 0753, Passcode: ACE

### **Bible Basics 201** - Tuesdays, 6:15 PM

We have begun reading through the Minor Prophets. They are considered minor only because they are short in length but the message can be powerful. Below is our schedule for April. Please contact Mark Jones ([mkjones@mchsi.com](mailto:mkjones@mchsi.com)) for more information. Join in anytime.

**April 20:** Nahum    **April 27:** Zephaniah

The Zoom address will stay the same. Join online:

<https://zoom.us/j/98965381440?pwd=TUdyMXltRTMrRXdFWnBEZ0NEKzBYUT09>

Meeting ID: 989 6538 1440    Passcode: 240979

### **Christian Education for Youth (CEFY) Spring 2021**

#### **Kirkwood Club** - Grades 1-5

Save the dates for our upcoming Kirkwood Club activities! We'll meet Wednesday, April 28 from 6:00-6:45 PM. Hope to see you there! To get Kirkwood Club updates, email Sarah Greim ([sgreim@gmail.com](mailto:sgreim@gmail.com)), or text @fpcdkids to 81010.

### **Youth Events - Grades 6-12**

Until COVID rates go down, Youth Group will be meeting monthly for games and activities. Save the dates for youth group fellowship activities! Everyone is welcome. We'll also have service activities, time and date *To Be Announced* depending on the project.

In recognition of Earth Day, Kirkwood Clean-Up is being held today from 1:00-1:45 PM. Youth 6-12 will collect trash along Kirkwood Blvd. and celebrate with Whiteys' afterward. Supplies are provided by the City of Davenport Waste Commission. Join us in doing your part to keep Davenport beautiful.

### **Kirkwood Choir Schedule – Wednesdays, 6:00-6:30 PM**

The tentative Kirkwood Choir Early Spring 2021 schedule is listed below. The Club meets on scheduled Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 PM via Zoom. Please contact Linda Bengfort for further information.

April 21

To get youth group updates, email Sarah Greim (sgreim@gmail.com), or text @612thgra to 81010 (or add @612thgra on the Remind app).

### **New Committee: Congregational Marketing and Growth Committee**

In November 2020, the Session approved the formation of a new standing committee, the Congregational Marketing and Growth Committee. This new committee is tasked with developing a strategic plan for marketing and communications, acting as a liaison between various committees of the Session and Deacons in an effort to coordinate a uniform marketing strategy to grow the congregation, and hosting events throughout the Quad Cities aimed at promoting the work of FPC and drawing potential new members into our congregation by building individual relationships. Committee members include Mike Bawden, Jenny Ferrell, Jim Keenan, and Jim Middleton, with Jeff Ehrmann and David Bowles Edwards as co-chairs; Matt Bishop is the staff liaison.

The committee has met a few times since January, and is reviewing current marketing materials and staffing questions, enhancements to the website and live-streaming capabilities, and has begun the process of creating a long-range marketing and rebranding plan for the church consistent with our current needs, desire for growth, and feedback provided by the congregation in the Envisioning 20/20 report and subsequent mission studies.

### **Join Online: Worship Watch Party - Sundays, 9:00 AM**

*For more information, see the e-news, church website or Facebook.*

### **Sunday School is Online!**

Attention parents! Join us on Zoom for Sunday School! We meet from 10:30-11:00 AM every Sunday for Bible stories, sharing, and learning together. For security, the Zoom link is being emailed - please be sure to register for Sunday school (or contact Paula Hartmann; ppelhartmann@aol.com) so we can get your kids involved!

### **Cherubs and MusikGarten – Sundays, 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM**

Cherubs and MusikGarten meet on Zoom to coincide with our Sunday School schedule. MusikGarten will meet from 10:30-11:00 AM. Infants through three year-olds and their parents are invited to come to MusikGarten. Cherubs will meet from 11:00-11:15 AM following their Sunday School class that begins at 10:30 AM. Cherubs are in pre-school and Kindergarten. If you have questions about either group, contact Kathy Middleton ([kathrynb15@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynb15@gmail.com); 563-505-0471.)

*Printed and distributed contact-free.*