

First Presbyterian Church

May 2, 2021 • 10:30 a.m.



Embodying Christ's inclusive love through heart, mind, and service

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
May 2, 2021 • Fifth Sunday of Easter

(For the sake of brevity, we occasionally sing selected verses of hymns.)

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

The Spirit of God has brought us here.

The Lord has set us down here, though our bones are tired.

We gather to be revived by the Breath of God.

We gather to experience anew God's life-giving Spirit.

Let us worship God!

Hymn

Christ Is Alive!
(verses 1, 3, and 5)

(Glory to God, 246)

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

Prayer of Confession

God of resurrection power, we affirm that nothing is beyond your control or above your sovereignty. And yet, we confess that we are reluctant to claim power in your name, afraid that you will ask too much of us. As a result, we stay silent when you call us to speak; we hide our hands when you call us to help our neighbors; we look away when you call us to face down injustice. Forgive us, we pray. Breathe life into our bones, that we might declare with heart and soul and voice the joy of your salvation; in the name of the Risen Christ we pray. Amen.

The Peace of Christ

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Sung Response

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

(Glory to God, 59)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning;

Great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14
2 Corinthians 5:16-20

Sermon

I'm So Happy To Be Alive!

Bill Carl

***Affirmation of Faith** (*The Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call to Prayer

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks
(refrain, sing twice)

(Glory to God, 240)

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Prayers of the People - with the Lord's Prayer (*ecumenical*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
(verses 1, 3, and 4)

(Glory to God, 700)

I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I'm gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna sing so (sing so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I'm gonna sing so (sing so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

Charge and Blessing

Sung Response

Irish Blessing

*May the road rise to meet you, may the wind blow at your back,
May the sun shine warmly on your face. May the rain fall softly on your field,
And until we meet again, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.*

Postlude

Announcements

—A special welcome to the Reverend Dr. William Carl, Jr., who is our guest preacher this morning while Sharon is away on vacation. Bill served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas, for 22 years, as president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for 10 years; and as pastor of Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Ala., for five years before he and his wife Jane retired to their home in Maryville.

—Matt Stone continues our **six-week study of *Good White Racist?***, written by Kerry Connelly, this afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Did you notice that there is a question mark in the title of the book? Our discussions are revealing what that question mark is about. Come join the conversation. You do not need to have read the book to participate. Here’s the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86345504275?pwd=eIFzTU5xMIFL0DZHaXpHMFY0YW9lQT09>

Passcode: 959562

—Meetings this week while Sharon is away

Chuck Hadden hosts **Coffee Chat** tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. Here is the Zoom link for that gathering:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87517870844?pwd=Y2tLa2d6em9KSXZ2UzU4d0crVmNUdz09>

Susan Reisinger leads the **Midweek Bible study** this Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89898937963?pwd=eU5wWTBDV0dVY2o2VFIPVpZDZDEyQT09>

Brewing Questions will *not* meet this Thursday.



*No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, or your faith journey,
you are welcome at First Presbyterian Church.*

Weekly online gatherings

(See weekly emails or call the church office for Zoom links.)

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. classes Early Birds, Rise ‘n’ Shine, and
Let’s Talk About It
11:00 a.m. Post-worship fellowship
11:30 a.m. Pathfinders: children’s class
5:30 p.m. Faith seekers: Youth class

Mondays:

9:30 a.m. Coffee Chat with Sharon

Wednesdays:

5:30 p.m. Midweek Bible study

Thursdays:

7:00 p.m. Brewing Questions

First Presbyterian Church—A PC(USA) Congregation

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❖ fpcor.org ❖ on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge, TN

Sharon Youngs, Pastor Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist Devin Earhart, Technical Assistant

Ryan Tilley, Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Adrienne Walker, Office Manager



give online

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