

April 14, 2024



**First Presbyterian
Church**
of Pittsburgh

WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am

Prelude: *“Important Event” and “Traumerei” from Scenes of Childhood*
Robert Schumann

Sean Baran, *piano*

Time of Welcome

Rev. Ernest L. Gardner III, *Transitional Pastor*

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Charlie Claudon

Leader: He is Risen!

People: He is Risen, indeed!

Leader: As the disciples beheld Jesus standing in their presence, Jesus welcomes us into His presence.

People: Christ is alive, and we are made alive in union with Him!

Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

People: For He is our God, and we are the sheep of his pasture.

ALL: Let us worship God!

***Hymn:** *“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (located in this bulletin)*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we thank you for reasons to celebrate this season of resurrection. Even now, you are revealing glimpses of new life throughout all creation, within us, and through this congregation. Forgive us, we pray, when we treat faith so causally, more like a commodity, instead of as your precious gift to us. Forgive us for clutching tightly to doubts, hurts, and resentments. Remind us how Christ died to release us of these, and in his resurrection that we indeed know your abundant and eternal life. Renew our hearts and minds by your spirit into a living faith, pointing others to their own encounter with the presence of Christ. Now hear us, we pray, as we confess to you in silence...

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

People: To this peace, we are called as members of one body.

Leader: The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you!

Children's Message

Jen Fleming

(Children of ages preschool – 1st grade are invited to attend Children's Worship on the 3rd floor balcony at this time. Children are to be picked up immediately after service in the chapel behind the high pulpit.)

The Gospel: John 20:24-31

Rev. Gardner

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *"Place Your Doubts Into His Hands"*

Rev. Gardner

*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 Spirit, 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 sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall 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.*

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Communion Hymn: *"Behold the Lamb" Verse 1* (located in this bulletin)

Rev. Gardner

Communion Prayer and 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

The Words of Institution

Receiving the Elements

Communion Hymn: *"Behold the Lamb" Verse 2 & 3*

All Sing

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Gardner

***Communion Hymn: "Behold the Lamb" Verse 4**

All Sing

Call for the Offering (*Online giving available, scan code on back*)

Charlie Claudon

Anthem: "Great Is the Lord"

Michael W. Smith

*Great is the Lord, he is holy and just;
by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true;
by his mercy he proves he is love.*

*Great is the Lord and worthy of glory!
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord!*

*Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord, I lift up my voice:
Great are you, Lord!*

***Doxology**

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

Charlie Claudon

***Hymn: "Thine Is the Glory"** (*located in this bulletin*)

***Invitation and Charge**

***Benediction**

Rev. Gardner

Postlude: "Trumpet Tune"

Stacy Piontek

Sean Baran, *organ*

****Please stand as you are able***

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

F C B^b



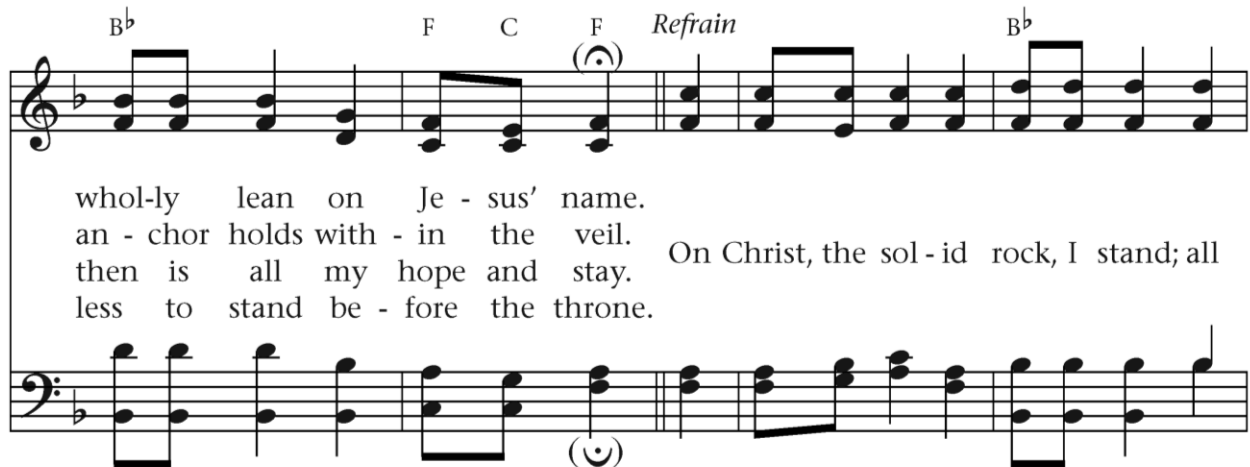
1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

F C F C



right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a-round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone, fault -

B^b F C F *Refrain* B^b



whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

F C F B^b Csus C7 F



oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Behold the Lamb



1 Be - hold the Lamb, who bears our sins a - way, slain for us - and we re-mem-ber
2 The bo - dy of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, torn for you - eat and re-mem-ber
3 The blood that clean - ses ev - ery stain of sin, shed for you - drink and re-mem-ber
4 And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to respond - and to re-mem-ber



5 the pro - mise made, that all who come in faith find for-give-ness at the cross. So we
the wounds that heal; the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one. So we
he drained death's cup, that all may en - ter in to re-ceive the life of God. So we
9 our call to fol - low in the steps of Christ as his bod - y here on earth. As we



share in this bread of life, and we drink of his sac - ri - fice as a sign of our
share in this bread of life, and we drink of his sac - ri - fice as a sign of our
share in this bread of life, and we drink of his sac - ri - fice as a sign of our
14 share in his suf - fer - ing, we pro claim Christ will come a - gain! And we'll join in the



bonds of peace a-round the ta-ble of the King.
bonds of love a-round the ta-ble of the King.
bonds of grace a-round the ta-ble of the King.
feast of heaven a-round the ta-ble of the King.

Thine Is the Glory

E^b *B^b* *E^b* *B^b* *E^b*

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing Son; end-less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov-ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

Fm *B^bsus* *B^b7* *E^b* *B^o7* *Cm*

vic - tory thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness,
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-querors,

Fm *G* *Cm* *F7* *Gm*

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes where thy
 hymns of tri-umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth; death hath
 through thy death-less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan to thy

F7 *B^b Refrain* *E^b* *B^b* *E^b* *B^b*

bod - y lay.
 lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en con-quer-ing Son;
 home a - bove.

E^b *Fm* *B^bsus* *B^b7* *E^b*

end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won!

Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

Pierogi Hospitality Hour!

Join us after worship this morning for **warm pierogies with toppings** and fellowship in the chapel, as well as a special visit from one of Pittsburgh's favorite pierogies, **Oliver Onion!** If you're visiting with us, we would especially like to get to know you!

Birthday Blessings to:

Olga Stanko, Charlotte Taylor, Jen Fleming, Jeff Kagarise, Miriam Delo, and Morgan Swann!

Call to Prayer – For 7 minutes at 7 o'clock (AM or PM)

We encourage the congregation to participate in a time for prayer at 7 o'clock for 7 minutes each day!

Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday April 28, 2024

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, **April 28th** immediately after worship.

Church Officer Nominations

It's that time of year when we begin accepting nominations for Church officers! Individuals must be willing to serve and spoken to before being nominated. If you would like to nominate someone, please see Michelle Muha.

Spring Workdays at Ligonier Camp & Conference Center

Ligonier Camp is hosting two Spring Workdays to prepare the camp properties for Summer Camp 2024 that will include some general cleanup of the grounds and cabins. The first one is on **Saturday, April 20** and the second one will be on **Saturday, May 11**. They will serve a light breakfast at 8:30 AM and begin projects at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served at 1:00 PM. and things will wrap up at about 3:00 PM. If interested, please see Charlie Claudon or call him at 412-400-4868.

Psalm Reading/Lectio Divina – Sunday, April 21 at 9:30 AM

All FPCP members and friends are invited to participate in a spiritual practice activity at 9:30 am on Sunday April 21 before services. Brian Vertz will lead a group lectio divina activity to complete one of his assignments for Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A lectio divina is a close reading of a Scripture passage, which will be a Psalm. We will read the Psalm three times, each time listening to the Word, contemplating its meaning, and sharing our ideas. Brian will provide brief instructions and background information about this spiritual practice before we begin.

A Note about This Morning's Music - - by Sean Baran

[The following thoughts are from an interview with Deborah Smith, Michael Smith's wife, found on staugustine.com]

"Sometimes at night we would light a candle and would often open the Bible and God would inspire our hearts with a particular passage of Scripture. We wrote many praise choruses and worship songs during these evening sessions. In 1982, God led us to a particular passage of Scripture that we both thought would be the base for a good song. I wrote a few lines of the lyric as Michael was working on the music. We worked very closely together, and the words and the musical setting came together at the same time. We were delighted with the song God had given us and Michael thought it was something that he would like to share with others, especially the people of the church where we attended at that time. Michael often led worship at the church, so during one of the services he taught the song to the congregation. They seemed greatly moved to a spirit of worship as they sang 'Great Is the Lord.' He said, 'I remember I was so overwhelmed as I heard that great crowd lifting their voices in praise, as they sang our song. I felt so blessed to be used in that way.'" **"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised ..."** 1 Chronicles 16:25

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Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm and Fridays, 9:00 am - Noon
Call to Schedule a Tour!

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

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Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get your parking ticket stamped at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). See the person in the payment booth at Mellon Square, Oliver Avenue or Smithfield Street garage to pay \$1 for parking.

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