

April 26, 2026



**First Presbyterian
Church**
of Pittsburgh

Welcome to Worship Service – 10:45 am

*Please stand as you are able

Prelude: “His Eye is On the Sparrow”
Arr. Marilyn Ham

Alaine Fink, *piano*

Time of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls
Senior Pastor

Choral Introit: “Let’s Sing unto the Lord”
By Carlos Rosas

Gathering Before the Word

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Michael Gartland, *Liturgist*

Leader: The Lord is our shepherd.

People: We are Christ’s sheep.

Leader: The shepherd shelters us in green
pastures.

People: In Christ, we dwell secure.

Leader: The shepherd nourishes us and restores
our souls.

People: Christ is our shepherd and gate to the
Most High.

Leader: Do you need a guide?

People: The Lord is our shepherd.

Leader: Do you need a path to new life?

People: The Lord is our gate.

Leader: Do you need rest?

People: The Lord restores our souls.

All: Come, let us worship.

***Hymn #267: “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”** (located in this bulletin)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Michael Gartland

Loving Shepherd, we confess to you today that we have strayed from your ways. We have failed to follow your path and moved away from your side. Even when we strive to find our own way, we yearn to return to your fold and rest secure in your gentle arms. Forgive us for our moments of resistance, remember us even when we fail to remember you. For we know that our lives are best lived when we seek your guidance and direction in our lives. Be our gate, our way to safe havens, where we can always find our way home and dwell secure in your love. *Amen.*

Time of Silent Prayer and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Michael Gartland

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Walls

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.*

Children's Message

Rev. Walls

***Hymn #250:** *"In the Bulb, There Is a Flower"* (located in this bulletin)

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-29

Michael Gartland

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, 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. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt 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 come to believe."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Choral Anthem: "God So Loved the World"

By Thomas Keesecker

Anderson Lacerda, *violin*
Ruth Ann Reamer, *piano*

Sermon: "Peace Be with You."

Rev. Walls

Responding to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed**

We 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. We 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.*

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

Rev. Walls

Offertory: "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word"

Arr. Charles Callahan

Anderson and Ruth Lacerda, *violins*
Alaine Fink, *organ*

***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!
Alleluia, alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Walls

Retirement Blessing and Celebration for Cheryl Swartz (8 ½ years at First Church!)

***Hymn #248: "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna"** (located in this bulletin)

***Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: "An Exultant Alleluia!"

By Lani Smith

Alaine Fink, *organ*



267 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D)

(Em)



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7)

(D)



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7)

(G)

(Em)

(D)

(Bm)

(Em)

(F#)

(Bm)



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G)

(Em)

(D)

(Bm)

(Em)

(A7)

(D)

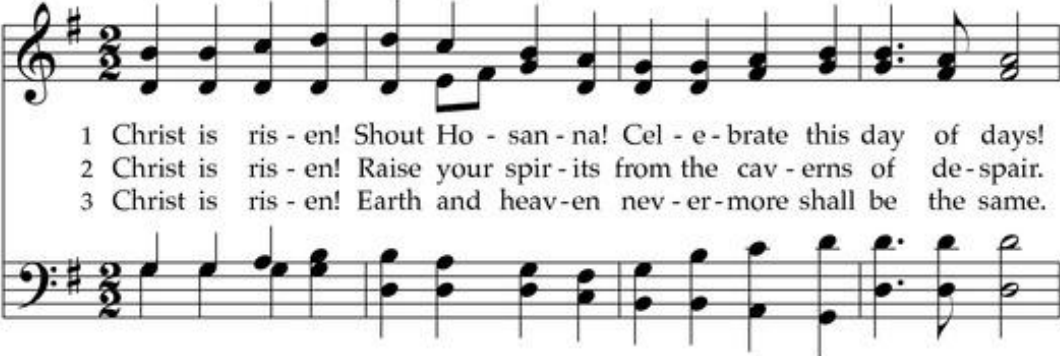


un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

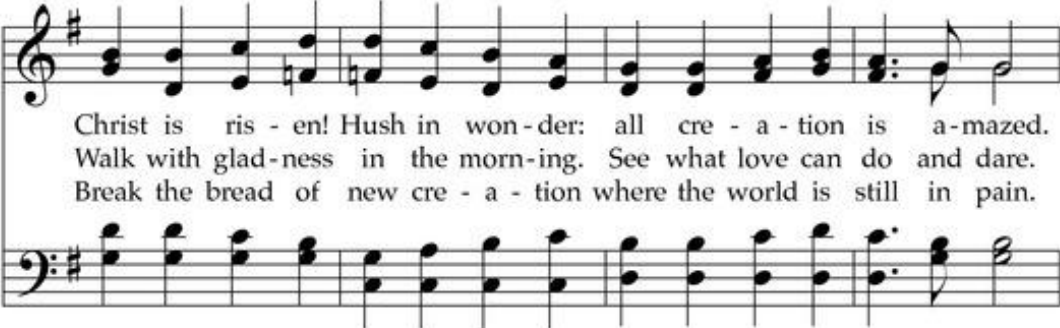
The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."

Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

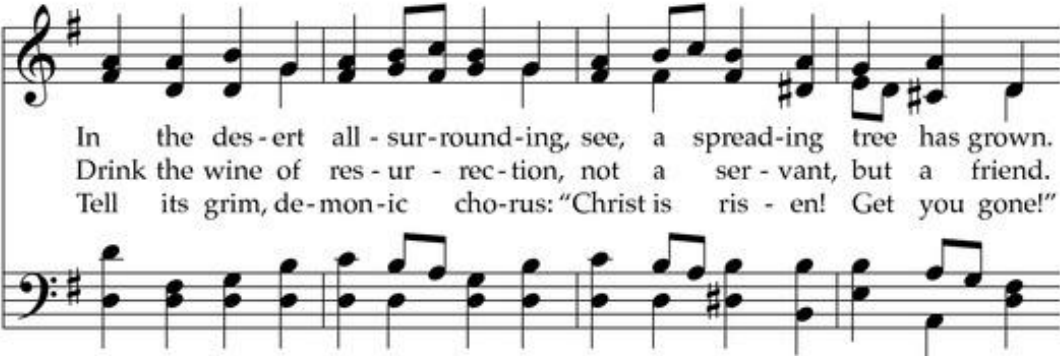
Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248



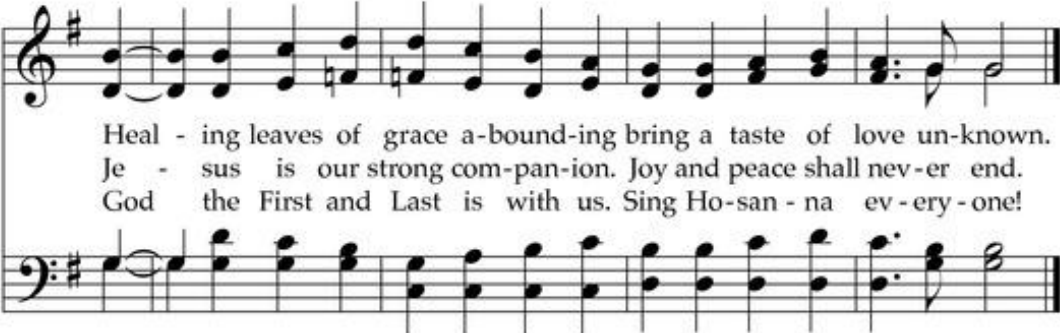
1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



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!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

Hospitality Hour

Join us after worship this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the chapel. If you're visiting with us, we would especially like to get to know you!

Sunday School

The Cornerstone Class continues to explore the early Church through a study of the **Book of Acts**. The class meets from **9:30 - 10:30 a.m.** in **Room #17** (chapel area, next to the stage). If you'd like to join them for fellowship and learning, please contact **Charlie Claudon at 412-400-4868**. Children's Sunday School also continues in Room 4 downstairs. All children are invited.

Marathon Sunday – May 3

We will hold in-person worship at the regular time (10:45 a.m.) as well as live streaming. Those attending in person are encouraged to **plan ahead**, allow **extra travel time**, and **explore the road closures along the race route**.

Volunteers are still Needed for Marathon Sunday

Our building will be open that morning to provide restroom access for runners and visitors. We are seeking volunteers to serve as building monitors and individuals to join **Rev. Walls** in offering **prayer and spiritual support** to runners beginning at 5:00 a.m. If you can help, please contact the church office at **412-471-3436 x211** or mcaswell@fpcp.org

May 10th Mother's Day Project

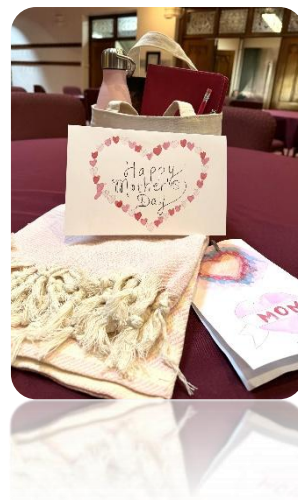
Thanks to generous donations, we've prepared 14 beautiful Mother's Day gift bags for the women currently residing at Sojourner House Moms!

How You Can Help

We still have several Turkish beach towels/wraps you can sponsor at \$20 each.

Also, if you would like to contribute towards a few potted plants to be planted in their garden that would be appreciated!

Stop by Today! - Tables will be available during Fellowship Time in the Chapel Area. Stop by to talk with a Deacon or Mission Committee representative, sign Mother's Day cards, donate, ask questions, or learn about future service opportunities. Donations for towels may also be mailed or placed in the collection box—just note "Mother's Day."



Thank you for helping us make Mother's Day extra special! ❤️

Looking Ahead . . .



New Member Class – May 17, 2026

Have you been visiting with us for a while and are perhaps considering joining First Church? Or would you like to learn more about our ministry? If so, we are planning a New Member class on **May 17 at 9:30 am**. Stay tuned for more details.

First Church Staff and Clergy

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Dan Conner
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Brian Vertz

Anita Perry, *assistant*

PASTOR EMERITUS
Rev. Thomas M. Hall II

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

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

Visiting Us Today?



Scan Code to Connect with Us!

Giving Online?



Scan Code to Give!

Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get a sticker for your parking ticket at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). Scan both sides of the ticket at the payment booth at the **Oliver, Mellon Square**, and **Smithfield** garages to pay \$1 for parking.

Parking stickers will still be honored Today for \$1.

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