



## Service of the Lord's Day

Sunday, May 2, 2021

### God's People Gather

*"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the House of the Lord!"*

*(Psalm 122:1)*

*With glad hearts, we welcome you to worship among this community of believers! The decorated tubes in the pews are guides to assist us in caring for one another by maintaining safe distances. You may move the tubes in either direction in the pew to accommodate your "household." We invite you to hum the hymns or meditate on the words as the Sanctuary Singers sing on our behalf.*

### Greetings and Announcements

#### Prayer of Preparation

**God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and truly worship you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prelude "Amazing Grace" -- Callahan**

Sarah Pinard, piano/Deb Voytko, organ

#### \*Call to Worship

L: Let our souls rise up to meet you, O God, as the day rises to meet the sun.

**P: Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day to the rising of life itself.**

L: God, you have brought us to the light of this new day;

**P: bring us to the guiding light of eternity.**

L: Christ is risen!

**P: He is risen indeed!**

#### \*Hymn **Christ Is Alive!** (verses 1, 3, and 5)

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**

L: For the right roads we avoided traveling, and the kindly words we refused to share;  
for the false gods who received our worship and the true selves we have starved of love...

(silent confession)

God, by your grace, **forgive us.**

L: For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly, and the promises we have never kept;  
For the careless use of our time and money, and the lame excuses we have made,

(silent confession)

God, by your grace, **forgive us.**

L: For all we should be, and all we can amend,

**P: God, in your love, renew us, in Jesus' name, Amen.**

(Iona Community Worship Book, adapted)

### **Assurance of Pardon**

L: Friends, believe the good news:

**P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

L: The Risen One says, "Blessed are you; rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!"

### **\*Response**

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

### **God's Word is Heard**

### **Time With Children**

**Anthem "Simple Gifts" -- Callahan**

Sarah Pinard, piano/Deb Voytko, organ

**Scripture Readings Acts 8:26-40  
John 15:1-8**

**Sermon**

Rev. Karen Pidcock-Lester

### **God's People Respond**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

**This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

(I Cor. 15:1-6)

## **\*Giving Our Gifts**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

#### **Doxology**

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you, we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours, we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you, we are an offering.

## **Prayers of the People**

The Lord be with you;

**And also with you...**

**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.**

### **God's Sends Us Out**

## **\*Hymn We Know That Christ Is Raised (verses 1, 2, and 4)**

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold, and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in his saving death. Reborn we share with him an Easter life as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood. The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia!

## **\*Blessing**

## **\*Postlude "Allegro Maestoso" -- Handel**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Please leave the sanctuary by the side aisles and both doors; the deacons will guide you.*

*Our sanctuary singers and musicians this morning are Bruce Achuff, John Genter, Gayle Hall, and Sarah Pinard.*

*The sanctuary flowers are given by Frank and Joan Evans with thankful hearts to our Lord, for the gift of our loving family, and with gratitude for the celebration of our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*

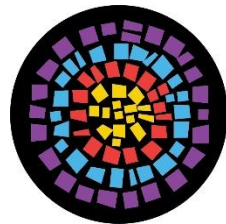
## **Calendar of Events for this week:**

Today

9:30 a.m.

Worship

Monday	10:45 a.m.	Sr. Seekers Sunday School (Labyrinth)
	7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Yoga
	9:00 a.m.	Church Library open during Office hours
	10:00 a.m.	Staff meetings (Community Room)
	7:30 p.m.	Lectio-Divina via Zoom
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Yoga
	4:00 p.m.	Musicless Rec
	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship
	7:15 p.m.	Evening Prayer
	7:30 p.m.	Committees via Zoom
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Church Library open during Office hours
	9:30 a.m.	Sisters of the Way Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
	5:00 p.m.	Community Meals (lower parking lot)
	5:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
	6:15 p.m.	Treble Handbells Rehearsal
	6:30 p.m.	Schuylkill River Greenways Fundraiser
	6:45 p.m.	Chancel Handbells Rehearsal
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Yoga
	10:00 a.m.	"The Gift of Years" Book Discussion (Community Room)
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Worship



**First  
Presbyterian  
CHURCH** *Pottstown*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

**750 N. Evans St., Pottstown, PA 19464**

**Phone 610-326-0620---FAX 610-326-4805**

Rev. W. Carter Lester, Jr. & Rev. Karen Pidcock-Lester, Co-Pastors

Jaylee Ferreri, Director for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Debra Voytko, Organist, Cynthia K. Foust, Director of Music

Dawn Skelly, Parish Nurse

Jo Ann Bathurst, Children's Choir Director

Marie Kayati, Administrative Assistant -- Thomas Spitko, Sexton

Becky Bostwick, HENS Director, (610) 326-3690

Check out the church's website [www.fpcpottstown.org](http://www.fpcpottstown.org)

Sermons are available.

"Like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Instagram