

April 7, 2024; 9:00 am
Second Sunday of Easter
Communion

We Gather Together

***Welcome** to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on the radio we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.*

Prelude: Festal Song *arr. Stephen P. Folkemer & William A. McNair*
Rathbun *arr. by William A. McNair*

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

Carol W.

What great joy we have!

Our Lord is risen!

Believe with your whole heart in the miracle of resurrection.

We open our hearts to the good news of God's faithfulness to us.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

*** Opening Prayer**

Lord of Resurrection surprises, open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus Christ. Erase our excuses for unbelief, and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. Give us courage, and challenge us to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus is present with us, leading and guiding our steps. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, amen.

***Sung Response: GTG 213 “In The Cross of Christ I Glory” (vs. 1-3)**
Laurie C., Cantor

***Call to Confession** *Carol W.*

How often have we heard the good news of forgiveness and restoration? Yet, we are still reluctant to believe. God offers us new life, yet we are afraid to let go of the old. Let us confess our doubts and fears to the One who waits to make us whole.

***Prayer of Confession** *Carol W.*

Patient Lord, you wait for us to understand. You wait for us to remove the blinders of prejudice, fear, unbelief, confusion. You have offered to us the greatest miracle of all time, the resurrection of your son Jesus Christ. We sang and celebrated last Sunday, but a week has passed. We have slid back into our old ways of perceiving your presence and love.

Silent Confession
(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

Shake us up, Lord! **Shake us up and cause us to look with new eyes on our Savior, who came that we might have life, abundantly serving all who are in need. Forgive our stubbornness and our complacency. Reach out to us so that we may reach out with healing love to others, for we pray this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Let the stone of ignorance, stubbornness and fear be rolled away from your heart. Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! Know that his love is poured out for you, for your healing. Be at peace and Rejoice!
Amen.

***Sharing God’s Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula ‘The Peace of Christ.’ ‘And also, with you.’ Please be mindful of those

who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.)

***Sung Response: GTG 582** “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

God’s Word Is Proclaimed

Psalm Reading: Psalm 133 (Common English Bible)

(page 575 in the pew Bible)

Look at how good and pleasing it is
when families live together as one!
It is like expensive oil poured over the head,
running down onto the beard—
Aaron’s beard!—
which extended over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew on Mount Hermon
streaming down onto the mountains of Zion,
because it is there that the Lord has commanded the blessing:
everlasting life.

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31 (Common English Bible)

(page 115 in the pew Bible)

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.”

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

Children’s Time

Jennifer Zander

Sermon: “The Testimony of Thomas”

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Sung response: GTG 684 “Faith Begins by Letting Go”

(sung to the tune of 14 “For the Beauty of the Earth”)

We Respond to God’s Word

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from

heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Practice of Gratitude

In response to God's Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God's tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible act of thanks. No matter what is physically offered back to God, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God's hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God's kingdom here on earth.

Offering Music: "If thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee"

arr. by Georg Böhm

***Offertory: GTG 609** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

(TUNE: Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

***Offertory Prayer**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

GTG 507 "Come to the Table of Grace"

(Remain seated, we sing this song as the table is being prepared for communion)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

This is neither a Presbyterian table, nor even the church's table. This is the Lord's table. It is prepared for those who love the Lord and for those who desire to love him more. All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome to share in this meal.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for you have raised Jesus Christ from the dead
and by your grace we have life in his name.

From the very beginning, the Word of life was with you,
creating everything in earth and heaven.
You rescued your people from death
and called them to follow you, walking in the light.

You sent your Word of Life into the world,
in your Son, Jesus,
shining your light into our darkness,
that the sins of the world might be forgiven.
Though he was killed by those who walk in darkness,
you raised him to resurrection life
and now he lives at your side for ever,
advocating mercy for all who stumble into sin.
Through his great grace
we are able to live in fellowship with you
and in peace with one another,
in one heart and mind.

Loving God, recalling now Christ's death and resurrection,

we ask you to accept this, our sacrifice of praise.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these, your gifts of loaf and cup,
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son
and be filled with your life and goodness.
Strengthen us to do your work, and to be your body in the world.
Unite us in Christ and give us your peace.

Therefore, with our hearts lifted high,
we offer you thanks and praise at all times
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever,
uniting our voices together as one,
praying the prayer Jesus taught:

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.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD – (words of institution]

SHARING OF THE MEAL

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.
Come, share in the mystery of this holy meal.

The Bread of Life

The Cup of Salvation

Music during communion: GTG 528 “Your Only Son”
“Lamb of God” arr. by Mark Hayes

PRAYER OF THANKS

Let us pray.

God of promise, we give you thanks because you gloriously raised your son Jesus from the dead, powerfully blew your peace into all creation through your Holy Spirit, and continually give us new life in Jesus' name.

***Sending Song GTG 815** "Give to the Winds Thy Fears" (vs. 1 and 3)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: "He Who Will Suffer God to Guide Him" *arr. by J.S. Bach*

GETTING CONNECTED:

Office Phone
920.922.0425

Office Email:
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

Website:
www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Facebook:
First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

YouTube:
First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin
pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander
jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Kris Bartelt
kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka
mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

Deb Zorn
dzorn@fdlpresbyterian.org

Please remember to thank the volunteers who help make our service run smoothly. It is because of them, that we can worship God well.

If you would like to share your skills, please make a note in the pew pad. Someone will follow up with you.

PRAYERS

Brian C.
Pat D.
Gib D.
Arnold L.
Jesse F.
Liam A.
Burt M.
Marie L.

Chastity G. and Joan S.
Bob B.
Wendy W
Andy L.
Phyllis M.
Sally S.
*Lynn K.
*Ashley K.

*Cathie
*Mike S.
*Dale F.
*Karen and David H.
*Lorele C.
*Laura C.

The names with an asterisk (*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to request they be lifted in prayer. If you or someone you know would like to be added to our prayer list, please contact a Deacon or the office staff.

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before/after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425) and press #2 for Pastoral Care.

April Deacon of the Month
Orv Kamphuis

April Elder of the Month
Joanne Marchionda

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR MARCH 31, 2024

Individuals in Person: 157

Zoom Households: 4

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Mar 31	\$8661.79	Tithes/Offerings
	\$1,000.00	Pave the Way
Mar 25-29	\$1,781.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	\$110.00	Vanco Online "Pave the Way"
	\$11,552.79	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

Financial Gratitude and Giving

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org. (Click on 'Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check, on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:

Did you know that if you are over age 70 ½ you can make a charitable contribution to our church directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?

Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable during the year in which they are received. Charitable contributions may be deductible if itemized on tax returns. However, by using Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), contributions can be tax-exempt instead of tax-deductible.

A QCD is a withdrawal paid by your IRA custodian directly from your account. Our church is a qualified recipient as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

For those who are at least age 72 (or 73 if after 12/31/22), QCDs count toward the IRA owner's current year Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The funds must come out of the IRA by the owner's RMD deadline, generally December 31 each year. For this reason, it is helpful to plan ahead, allowing time for distributions to be processed by the IRA custodian before year-end.

Information about QCDs and conditions that apply is available online, from your IRA custodian or a tax advisor.

This Week at Church

Sunday

9:00-10:00am

10:15am

10:15-11:15am

- Adults - Mahala's Hope presented by Alicia Mattingly (Parlor)
- 8th-12th Grade Teaching/Attending Classes
- 4th – 7th Grade Bible Class (Third Grade & Older + Parent/Guardian)
(Gathering Room)
- Preschool – 3rd Grade Room 8

6:00-7:30pm

April 7

Worship / Communion

Fellowship Time

Growing Connections

Boy Scout Troop 702 Committee Meeting

Monday

10:00-11:30am

1:00-2:00pm

3:00-4:00pm

April 8

Staff Meeting

Deacons

Loving Team

Wednesday

8:00-9:00am

1:00-2:30pm

4:30-5:30pm

5:30-7:30pm

April 10

Men's Breakfast

Personnel Team

Bell Choir

Women in Faith

Thursday

6:30-8:00pm

April 11

Endowment Board

Friday

3:30-7:00pm

April 12

Train Show Set-up

Saturday

9:00-12:00pm

10:00-4:00pm

April 13

Table Tennis

Train Show

Sunday

9:00-10:00am

10:00-2:00pm

10:15-11:15am

10:15-11:15am

- Adults – Brain Injury Awareness (Parlor)
- 8th-12th Grade Room 6
- 4th – 7th Grade Room 3
- Preschool – 3rd Grade Room 8

11:15-12:15pm

11:30-12:30pm

6:00-7:30pm

April 14

Worship / Bible Presentation

Train Show

Fellowship Time (Narthex)

Growing Connections

Learning Team (Parlor)

Worship Team

Boy Scout Troop 702 (Fellowship Hall)