

WORSHIP for 4TH Sunday of Easter – May 3, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Please invite family or friends, who want to join us for live worship on Sundays @10:45am, to request access by emailing their name, email address, & phone number to the church office.
- 2) Please have your Bible at hand for Worship each week!
- 3) BYOB: Bring Your Own Blanket, Bedspread, or Comforter to Worship on Zoom @ FPCP next Sunday 5/10 for the Mother's Day Children's Message, as we are wrapped in God's great love!
- 4) A reminder that when we turn on our microphones to interactively engage live with each other, we can hear every sound made by and around you. So please turn off TVs, music, noisy dishwashers, and, as possible, any other background noises, so as not to interrupt worship and fellowship. Also please mute your microphone should an unexpected sound occur, such as a visitor at the door. Thank you!
- 5) To watch sermons recorded on Zoom on our YouTube Channel, go to the FPCP website: <https://www.fpcpataskala.com/> and click on WORSHIP or follow us on our Facebook from the homepage.
- 6) All Onsite Activities at the Church Building Are Suspended Until Further Notice, Due to COVID-19. Please correspond with Pastor Janet or the church office by phone or email. Thank you for your patience. Stay in prayer!
- 7) The regular FPCP session meeting is 6:30pm (2nd) Thursday, May 14th, on Zoom.
- 8) Have communion elements of bread and juice of the fruit of the grape vine, at table in your home on Sunday June 7th. Pastor Janet will lead us through communion on Zoom worship at 10:45am. If you need elements provided to you, call 740-901-1232 to reach the Johnsons, who lead the Christian Response Team.

Prelude played by Laura Keesor: "Get All Excited"

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwgQO8egGpM>

Call to Worship from Psalm 33:1-4 *Unison*

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

Opening Hymn: "Count Your Blessings"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wODZDmBimiM>

Prayers of Gratitude (from Fellowship Table Talk last Sunday)

For God's Provision...	Thank you, Jesus!
For More Time to Pray & Prayers Answered...	Thank you, Jesus!
For Finding New Ways to Interact with People...	Thank you, Jesus!
For Reconnecting with Each Other...	Thank you, Jesus!
For Volunteering & Helping People...	Thank you, Jesus!
For Greater Appreciation for Essential Workers...	Thank you, Jesus!
For Virtual Teaching in Schools, Church, & Outreach...	Thank you, Jesus!
For Visiting Neighbors on Walks...	Thank you, Jesus!

For Enjoying Creation and God's Creatures...
For Cleaner Air...
For Health & Returning Health...
For Getting Things Done at Home...
For More Time for Hobbies and Play...
For Living One Day at a Time...

Thank you, Jesus!
Thank you, Jesus!
Thank you, Jesus!
Thank you, Jesus!
Thank you, Jesus!
Thank you, Jesus!

LORD'S PRAYER: *Unison*

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;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to God's Word: *Unison*

"Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?" John 10:35 & Romans 4:3.

Prayer for Illumination: *Unison*

Lord, let us hear your resurrection message, and enliven us as resurrection people. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:1-13, 35-10:13 (NIV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+9-10&version=NIV>

SERMON: "In Taxing Times, Follow Jesus" by *The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford*
Matthew 9:1-8 and 9-13: Before crossing the Sea of Galilee to show his authority in healings there, in his own town Jesus healed another paralyzed man, the servant of the centurion. But the difference in this passage is that the man is paralyzed because of his sins. Sin does that. Sin paralyzes our lives, keeping us stuck in unhealthy living. But in taxing times, we need to follow Jesus, pun intended. This also the case of Matthew, the tax collector, who is also paralyzed by sin. The pharisees allude to it, when they categorize tax collectors with sinners, both with whom Jesus eats. Jesus does not deny it. He admits that he comes to heal the sick, to heal sinners. Because Matthew got up and followed Jesus, he recognizes his need. The Pharisees, however, do not realize their need to be healed from their sin. They see themselves as righteous. That's a problem, because elsewhere in Scripture it is clearly taught that we are only made righteous through Christ's righteousness. So the end of the passages move from Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man & calling of Matthew (a spiritually paralyzed man), to Jesus' attempting to teach the Pharisees.

But with their rejection, go now to Matthew 9:35-36: In these two verses, Jesus again heals, preaches, and teaches to show forth the Kingdom of God. One thing he teaches his disciples out of compassion in verse 36 is that the crowds are "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Jesus came to the lost sheep of Israel, including his own religious leaders, Pharisee and teachers of the law, for example, but they do not heed him as teacher. They do not see the

Kingdom. Jesus, therefore, instructs his disciples, those who follow him, including the lowly fishermen, who he first called before the sermon on the mount, and now Matthew, a sinner: Matthew 9:37: "Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Jesus' words are relevant now, in this time of COVID-19, there are many who are harassed and helpless, like a sheep without a shepherd," therefore, the harvest is plentiful. However, the workers are few, so prayer is necessary.

Matthew 9:38: "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Now after preaching and healing, Jesus extends the call to the very disciples who pray for workers.

Matthew 10:1-4: The disciples are the workers, and their ranks have grown beyond the fishermen and Matthew. Then Jesus again teaches.

Matthew 10:5-10: Note Jesus' instructs not to take gold or silver or copper on the call, a reminder of Matthew's likely sin before his call, because tax collectors were known to skim money from the collections. But the main point is the need to trust God to provide for our keep. And with that Jesus finishes his teaching with an instruction of discernment.

Mt 10:11-13: Discernment is to seek out welcoming people & places, who extend peace. The call to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom does not entail force. The message is offered with love (compassion), joy (Good news), and peace. Whether people except the message is not the point. The point is that we as workers need to extend the message of kingdom, to share, to plant the seed. And today we have the celebration of installing workers for the harvest, the ruling elders and deacons in the class of 2033, officers elected by you at FPCP.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR THE CLASS OF 2022

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Pastor: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? Do you?

ALL: I do.

Pastor: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? Do you?

ALL: I do.

Pastor: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? Will you?

ALL: I will.

Presenting Candidates

Clerk of Session

On behalf of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, I present to you for installation to the office of ruling elder, Jim Charles, Nancy Lord, and Kathy Wallace, and deacons, Faith Harvell and Susan Baird Rawls.

Constitutional Questions

Pastor & Candidates

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Do you?

Candidates: I do.

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? Do you?

Candidates: I do.

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? Do you and will you?

Candidates: I do and I will.

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? Will you?

Candidates: I will.

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? Will you with God's help?

Candidates: I will with God's help.

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? Do you?

Candidates: I do.

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? Will you?

Candidates: I will.

Question for Ruling Elders

Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? Will you?

Ruling Elder Candidates: I will.

Question for Deacons

Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? Will you?

Ruling Elder Candidates: I will.

Questions of the Congregation

Do you, the members of the church, accept these ruling elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead you in the way of Jesus Christ? Do you?

ALL: We do.

Do you agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? Do you?

ALL: We do.

Prayer of Installation & Charge from 2 Timothy 2:15

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one appointed by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.”

Hymn of Response: “Who Is On the Lord’s Side?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfunlcgcBXA>

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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!

Prayer of Confession: Psalm 33 Unison

Lord, we are neither always right, true, nor faithful. We rely on your forgiveness and mercy shown through your Son, who died for us. Amen

(Pause for a time of silent confession.)

Assurance of Forgiveness: Responsively

By the sacrifice made by Jesus on the cross we are assured.

We believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

“The Gloria Patri”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU

Please Continue to Give in Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Prayer Of Dedication: Unison

God, in view of your mercy help us, like Matthew, to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you, O God. Amen. *Romans 12:1*

Doxology

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivaDXu27_IY

Closing Hymn: “Take My Life and Let It Be”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQ93HVuYd5Y>

Benediction: Jesus, we, as your followers, follow you into the world that all may be offered forgiveness and healing, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Please join us next Sunday invitation to celebrate the Easter season and also Mother's day together! Don't forget to BYOB: (bring your own blanket) for the gathering of the children.

Now if able, please remain for a time of fellowship & special introductions.

Fellowship Table Talk

*"Hear, my child, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,
for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck." Proverbs 1:8-9*

Who were your "spiritual mothers," teaching you in matters of faith, in your family or outside?

Share how you were nurtured by them spiritually.

Did they take you to church, pray with you, read from the Bible, etc.?