★ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: "The Apostles' Creed" (unison)
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!

Go Out as God's People in the World

* Closing Song HoF #48 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

★ BLESSING & CHARGE / VISION & MISSION (responsively): To walk in the light of God; making JESUS known is FIRST at First!

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

↑ POSTLUDE

Following today's service please join us in the upstairs hall for coffee & conversation.



-/51

If you are visiting today, we thank you for coming and hope you return soon.

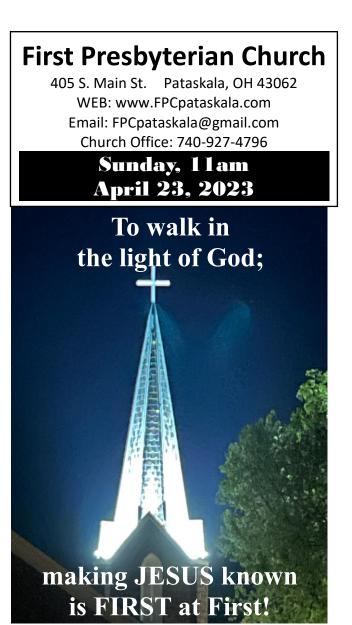
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Today's Worship Leaders:

Musician: Marcia Brannon Coordinator of Vocal Leaders: Kathy Wallace Officer Assisting: Leslie or Sally? Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

3rd Sunday of Easter April 23, 2023 11am

Assisted Listening Devices are available in the Sanctuary during Worship. If you need instructions, please see the Greeter.

(Those not wanting to be seen on the **video recording**, please sit under the balcony.)

Hymnals: HB is "The Hymnbook" (burgundy) & HoF is "Hymns of Faith" (scarlet) Gathering of God's People

After the chimes, please be in quiet reverence & silence cell phones.

3 RINGS OF THE STEEPLE BELL & CHIMES WELCOME by Leslie or Sally?

ANNOUNCEMENTS (See insert.)		
PRELUDE	"Great is the Lord"	by vocal leaders

stand as able ★ CALL To WORSHIP: Psalm 97:1-2 (responsively) The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. Clouds and thick darkness surround him: righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

* Opening Song HoF #44 "We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer" *Vocal leaders sing 1st verse; then congregation joins in.*

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION: based on Psalm 97 (unison):

(Pause in silent confession.)

Forgive us when we make an idol of anyone or anything ahead of you, and refocus our attention to "you, Lord,... the most High over all the earth." Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS: (responsively)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

GLORIA PATRI / RESPONSE: (unison) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen, Amen.

Proclamation of God's Word

* CALL TO GOD'S WORD: John 10:35 & Romans 4:3 (unison) "Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Scripture: Acts 16:6-40 pp. 1576

SERMON Takeaway: "Come Over... and Help Us" By The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

Response to God's Word

* Song of Response HoF #478 "Who is On the Lord's Side?"

PRAYERS of JOYS & CONCERNS followed by 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 STEWARDSHIP (Receptacles for offerings are at each exit.)

OFFERTORY

"How Great Thou Art"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY: (unison) Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.