

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: ...Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
All: **In Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven!**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
All: **And also with you.**

* PEACE RESPONSE:

Peace be with you, peace be with you. Sing alle - luia,
sing to our God! Peace be with you, peace be with you.
Sing al - le - lu - ia, sing to our God!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S TIME:

D.C.E. Mylika Selah

*Children who want to go to Sunday School (K-7) can follow the teachers to their room. Sunday School Children will be brought back to the worship service for **communion**, and then will join their families. Younger children may be dropped off at the nursery (ages 0-4), and all children should be picked up at their rooms following the service.*

* HYMN #234: **"Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain"** St. Kevin

THE GOSPEL: John 21: 1-19 p. 115-116 NT

EARLY CHURCH: Acts 9: 1-20 p. 127-128 NT

One: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "Change."

*"...He is an instrument whom I have chosen."
- Acts 9: 15*

EASTER RESPONSE:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

* RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

One: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
All: **That whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.** *John 3:16*

OFFERTORY: "Hallelujah Round of Praise" Mozart

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.
Praise ye to the heavens, praise ye to the heights,
praise ye, all the angels, all God's host.
Praise God, sun and moon, all you shining stars.
Sing hallelujah! Praise the Lord.

* DOXOLOGY: (to the tune of "All Creatures of our God and King")

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore.
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Alleluia!**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION.

* AN EASTER CONFESSION OF FAITH:

**In Easter joy, we delight and proclaim:
That God's life-giving Word and Spirit have conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred; bitterness and envy; violence and subjugation; selfishness and pride. Because of the new life we have received in Christ, we are strengthened: to live in thankfulness and generosity; to serve with lightness and grace; to walk in humbleness and sincerity; and to love with openness and truth.**

By receiving these gifts, we are able to follow Jesus, the Christ, into eternal hope and the promise of heaven, even as God's kingdom of goodness grows in our own lives—to God's glory alone. Amen.

* HYMN #501: **"Feed Us, Lord"** Greg Scheer

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION.

We invite you to come forward down the center aisle to receive communion, holding out an open palm to receive bread and leaving your cup in the cup racks at the back of each pew. If you wish to have communion brought to you, please indicate this by raising a hand to the servers walking down the aisles. All are welcome to receive communion at Christ's table.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FOLLOWED BY 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

* HYMN #231: **"Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers"** Suo Gan

* BENEDICTION.

POSTLUDE: "Balletto del granduca" var. 4-5 J. P. Sweelinck

Join us after the service for fellowship time with coffee and cookies, and enjoy our display of fish banks from One Great Hour of Sharing!



IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:

- **Today in Adult Ed:** David Neal will discuss the words and music for *Rejoice in the Lamb*, the featured composition for Special Music Sunday on May 11. Benjamin Britten, the composer, chose a text from Christopher Smart, whose Christian poetry reflects the unusual thinking which caused him to live his life in an institution. Please join us in Dodds Hall, 11:30 a.m, to learn more.
- **Livestream services** are currently available only during the live recording of the worship services; we apologize for any inconvenience and are working on a way for you to be able to watch services later.
- **Next Week in Adult Ed:** Join us for an introduction to the Book of Esther. We will take a look at how a quiet woman becomes the primary figure in preventing the killing of the Jews exiled to Persia. In this class led by Pastor Cindy we will also consider why this book's inclusion in the Bible is controversial to some in both the Jewish and Christian communities.
- **The Youth Choir** meets today following worship. We are starting a new piece and preparing to sing the National Anthem at an Elmira Pioneers baseball game! For more information, contact Kirianne at kirianne.fpci@gmail.com.
- **New Members Classes:** A new group has begun to gather to inquire about membership. The second meeting is Sunday, May 18, following the Adult Education program and starting with a shared lunch at 12:30 in the Fireside Room. If you would like to participate, we welcome you — contact Kirianne at kirianne.fpci@gmail.com for more information!
- **Tai Chi Tuesdays:** Join leader Maurice Haltom and church friends for free Tai Chi in the narthex, Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Enter through the Park door.

*The righteous will answer [the Son of Humanity],
“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food
or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that
we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you
clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick, or in prison,
and visited you?”*

*And the king will answer them,
“Truly I tell you, just as you did it for one of the least
of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did it for me.”*
Matthew 25: 37-40

Our ushers this morning are:

Sara Carpenter head, with Dorian Carpenter, Saw Htoo,
and Sebastian Vander Ploeg Fallon

Our greeters are:

Marilyn Ewing, Beth Patton, and Linda McLean

We hold in our prayers:

David Brown; Jennifer Carlson; Harris Faulkner;
Will Lloyd; Jeff Lovell; Vivian and Jim Russell;
Marj Smart; and Tina Snead

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For more info, please visit our website at www.firstpresithaca.org
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ITHACA



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Following Christ's teachings,
we are fully in-
clusive in mem-
bership and
leadership.



MAY 4, 2025: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE: “Balletto del granduca” var. 1-3 J. P. Sweelinck

WELCOME. Rev. Kirianne Weaver

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 30* Liturgist: Susan Van Sickle

One: I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up.
All: O Lord my God, we cry to you for help,
One: and you heal us.
All: You bring our souls up from Sheol;
One: you restore us to life,
All: out of those who have gone down to the pit.
One: Sing praises to the Lord, O you God's faithful ones!
All: Give thanks to God's holy name.
One: For God's anger is but for a moment,
All: but God's favor is for a lifetime.
One: Weeping may endure for the night,
All: but joy comes with the morning!

* HYMN #233: “The Day of Resurrection!” *Lancashire*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Rev. Cynthia Weaver

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

... *A time for silent confession.*