

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: ...Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:  
All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**  
One: Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
All: **And also with you.**  
One: Let us greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.

\* PEACE RESPONSE:

Three staves of musical notation for the Peace Response. The lyrics are: "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:

*Children who want to go to Sunday School can follow the teachers to their room. Younger children may go to the nursery (ages 0-4), and all children should be picked up at their rooms following the service.*

\* HYMN #233: "The Day of Resurrection!" *Lancashire*

THE EARLY CHURCH: Acts 8: 26-40 p. 127 NT

THE GOSPELS: 1 John 4: 7-21 p. 241 NT

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

ANTHEM: "Be Thou My Vision" arr. Robert Hunter

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art. Thou mine inheritance now and always.  
Thou my best thought by day or by night, Thou and Thou only first in my heart,  
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light. High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word, High King of heaven, my victory won.  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord. May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son, Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one. Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

THE MESSAGE: "Strange Understandings."

*"[Philip] asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'  
[The Ethiopian] replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Acts 8: 30b-31a*

\* GLORIA PATRI:

Three staves of musical notation for the Gloria Patri. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spi-rit: as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ever. A men, A-men. A-men!"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

\* RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS: *1 Timothy 6: 18-19*

One: We are called to be generous and ready to share;  
All: **thus taking hold of that which is truly life.**

OFFERTORY.

\* 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.

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve... In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

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 #257: "The Risen Christ" *Woodlands*

\* BENEDICTION.

\* CHORAL AMEN.

POSTLUDE.

*Please join us for fellowship time in the narthex, followed by Adult Education in Dodds Hall.*

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

- **Thank you for supporting the car wash**—the youth raised over \$400 last Sunday, which will provide hygiene kits for over 20 families impacted by disasters!
- **The church provided a wonderful hot meal** at the Friendship Center of Ithaca yesterday. To take part in this ministry next month, contact Pam Pospisil at business4pam@yahoo.com.
- **Today in Adult Education:** Join the youth group as they explain what they have learned about the importance of supporting disaster relief during their lock-in. During the lock-in, they slept over at the church for a night of games, adventure and discussion.
- **Next Week in Adult Education:** Special Music Sunday is around the corner, and the theme this year is anthems on the theme of water! From the first chapter of Genesis to the last words of Revelation—"Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift"—water is a constant theme in scripture. Come hear Chancel Choir Director David Neal talk about the music for May 12; in Dodds Hall starting at 11:30.
- **Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers Concert:** Come hear many of our choir singers in this wonderful gospel group, formed in memory of a local legend, in concert here in our sanctuary: Friday, May 10, at 7pm.

- **Deacons Student Awards:** The Board of Deacons is seeking applicants for its 2024 Student Awards. Students who will be graduating from high school this year and have been active in the life of this congregation are encouraged to apply. The purpose of these Awards is to encourage and assist our students who will be pursuing their education beyond high school – trade school, community college, university, etc. For more info or to request an application please email the church office at church.fpci@gmail.com or call the church office - 607-272-2800). Completed applications are due by May 31, 2024 and should then be returned to the church office. Please contact John Weiss - jhw4@cornell.edu, Linda Sharpe llsharpe1221@gmail.com or Pastor Cindy with any questions.

- **The Prayer Chain:** We've had an active week, which was a reminder to us of the importance of sharing prayers! If you would like to be on the prayer chain, an email notice for church prayer concerns, let Pastor Cindy know (cynthia.fpci@gmail.com).

- **Would you like to help our church raise up a garden?** If you are interested, let Kirianne know! We have a church garden plot at Ithaca Community Gardens, and will plan to grow all the vegetables, herbs and flowers that you'd like to have all summer. Maybe in summer services we'll have a free fresh produce stand! Every small effort can help us all stay healthy, reduce the carbon cost of shipping, eliminate packaging, fight hunger, save a little grocery money, and come together as a strong community of faith. (Seedlings welcome—bring them to church and we'll plant them!)



**Our greeters today are:**

Marilyn Ewing, Beth Patton, and Harrison Faulkner

**Our ushers today are:**

Rick Vaughan, Judy Vaughan, Deborah Streeter, and Tom Owens

**The flowers are given by**

Elizabeth Stuelke in loving memory of my parents  
Harry and Betty Fisher in the month of their wedding anniversary

**We hold in our prayers:**

David Brown; Elmer Ewing; Carolyn Grulich; Tom Hurst; Betsy Mann;  
Mark Radice; Vivian and Jim Russell; Marj Smart; Bob Stull;  
and Tinny Oey, now back at Cayuga Nursing and Rehab;  
and Stella and her family, following the sudden death of  
her nephew, Ken, in the aftermath of a heart attack;

**CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28:**

- 9:30 am Nursery Available (Second Floor)
- 10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 am Sunday School (Second Floor)
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time (Narthex)
- 11:20 am Adult Education (Dodds Hall)
- Youth Group (Youth Room Second Floor)
- Youth Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)

**MONDAY, APRIL 29:**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 30:**

- 9:00-1pm FPCI Office Hours
- 6:30 pm Tai Chi (Narthex)
- 7-8 pm AA Meeting (Dodds Hall)
- 7-9 pm Irish Music (2nd floor classroom)

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1: FIRST DAY OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE**

**MONTH**

- 9:00-1pm FPCI Office Hours
- 9:30 am Al-Anon (Fireside Room)
- 7-9:30 pm Finger Lakes Pipe Band

**THURSDAY, MAY 2:**

- 9:00-1pm FPCI Office Hours
- 6:30 pm Community Game Night (Dodds Hall)
- 7:30-9 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7-9 pm YFN Music (2nd floor classroom)

**FRIDAY, MAY 3:**

- 9:00-1pm FPCI Office Hours

**SATURDAY, MAY 4:**

- 6-9 pm Open Doors English Event (dinner and concert)

**SUNDAY, MAY 5: CINCO DE MAYO**

- 9:30 am Nursery Available (Second Floor)
- 10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 am Sunday School (Second Floor)
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time (Narthex)
- 11:20 am Adult Education (Dodds Hall)
- Youth Group (Youth Room Second Floor)
- Youth Choir rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 12:30-2 pm Deacons (Dodds Hall)

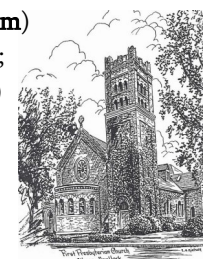
**The First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca**

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For more info, please visit our website at [www.firstpresithaca.org](http://www.firstpresithaca.org)



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ITHACA**



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Following Christ's teachings,  
we are fully inclusive in  
membership and leadership.

A congregation proud  
to be PC(USA).

**APRIL 28, 2024: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

*This service is being livestreamed! You can view services on our website.  
Please share your name in the Friendship pads at the end of each pew.  
Numbered hymns are found in the purple hymnals in the pew racks.*

PRELUDE.

WELCOME:

Rev. Kirianne E. Weaver

\* CALL TO WORSHIP:

Liturgist: Moo Eh Soe Mya

One: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

**All: my vows I will give before those who fear you.**

One: The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

**All: those who seek you shall find and praise you.**

One: May your hearts live forever!

**All: All the ends of the earth shall remember,**

One: and turn to you;

**All: and future generations shall hear it.**

*from Psalm 22*

One: With thanks for your steadfast love:

**All: Let us worship God!**

\* HYMN #238:

**"Thine Is the Glory"**

*Judas Maccabeus*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver

**God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us to find our voice. When we are afraid to forgive and to love again, forgive us and give us the power to forgive. When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, forgive us and join with the weak to make us all strong. When we are confined by our hurts, forgive us and touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, forgive us and pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace...**

*Time for silent confession.*