

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: ...Friends, believe the good news of the gospel
All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**
One: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

PASSING THE JOY OF CHRIST:

One: The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,
for he is risen.
All: **He is risen indeed!**
One: Alleluia!

* PEACE RESPONSE:

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S TIME.

Children may follow the teachers to Godly Play. When you pick up your children after the service from the second floor, please sign them out or provide other pick-up instructions.

* HYMN #274: "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" Picardy

THE EARLY CHURCH: Acts 1: 6-14 p. 118 NT

THE GOSPEL: John 17: 1-11 p. 111 NT

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

ANTHEM: "The Lord Ascendeth up on High" M. Praetorius

The Lord ascendeth up on high, The heavens with joy receive their Lord,
The Lord hath triumphed gloriously, By saints, by angel hosts adored;
In power and might excelling; O day of exultation!
The grave and hell are captive led. O earth, adore thy glorious King!
Lo! He returns, our glorious Head, His rising, his ascension sing
To his eternal dwelling. With grateful adoration.

Our great High Priest hath gone before,
Upon his Church his grace to pour;
And still his love he giveth.
O may our hearts to him ascend;
May all within us upward tend
To him who ever liveth!

THE MESSAGE: "A Constant Prayer Rev. Cindy Weaver

"All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer..." Acts 1:14

* MESSAGE RESPONSE

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. Fugue in F major V. Lübeck

* 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 the Confession of 1967*

**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.**

THE 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 #317: "In Christ There Is No East or West" McKee

* BENEDICTION.

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE:

POSTLUDE: Praeludium in F Major V. Lübeck

Please join us for fellowship time in the narthex following the service: serving snacks and coffee, but most of all friendship.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

- **Adult Education Today:** "A Mission to Ithaca's Unhoused and Underserved" will be led by Deborah Wilke, Homeless Crisis Alleviation Coordinator. Deb is a friend and advocate to individuals residing in Ithaca's Jungle. She works collaboratively to assist in coordinating services and building a bridge to safe, permanent housing. Deb says about this volunteer work, "...I've observed God's power in transforming lives and that there's no limit to God's grace." Join us in Dodds Hall at 11:25.
- **Pentecost Sunday is next week, May 28!** If you can, wear red! We will gather the Pentecost offering along with our usual offering, and celebrate with a procession of wind and fire. A couple other things are happening that Sunday, as well:

- **SERVICE AUCTION CARDS are due next week!** If you haven't turned yours in, you have one more week—or can send us the information by email or via the online form (check out the website at firstpresithaca.org!)
- **The Narthex Bulletin Board** will be turned over to a new season—from Easter to Pentecost, which lasts through the summer. Please share with us things happening in your life and world, as we would love to keep in touch with one another beyond the walls of the church!
- **Printed Church Directories** will be available next week. We have had additions since our last printing, so feel free to pick up a new one if you don't prefer to use the Instant Church Directory app. If you would like to be in the directory and haven't given us permission to include your info, please contact the church: church.fpci@gmail.com, or 607-272-2800 Tues through Fri, 8a-1p.
- **Next Sunday in Adult Education:** It is Pentecost Sunday, so join us for a Bible Study about Pentecost led by Rev. Kirianne. We'll take a brief look at the history and significance of the Jewish holiday, and then trace the appearance of the Holy Spirit as wind and fire in the Biblical texts up to Acts. In the breadth of history covered and also the closeness of the Biblical reading, we hope you will gain much; in Dodds Hall following fellowship time, May 28.
- **Sunday, June 4** is the Church Picnic! Stay for lunch after the service and enjoy what we hope will be beautiful weather and the ambience of Dewitt's IthacaFest concert by the Opus Ithaca choirs!
- **Sunday, June 11** is the Service Auction—and a lot of fun. You won't want to miss it; stay after worship to enjoy bidding, laughing, or just learning about the many talents of the congregation!
- **Join the choir!** June 11 is the last day for the choir this Spring, but if you loved Special Music Sunday, perhaps you want to join this great group of singers! All are welcome. Contact David Neal to let him know of your interest: david.neal09@gmail.com.
- **The Worship, Music and Spiritual Life committee** is welcoming new members. Please consider sharing your time and talents to assist this team with planning small group studies, supporting the choir and other worship activities. See Sylvia Reeves or contact her at wxlady@icloud.com OR 860-810-8296.

Our greeters today are:

Marilyn Ewing, Beth Patton, and Harrison Faulkner

Our ushers today are:

Our flowers this morning are given by Fred and Susan Van Sickle, in memory of Jim Van Sickle.

We hold in our prayers: Tom Hurst; Betsy Mann; Gayle Park; Vivian Russell; and Mark Radice; and we extend our sympathies to the family of Jim Van Sickle, following his passing.

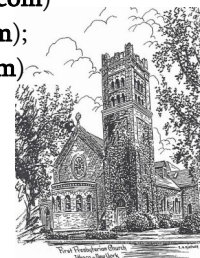
CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

- SUNDAY, MAY 21: ASCENSION SUNDAY**
 9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 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)
- MONDAY, MAY 22:**
 7:00 pm Monday Evening Study Group (Zoom)
- TUESDAY, MAY 23:**
 6:30 pm Tai Chi (Narthex)
 7:00 pm AA Meeting (Dodds Hall)
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 24: Session Materials due**
 2:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
 6:30 pm Finger Lakes Pipe Band (Third Floor)
- THURSDAY, MAY 25:**
 6:30 pm Community Game Night (Dodds Hall)
 7:00 pm Irish Music Group (Second Floor)
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- FRIDAY, MAY 26.**
- SATURDAY, MAY 27.**
- SUNDAY, MAY 28: PENTECOST SUNDAY**
 9:00 am Youth Group (Second Floor)
 9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 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)
 11:25 am Adult Ed (Dodds Hall)
 12:30 pm Session Meeting (Dodds Hall)

The First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca
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For more info, please visit our website at www.firstpresithaca.org and find us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ITHACA



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firstpresithaca.org

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

A congregation proud to be PC(USA).



MAY 21, 2023: ASCENSION SUNDAY.

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.

PRELUDES: Easter selections from Orgelbüchlein J.S.Bach

WELCOME: Rev. Kirianne Weaver

* CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 68* Liturgist: Elder Roy Colle

One: Let God rise up, and let the LORD's enemies be scattered.

All: Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

One: Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;

All: lift up a song to the rider upon the clouds whose name is the LORD.

One: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord;

All: Listen for the Lord's mighty voice, the rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens.

One: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.

All: Awesome is God, the God of Israel, who gives power and strength to the people of God. Let us worship God!

Our acolyte today is Moo Eh Soe Mya Soe

* HYMN #260: "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" *Hyfrydol*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

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.

Time for silent confession.