

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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

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

PASSING THE JOY 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 alle-luia, 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 be dropped off at the nursery (ages 0-4), and all children should be picked up at their rooms following the service.*

\* HYMN #779: "How Long, O God?" *Land of Mercy*  
READING: Genesis 10: 1-9 p. 8 OT  
CHORUS: "Let Nimrod, the Mighty Hunter" Britten  
"Hallelujah from the Heart of God"  
READING: Psalm 150 p. 583 OT

CHORUS: "For I Will Consider My Cat" Britten  
"For the Mouse"  
"For the flowers are a great blessing"  
Soprano: Amara Evans  
Mezzo soprano: Sarah Smith  
Baritone: Joe Kaffen

READING: Mark 3: 20-30 p. 37 NT  
CHORUS: "For I Am Under the Same Accusation" Britten  
READING: Romans 8: 31-39 p.158-159 NT  
One: The Word of the Lord.  
All: **Thanks be to God!**

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: "For H Is a Spirit" Britten  
"For the Instruments Are by Their Rhimes"  
Bass-baritone: Geoff Royall

\* 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.

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 #783: "When We Are Tested" *Angels of Healing*

BENEDICTION: "For at That Time Malignity Ceases" Britten  
"Hallelujah from the Heart of God"

POSTLUDE: "Basse et Dessus de Trompette" L. N. Clèrambault

*Join us after the service for fellowship time with coffee and cookies, followed by Adult Education downstairs in Dodds Hall!*



## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:

- **Benjamin Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb"** is the piece the choir presents today for Special Music Sunday. Last week in Adult Education we heard from our conductor, Dr. David Neal, about the composer and lyricist. Britten (1913-76) was a towering creative voice in the British musical scene, composing orchestral works such as the "War Requiem" (1962) and operas, including "Peter Grimes" (1945) and "Billy Budd" (1951).

Christopher Smart (1722-1771), who penned the text of today's work, was a poet whose fame is always mentioned alongside his personal tragedies. He was a respected Fellow at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and there and afterwards was a frequent contributor to many publications. However in 1757, at age 35, his father-in-law took out a "Commission of Lunacy" against him, perhaps because of debts or a poor relationship, though the stated reasons were immorality and "religious zeal". He worked on his most famous poems there, *Jubilate Agno* and *A Song to David*. His confinement in the asylum ended in 1763.

His troubles, however, were not over. He received an advance for a new translation of the Psalms, but his father-in-law funded an alternate translator and hired away Smart's publisher, leaving him in debtor's prison. He was granted some freedoms, but lived only a year after this final confinement, dying either from liver failure or pneumonia.

We encourage you to look up the work of Christopher Smart and to take your own stock of his poetic and always faithful expressions. Was he mad, or was he brilliantly creative, giving voice to new ways of communicating God's grace, which is always greater than words can convey?

- **Today 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.
- **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:** Our own Hector Aguilar-Carreno, Cornell professor of virology, will tell us about a new vaccine platform that could permit a single vaccination to provide protection against multiple virus diseases. This could include, for example Covid-19 and influenza with broader immunity to different flu strains. Having multiple viral targets will make the vaccines cheaper to manufacture. This, along with their thermostability, should make them more accessible around the globe. Hector is senior author of the publish research.
- **A New Members Class :** 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 in the Fireside Room. If you would like to participate, we welcome you – contact Kirianne at kirianne.fpci@gmail.com for more information!

### Our ushers this morning are:

Rick Vaughan head, with Judy Vaughan, Deb Streeter, and Tom Owens

### 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

### 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) and find us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ITHACA



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



## MAY 11, 2025: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE: "Rhosymedre" R. Vaughan Williams

WELCOME. Rev. Kirianne Weaver

INTROIT: "Rejoice in God, O Ye Tongues" Benjamin Britten

\* CALL TO WORSHIP: (*Psalm 118*) Rev. Cynthia Weaver

One: Better to take refuge in God than to trust in human beings.

**All: Better to take refuge in God than to follow leaders.**

One: The peoples were swarming around me,

**All: but I stood my ground in the name of God.**

One: They swarmed round me closer and closer,

**All: but I stood my ground in the name of God.**

One: They swarmed round me like bees,

**All: but they died like thorns in the bonfire.**

One: I was pressed, pressed, about to fall,

**All: but God came to my help.**

One: God is my strength and my song;

**All: God has become my salvation!**

One: Raise shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the upright:

**All: God's right hand is doing mighty acts!**

One: God's hand is winning! No, I will not die;

**All: I will live to proclaim the works of the Lord.**

\* HYMN #363: "Rejoice, the Lord Is King!" *Darwall's 148th*

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**