

# Everybody's Church



First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, April 14, 2024, 8:30am, Third Sunday of Easter

## Vision Statement

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

## Inclusion Statement

As Everybody's Church we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other life circumstance.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Nyiri

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.

Many: **From the waters of death, you raise us with him and renew your gift of life within us.**

One: Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of life with you, through Christ our Lord.

Many: **We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song!**

All: **Let us worship God!**

†HYMN 260

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## UNISON 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.

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†OUR RESPONSE 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

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.

†When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or in spirit.

Please join in reading those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Hymntune: HYFRYDOL

Confession acknowledges the reality of sin in our personal and corporate lives. This practice relieves us from the burden of sin and reminds us of the promise of God's forgiveness and grace sealed in our baptism.

We are an intentionally inclusive congregation and value the richness of worshiping with all God's people. There are times in the sanctuary when shouts or other loud noises may occur. We accept these without judgment, unless they are signs of distress in need of attention.

## †PASSING OF THE PEACE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

### SECOND TESTAMENT READING

John 15:12-17

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

“Friendship”

Rev. Lou Nyiri

*“I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.”  
– John 15:15*

### MEDITATION

“Sound Over All Waters”

Halley

Beth Lackey, soloist

*Members and guests, please sign the Fellowship Pads  
to let us know of your presence with us.*

### INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

#### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Why do we give thanks and praise before this Table?

People: **We give thanks for God’s work of creation, liberation, and salvation.**

Please follow along with the reading on page 616 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

Please follow along with the reading on page 109 of the New Testament in your Pew Bible.

All that we have is a gift from God. In gratitude, we return a portion of those blessings to the work of God in the church.

Leader: ... who forever sing to the glory of Your name..

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, Heav - en and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, - ho -  
san - na in the high - est.

“Holy, Holy” Land of Rest,  
Words and Music: Richard  
T. Proulx © 1986, 2011 GIA  
Publications Inc.; Reprinted  
with permission under ONE  
LICENSE #A-702958. All  
rights reserved.

*A prayer of thanksgiving for the ministry of Jesus, offered by the pastor.*

Leader: Why do we eat bread at this Table?

People: **On the night before He died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks He broke it, gave it to His disciples, and said, “Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Leader: Why do we drink from the cup at this Table?

People: **The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Leader: What do we remember at this Table?

People: **We remember God’s gracious love for us, Christ’s death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit’s tender care for us.**

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*A prayer calling on the Holy Spirit, followed by prayers of thanksgiving, intercession, and supplication.*

All: **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.**

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*All persons are invited to come forward and partake first of the bread, and then the cup in order to be strengthened by Christ's presence and power in the sacrament. All the communion wafers are gluten-free.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

†HYMN 465            "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

## †BENEDICTION

---

Andrew Herbruck, Director of Music Ministries, is playing the service.

The flowers today are given in loving memory of their parents, Allen and Vivian Parrish, long-time members of this church, by Walt and Sandra Ebling and family.

Visitors, thank you for joining us today; please sign the Fellowship Pad or use this QR code to register your attendance:



## Many Ways to Give at FPC

To contribute online visit the giving tab (using the QR code) or go to [www.everybodyschurch.org](http://www.everybodyschurch.org).



Text "GIVE" to



248-600-4919

Hymntune: CONVERSE

Welcome in Christ's name to First Presbyterian Church! You are welcome here just as you are at whatever place in your spiritual journey that you find yourself. If you have any questions about who we are, what we believe, or what we do, please ask one of our elders or pastors. They will be pleased to visit with you. Please know that you are invited to join us for coffee and goodies following the service in Calvin Hall.