

Everybody's Church



First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Sunday, April 21, 2024, 10:00am, Fourth 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

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

INTROIT

"Grant Us Thy Peace"
Chancel Choir

Mendelssohn

The music this morning is offered as an act of worship, therefore, please refrain from applause.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joe Schlafhauser

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 410

"God Is Calling through the Whisper"

Hymntune: W ZLOBIE LEZY

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Martha Piesko

After Time With the Younger Church, children 3 years old—5th grade will proceed to their classrooms.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Charlotte Sommers

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.

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.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†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.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word.

Many: **Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit
so we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 46

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

John 20:11-18

One: The word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Do You Hear It?”

Rev. Lou Nyiri

“Be still, and know that I am God!” – Psalm 46:10

INSTALLATION AND ORDINATION OF OFFICER Sandra Karam, Clerk of Session

One: There are different gifts,

Many: **but it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

One: There are different ways of serving God,

Many: **but it is the same Lord who is served.**

One: God works through different people in different ways,

Many: **but it is the same God who achieves God’s purpose
through them all.**

One: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit

Many: **to use it for the common good.**

One: Together we are the body of Christ,

Many: **and individually members of him,**

One: though we have different gifts...

Presentation of the Officer

Representing the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, the Session of First Presbyterian Church now brings Emily Tobias to be ordained and installed to the office of Deacon.

Constitutional Questions of Officers

Questions of the Congregation:

Clerk: Do we, the members of the church, accept Emily Tobias as Deacon, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Congregation: **We do.**

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.

Please follow along with the reading on page 517 of the Old Testament in your Pew Bible.

Please follow along with the reading on page 114 of the New Testament in your Pew Bible.

Clerk: Do we agree to encourage her, to respect her decisions and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

Congregation: We do.

Laying on of Hands and Welcome

OFFERING INFORMATION

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

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND RESOURCES

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Rejoice the Lord is King”
Chancel Choir

Archer

†THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 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.

†HYMN 755

“Alleluia! Laud and Blessing”

Hymntune: WEISSE FLAGGEN

†BENEDICTION

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!”

Willan

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

Our liturgist this morning is Joe Schlafhauser. Joe Schlafhauser and his wife, Polly, have been members of the church since 1999, where they have raised their four daughters in the faith. Joe is currently on Session and has been an usher for 24 years. He has also served three terms as a Deacon.

The flowers in the Chancel today are “in loving memory of our beloved Father and Grandfather, Lloyd E. Reuss, on the one year anniversary of his passing. You were always our Hero throughout our lives, and now also our Guiding Angel in Heaven. We miss you every single day. With love forever, Charlene, Nick, and Grace Grandelius”

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



The service of worship concludes following the postlude. Please take this time to reflect on the day’s worship.

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.

410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
 2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
 3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
 through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
 through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
 Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
 Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
 God is call - ing—can you hear? God is call - ing—can you hear?
 God is call - ing—and we hear! God is call - ing—and we hear!



This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

755 Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

(Psalms 111 and 112)



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Laud and bless - ing to our God, whose Word is sure;
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! God sus - tains us; match - less are the gifts we share;
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Ho - ly Par - ent, all your chil - dren now re - claim;



by whose grace we find re - demp - tion, in whose love we live se - cure.
 light in dark - ness, hope in con - flict, an - swers to our deep - est prayer.
 may our lives re - flect your jus - tice, heirs to your most sa - cred name.



Righ - teous - ness and rich com - pas - sion shall at - tend us all our days;
 Ours to give as we are giv - en: arms to lift when oth - ers fall;
 Fill our hearts with un - der - stand - ing, brace our weak - ness by your might;



may God's prom - ise to be faith - ful ech - o through our songs of praise!
 im - ag - es of God's great good - ness, faith - ful ser - vants to God's call.
 awe - some hon - or, born in wis - dom; your great glo - ry, our de - light!



Psalms 111 and 112 are appropriately brought together in this paraphrase. Both form acrostics: each poetic line begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order. In addition, both psalms begin with "hallelujah," and they share much vocabulary as well as a theme of praise.