

*Christ*

*the*

*Lord is*

**RISEN**

*Today*

# First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul

## EASTER DAY/FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION

March 27, 2016

10:00 a.m.

*\*please stand in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE

“Alleluia”

Honoré

WELCOME & GATHERING

Katie Estes

INTROIT

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!”

Vulpus

Festival Choir, Jubilation Ringers

*Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!*

*To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia!*

*The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away.*

*Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia!*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

This is a great and joyous festival day.

Come together to celebrate amazing good news.

**We gather for worship in awe and wonder.**

**The stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty;  
death is not the final word!**

Sing songs of praise, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

**God has answered our prayers with salvation.**

**Jesus Christ is alive and we, too, shall live.**

Open your hearts and minds to the risen Christ among us.

You are greeted by name and welcomed here.

**This is the day that the Lord has made;**

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

\*HYMN

“Thine Is the Glory”

Hymnal # 238

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Tom Watson

**On this day of celebration and new life, dear God, we are mindful that we hold on to what is familiar and habitual. Forgive us for preferring ways of negativity and death to the adventure and joy you offer us each moment.**

**Pardon us for reacting in fear when we hear or see things we do not understand. Grant us new life as you have gifted us with Christ's resurrection. Teach us what it means to be transformed this very day, as a forgiven and holy people. In Christ we ask it. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (responsive)

This is the Good News: the tomb is empty,  
death is conquered, sin has lost its power!

**We are a new people, shaped by the Risen Lord into new life forever.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE**

“Christ Is Alive!”  
(vs. 1, 5)

*Hymnal # 246*

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (unison)

Sue McDaniel

**God of Easter day and every day, break through the defenses we have built to shut you out. Meet us at the tombs we visit in our despair, and call us by name once more. Fill us today with the joy of trusting and believing, that we might share with your world the story of your love. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURES**

Isaiah 65: 17-25

*O.T. p. 696*

**ANTHEM**

“Yonder Come Day”

*arr. J. David Moore*

Festival Choir with Erin Reykdal, solo

*Oh, day, yonder come day, day done broke in-a my soul, yonder come day.*

*Well it's a singin' day...*

*Well it's a prayin' day...*

*Well it's a cryin' day...*

*I was on my knees...when I heard him say...*

*Sing Hallelujah day!...*

**GOSPEL**

Luke 24: 1-12

*N.T. p. 90*

**SERMON**

**Believing Nonsense**

Katie Estes

**\*HYMN**

“Because You Live, O Christ”

*Hymnal # 249*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**RECEPTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS**

INVITATION TO SHARE

OFFERTORY

“Risen, Hallelujah!”  
Bells of Praise

*arr. Wagner*

**\*RESPONSE**

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Hymnal # 607*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

**Alleluia, Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! O resurrected Christ, we celebrate this day, the promise for all time of your unending love. Accept our gifts of celebration and praise, and let them become a celebration of your love in all the world. We praise your holy name, this day and always. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

“Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna”  
(vs. 1-2)

*Hymnal # 248*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Go forth believing what ears and eyes have revealed:  
Jesus Christ is alive among us today.

**We have gathered at the tomb, stooped and looked in.  
It is empty, thanks be to God!**

Now return to your homes, amazed at what has happened,  
and spread the word that Christ has been raised up for us!

**We go out into the world to tell the good news  
and share the blessing of God with people everywhere!**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

**RESPONSE**

“Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna”  
(v. 3)

*Hymnal # 248*

**POSTLUDE**

“Excerpt from Symphony #1”

*Vierne*



**SERVING US TODAY**

**Greeters:** Virginia Bohmert, Becky Finkle

**Ushers:** Vicki & Morgan Campbell, Jodelle Ista, Harlan Lee

**Lector:** Sue McDaniel

**Acolyte:** Joe Rossow

**Coffee Server:** Syd Lee

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**Director of Music & Bells:** Linda Kachelmeier

**Organist:** Jen Bierlein

**Pastors:** Katie Estes, Tom Watson

**Youth Coordinator:** Ruth Buller

**Church Administrator:** Eleta Pierce

**Prayer Chain Contact:**

Church Office (651) 451-6223

# First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul

535 20th Avenue North, South St. Paul, MN 55075

651-451-6223 · [www.fpcssp.org](http://www.fpcssp.org)

**Welcome** to First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul. We are delighted that you have joined us to worship the Living God. **If you are a first time worship guest**, we extend a special welcome to you. Know that as our guest, you are invited to participate in any of the programs offered and we do not expect you to contribute when the offering is received. Today, your presence with us is your offering to God.

**Photos and/or video may be taken during this worship service.** FPC-SSP reserves the right to use said photos or video in church publications, including, but not limited to, bulletins, newsletters, the church website, and social media sites. If you prefer not to appear in these photos or video, please talk to one of the ushers.

**If you have a prayer request**, please use the yellow request cards in the pews. Give the card to an usher before worship or during the first hymn so it can be included in our prayers of the people today and passed on to the prayer chain as well.

**Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service.** We also have professional childcare available for infants and children up to 5 years. The nursery is located at the top of the stairs in the upper level of the Education wing and is always available on those days your child may be restless. If you have an infant who begins to cry during the service, feel free to go into the library with your child and continue to hear the service on the speaker.

**Please join us after the worship service for a time of fellowship in the Commons.** Coffee, juice and treats are available for a minimal charge for members and at no cost for guests. Come and connect with old and new friends as we enjoy fellowship together.

## On The Calendar

### **Today, March 27**

*Easter Sunday*

- 7:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
- 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

### **Monday, March 28**

*Church Office Closed*

- 4:00 p.m. CPM
- 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

### **Wednesday, March 30**

- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Jubilation Ringers
- 6:15 p.m. Bells of Praise
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 7:15 p.m. Festival Choir

### **Thursday, March 31**

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Study

### **Friday, April 1**

- 7:00 p.m. First Friday Film Forum
- 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

### **Saturday, April 2**

- 4:00 p.m. Watson/Dunaisky Wedding

### **Sunday, April 3**

- 8:30 a.m. Education for All
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Mission Trip Information

## Next Sunday, April 3



**Scripture:** John 20:19-31

**Theme:** Second Sunday of Easter

**Music:** "Hail Thee, Festival Day!" by Vaughan-Williams

**Adult Education:** "Bees, Our Precious Pollinators" JoAnne Sabin, Beekeeper

### Announcements

**The church office will be closed tomorrow, March 28, to give the staff a day of rest after Holy Week and Easter.**

**Help us Pack the Pew with food for Neighbors' Food Shelf!** Today is the last Sunday to participate in the *March FoodShare* drive, a state-wide effort to help replenish the food shelves. If you didn't bring a bag of can food for the pew this morning, we'll be happy to do the shopping for you through *CobornsDelivers* and add it to the what we give to Neighbors this week. Mark your donation with "Food Drive" in the memo line.

**Re-Roof, Re-Pair, Re-Store.** Have you turned in your pledge card for the three-year campaign to pay off our roof loan and handle various repairs (\$150,000) and restore our organ (\$35,000)? Pledge cards are in the pew pockets this morning - just fill yours out and drop it in the offering plate - the campaign begins this month and extends through February 2019. It would be great to see 100% participation in this important effort to care for our church facilities and our wonderful organ. Thank you!

**Spring is here—let's talk plants and more importantly, BEES!** During next Sunday's Adult Education class, we'll learn about "Bees, Our Precious Pollinators." JoAnne Sabin, an experienced beekeeper and beekeeping instructor, will share many insights about bees, including why they are so important to us, how they pollinate, what other creatures pollinate, the challenges pollinators face in today's world, and what people can do to help them survive.

**Gertens Plant Cards are available for purchase** at the Scrip table in the Commons this morning. Scrip cards ordered last week are available for pick up as well.

**Our celebration of Easter continues with the movie *Risen* on Friday, April 1.** *Risen* is the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer. *Clavius*, a powerful Roman military tribune, and his aide, *Lucius*, are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion, in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem. The movie is rated PG-13. Because this is a new release, we'll head to a local theater to watch together. We won't know the exact time or location until closer to that day, so let's gather at the church at 6:15 that evening to carpool.

***InVocation* singers will return to FPC-SSP on Saturday, April 9, at 7 pm, to present a concert supporting *Beacon Interfaith Housing Initiative*, a collaborative of congregations ending homelessness. Bring your friends, parents, and kids. Enjoy the music, and help end homelessness!**

**Reminder to youth and parents:** There will be a mission trip information meeting next Sunday, April 3, following worship.

**Camp in a Van will be here before you know it!** Mark your calendars for June 27-July 1, 9 am—3 pm. This day camp program is for kids entering preschool through 6th grade. Registration forms will be out soon!