First Presbyterian Church
April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Serving Christ from the heart of the city to the ends of the earth with love, faith and action.
We Gather in God’s Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”
arr. Craig Courtney
Lee Wagner, Piano

Call to Worship

The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want. God leads us beside still waters and restores our soul.
Even in the darkest valley, God is with us and we shall not fear.
God anoints our head with oil, our cups overflow.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,
and we shall dwell in the house of God forever.

Hymn

“For All That Dwell Below the Skies”
No. 327

Prayer of Confession

We are predictable people, Holy God, those who often choose what is easy or convenient or safe. Instead of speaking of your love with boldness, we remain silent. Instead of embodying the truth of the resurrection, we continue to narrow our vision of discipleship. Instead of following the wild path of the Holy Spirit, we align ourselves with the status quo. Forgive us God of Resurrection, and open our eyes to the mystery of your work. Hear all our prayers, including those offered in this time of silence.

Kyrie | Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Pardon

Friends in Christ, in response to this gift of God’s grace, how then shall we live?
With gratitude, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to love
God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.
This is the way of Jesus, in whom we find life!

We Celebrate our Life Together

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and 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 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.
### We Listen to God’s Word

**Moment for Children**
Beth Thaxton

**Scripture Readings**
1 John 3:16-24, Acts 4:5-12

**Sermon**
“The Annoyance of Resurrection”
Laurie Taylor Weicher

### We Respond to God’s Word

**Hymn**
“Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”
No. 536

**Affirmation of Faith | The Confession of 1967**

*With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.*

**An Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory**
“Love Shall Be Our Token”
John Trotta

FPC Virtual Chamber Choir

**Prayer of Dedication**

### We Bear God’s Word into the World

**Hymn**
“The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound”
No. 766

**Charge and Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

*Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in Your Spirit, strong and true, our lives may be our gift to you.*

**Postlude**
“Fugue in D”
J. S. Bach

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Today’s acolyte is Sloan Wagner.

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of H. Mac Fuller and Joyce Fuller by their family.