Easter

Sunday Morning

April 5, 2026

Welcome to Easter Sunday Worship

Today is a day unlike any other. We gather to celebrate what Christians have proclaimed for centuries: that our Lord truly rose from the dead. But why do we believe this? Why the bodily resurrection?

Here are four reasons:

- **The Prophetic Scriptures:** The historical event of Jesus' resurrection occurred to fulfill the promises of the Old Testament Scriptures. A Jewish man who knew the Old Testament well and who initially hated Jesus and persecuted Christians wrote: Jesus "was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:4). Some of these Old Testament verses would include Psalm 16:10 and Isaiah 53:10.
- **The Empty Tomb:** We can identify the tombs of the founders of other religions. However, the angel's wonderful words to the women at Jesus' tomb have reverberated down through the centuries: "He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead" (Matthew 28:6-7a).
- **The Eyewitnesses:** There are many eyewitnesses who validate the historical event of Jesus' resurrection. We know that over 500 people saw Jesus in His resurrected body.
- **Transformed Lives:** The last reason we believe in the resurrection is the transformed lives of Christ's followers through the centuries. Violent persecutors like Saul became fervent preachers of the Gospel. Those who were naturally cowards became bold as lions as they willingly died a martyr's death for Christ.

What difference should the resurrection of Jesus Christ make in our lives?

First of all, the resurrection of Jesus Christ revolutionizes how we view death. Many people live in denial of their own mortality. In fact, Sigmund Freud said, "Death is a painful riddle for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be." For those who trust in Jesus, death is no longer a final, fatal and painful riddle. II Corinthians 4:14 says, "knowing that He (God) who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence." Death is not the end for a follower of Jesus.

Secondly, the resurrection of Jesus Christ revolutionizes our reason for living. We no longer fear a life of futility. We no longer live strictly for ourselves. We live for Him who died and rose again on our behalf (II Corinthians 5:15).

Leo Tolstoy posited a question that almost brought him to the brink of suicide. He asked, "What will come of what I do today or tomorrow? What will come of my entire life? Is there any meaning in my life that will not be annihilated by the inevitability of death which awaits me?"

The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that there is a purpose for your life that death cannot destroy. Through simply receiving Jesus Christ as Your crucified and resurrected Savior, you will enjoy a life-giving relationship with the God who made you and who was willing to pay an incredible price to rescue you from peril and to bring you into His presence to live forever and ever.

This is why we celebrate Easter!

ORDER FOR THE

PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

April 5, 2026 · 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Preparation for Worship

Welcome to the celebration of our Lord's resurrection!
We invite you to reflect on the following prayer
to prepare your heart for worship:

Almighty God, Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life.
Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection,
may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Praise the Risen King

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Fantasia (The Resurrection)" . . . . . Eurydice V. Osterman

CALL TO WORSHIP: Based on John 11; Revelation 5:12 . . . . . .Barton Kimbro (8:00)
Todd Erickson (9:30)
Brett Wynne (11:00)

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes though he die, yet shall he live,

And everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,

To receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!

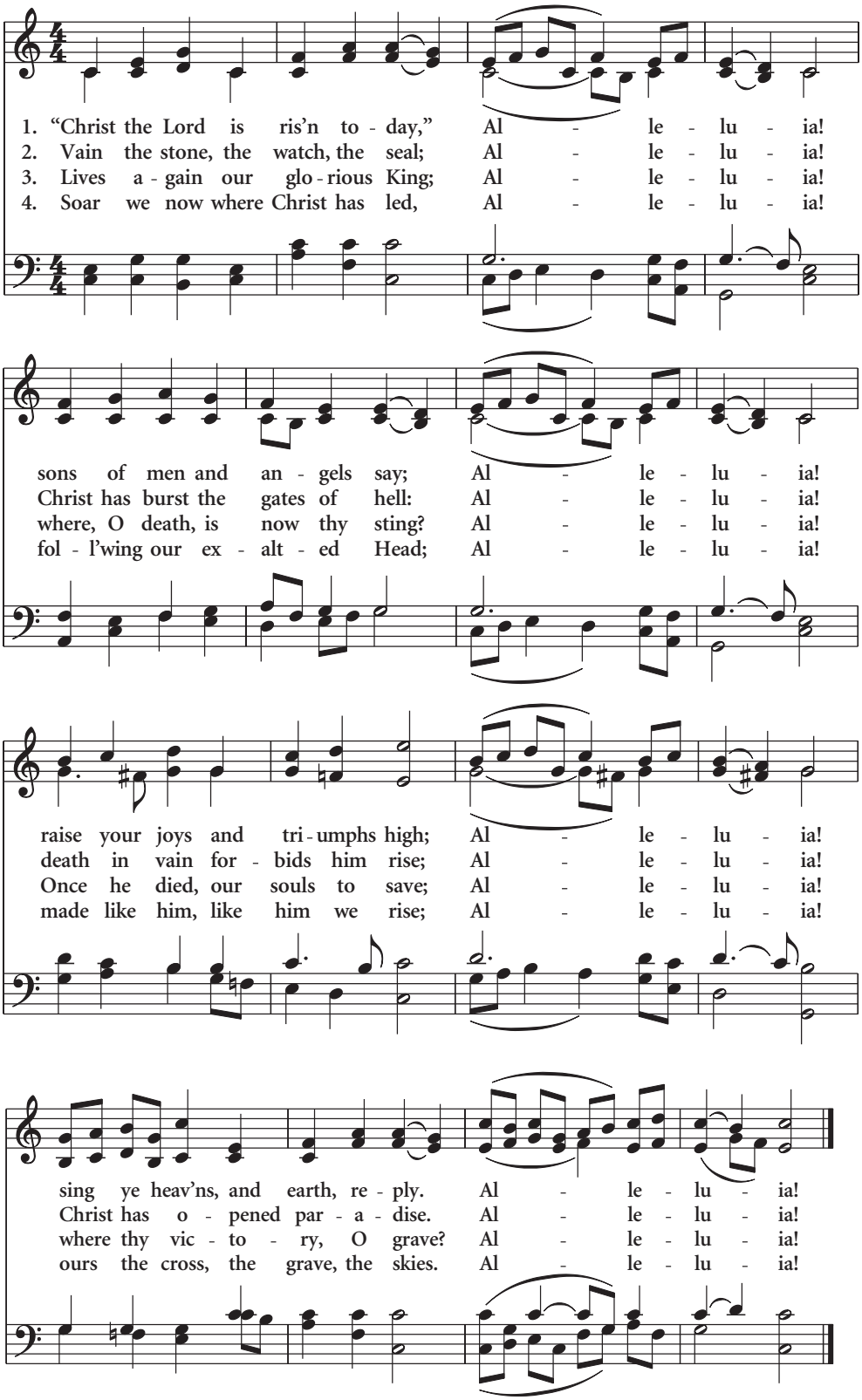
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Call to Worship: God invites us into His presence to worship in spirit and in truth—beginning a dialogue that continues throughout the service.

✠PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 233 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" . . . . . EASTER HYMN

Words: Charles Wesley / Music: Lyra Davidica; arr. John Rutter / I Corinthians 15:57



Invocation: The word invocation means "to appeal to" or "cry out to." In this prayer, we lift our hands and call on our Father to come and help us worship Him for who He is and all He has done.

✠INVOCATION

✠CONFESSION OF FAITH. . . . . Westminster Larger Catechism Question 52

Why did Christ rise and what are the benefits we receive?

Christ rose again from the dead
the third day by His own power;
whereby He declared Himself to be the Son of God,
to have satisfied divine justice,
to have vanquished death,
and Him that had the power of it,
and to be Lord of the living and the dead:
All which He did for our justification,
progress in grace, support against enemies,
and to assure us of our own resurrection from the dead at the last day.

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . EASTER HYMN

Words: Charles Wesley / Music: Lyra Davidica; arr. John Rutter / I Corinthians 15:57

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

Trust the Risen Savior

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Please kneel, if able)*

Almighty God,
You have raised Jesus from the grave
and crowned Him Lord of all.
Yet, we confess that we have not bowed before Him
or acknowledged His rule in our lives.
You have raised Jesus from the grave
and shattered the power of sin and death.
Yet, we confess we remain captive to fear
and bound by the ways that lead to death.
Forgive us, Father of mercies.
Transform us and make us new
so that we may know the joy of abundant life
given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord,
who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit now and forever.
It is in the matchless name of our Redeemer we pray.

Assurance of Pardon: Having confessed our sins, the pastor declares God's promise of forgiveness—assuring us that through Christ's atonement, those who truly repent are freed from guilt and shame by His mercy.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. . . . . Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

Give Online: *2pc.org/give*
Give by Text: *Text GIVE to (901) 410-9500 to give to the General Fund.*
Text WORLD to the same number to give to World Missions.
Give by Mail: *Second Presbyterian Church, 4055 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "To the Lamb on the Throne" . . . . . .Dan Forrest

Words: Charles Wesley / Music: Dan Forrest / II Peter 3:18

Worthy the Lamb.
Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name all victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

Worthy the Lamb, "Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"
Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

God rules in the height, Almighty to save;
Though hid from our sight, His presence we have,
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King. Worthy the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give Him His right,
All glory and pow'r, all wisdom and might;
All honor and blessing with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing and infinite love. Worthy the Lamb!

The Chancel Choir
Calvin Ellis, director

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING . . . . . .Josh Preston (8:00)
Brad Morrow (9:30)
Chuck Jacob (11:00)

✠GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN. . . . . .Sarah Logan Song
Director of Children's Ministry

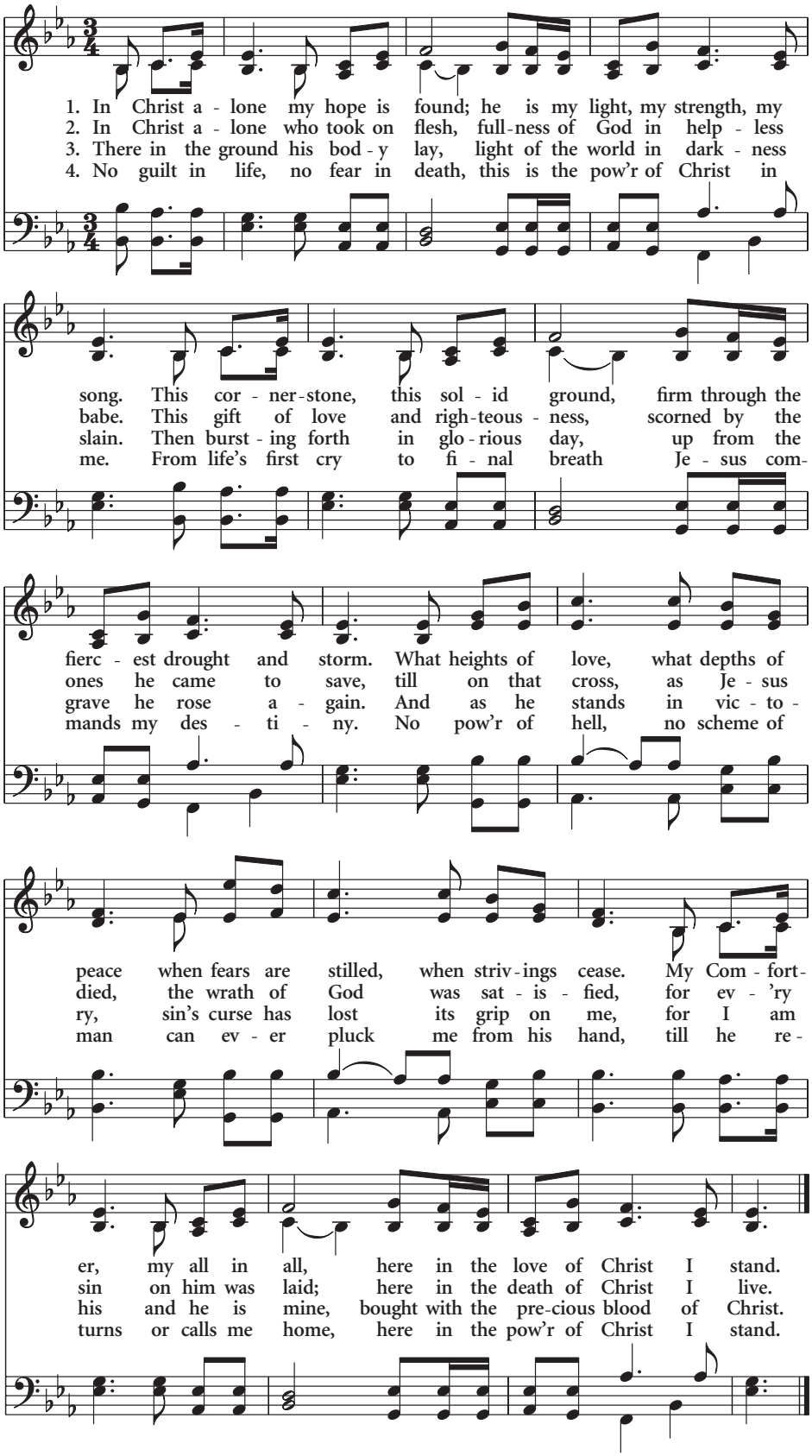
Follow the Risen Lord

✠PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD 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.

✠HYMN OF PREPARATION: "In Christ Alone" . . . . . IN CHRIST ALONE

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; arr. Arron Powell / Philippians 3:8-9



SCRIPTURE LESSON. . . . . Luke 24:13-35
(page 885 in pew Bible)

The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the Word of our God will stand forever. *(Isaiah 40:8)*

SERMON: The Resurrection of Hope . . . . . George Robertson

I. Invites Questions *(13-24)*

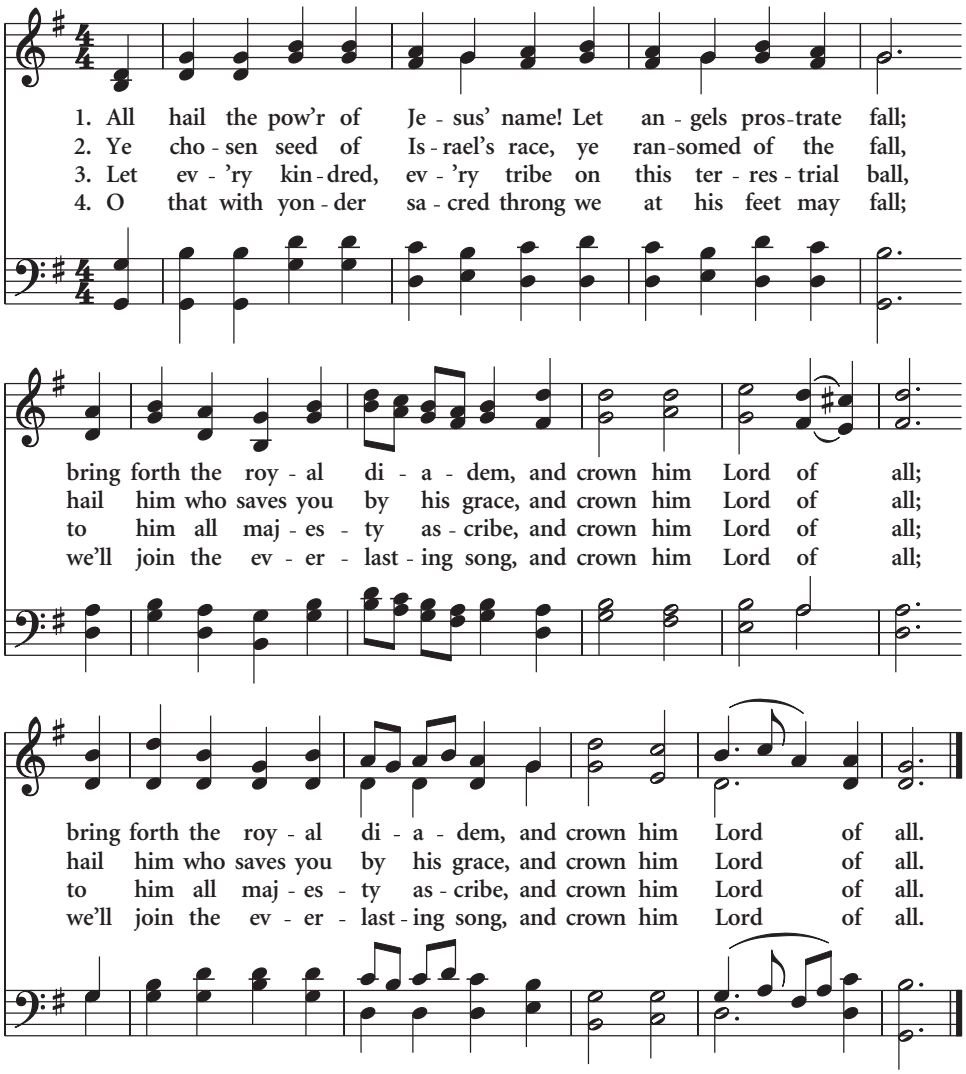
II. Corrects Falsehoods *(25-27)*

III. Warms Hearts *(28-35)*

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✠HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 259 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" . . . . . CORONATION

Words: Edward Perronet; alt. John Rippon / Music: Oliver Holden; arr. Samuel Metzger / Philippians 2:9



Benediction: God's people receive the Lord's blessing and are sent into the world, carrying the hope of the Gospel.

✠BENEDICTION

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah* . . . . . G.F. Handel

Words and Music: G. F. Handel / Luke 24:32

Congregation joins Choir to sing:

The kingdom of this world is become
The kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ;
And He shall reign for ever and ever.

King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah!

POSTLUDE: "Toccata" from *Symphony No. 5 for Organ* . . . . . Charles Widor

James Ryan, conductor

✠*Indicates congregation standing*

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Instrumentalists: Alex Schuetrumpf and Joey Moore, trumpet;
Nicholas Bratten, horn; Greg Luscombe and Rike Robinson, trombone;
Stewart Plumlee, percussion; Michael Karcz, timpani; Leo Davis, organ

We Invite You to Our Hymn Festival Next Sunday!

Dr. Ferdinand
Guest Conductor

Our music ministry is excited to welcome Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand as guest conductor for a special hymn festival titled "Then Sings My Soul: A Festival of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs" on Sunday, April 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This joyful service, built around the great hymns of our faith, will feature a wonderful blend of congregational singing, choral anthems sung by our Chancel Choir joined by singers from across our city, and orchestra (think Festival of Carols, but in the Spring!).

Dr. Ferdinand is the Artistic Director of the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Maryland. We look forward to welcoming him to Memphis for this special evening of worship through song.

Chancel Guild Memorials and Honorariums

Annually, a substantial part of the Chancel Guild's budget to decorate the church throughout the year comes from gifts given at Easter and Christmas in honor or memory of loved ones.

In Memory of:
Courtney and Daniel Shores, John Arthur Newton, John Dabney Walt, Joy and Bill Wepfer, Robert Tipton, and Liza Wellford Fletcher by the Wepfer Family; *Wilton Hazelwood, Jody Bellott, Sharon Bellott Luck, Ann Adamson, Bill Hardin, John Roberts, Judy Rogers, Connie Brady* by Lucy and John Wepfer; *Timothy Russell, Lawanna Ingram* by Katherine Russell; *Jean Laughlin* by John and Britton Laughlin; *Elaine and George Walker, Nan and Burns Landess, and Valery Mamanov* by Dee and Mike; *Benjamin and Bill Weber* by Vicki Weber; *Jerry Summerlin* by Jennifer and Joel Hobson; *Henry C. Pitts, Jr.* by his family; *Aileen Coleman* by the Nease family; *Sara Misner, Russ Billings, Tim Russell, and Lawanna Ingram* by Janet Misner; *Judy Prichard Rogers* by King Rogers and family; *Rick Collins* by the Turpin family; *Wilton Hazelwood* by Sandy Hazelwood; *Fred Rusher (Russ) Flinn, Jr.* by his family; *Liza Wellford Fletcher* by Richie, James, and Fordy Fletcher and Adele Wellford; *Elaine and Frank Oakes, Sr.* by the Oakes family; *Lucy and Howard Loveless* by Mary Morgan and Joey Friend; *Barbara Albright* by Bill Albright; *Myles Frank* by Joyce Frank; *Mrs. Pat Eason and Mrs. Betty Jennings* by Brian and Roberta Eason; *Emily Smith Britton, William J. Britton III, Elizabeth McVaugh Cross, George H. Cross, and Louise and Frank Smith* by Cynthia and Mike Cross and Family; *Walter and Allene Gordon, Mary Ann and Ian Mathison, and Margaret and Gerald Wade* by Mary Jo and Barney Gordon; *Bonnie Garmany* by Alex and Brooke Happ; *Alfred Earl Glenn* by Laura Glenn; *Bill and Dorothy Bryce* by John and Debbie Bryce; *Ralph E. Gray, Jr.* by Genie and Piper Gray; *Barbara and Kelton Morris* by Hailey, Courtney, Hale, and Kelton Williamson; *Jean Laughlin* by Mr. and Mrs. Phil Converse; *Mr. and Mrs. David Carter Shelton and Mr. Paul Watts O'Neal, Sr.* by Paul and Sarah O'Neal; *Olin F. Morris* by Mrs. Olin Morris; *Ted and Virginia Galyon* by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; *Lois Pittman and Bucky Shappley* by Patricia Shappley; *Bob and Barney Bratten* by their family; *Sean Hannah* by Jeff and Mary Hannah; *Lee Ragland, Jr.* by Dr. Carolyn Ragland; *Mr. and Mrs. John Fred Tarkington, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Anderson, and Mr. and Mrs. John Fred Tarkington, Sr.* by Ferrin T. Mavar; *John and Sue DeWald* by Pat Bogan; *Suellyn Ruffin* by Stan Ruffin; *Dorothy L. Davis and Skip Sharp* by Glenda Davis Sharp; *Herbert and Linda Rhea and Steve Rhea, Jr.* by Suzanne and Paul Burgar; *John and Margaret Whittemore and Russell and Rachel Schulte* by John and Marilyn Whittemore; *Carolyn Russell and Rev. Tim Russell* by Smoky Russell; *Peggy Jemison Bodine and Jean Norfleet Laughlin* by Kelly and Geordy Wells; *Dial Boyle Jackson* by her children and grandchildren; *Ruth and Buddy Morrison* by their children and grandchildren; *John T. Morrison* by his brothers; *Robert Hofstra* by Betty Hofstra.

In Gratitude for:
Vicki, Ed, and Caroline Simmons by Grace and Jim Schneider; *the women of Overflow Bible Study* by Leesa Jensen; *our host families, mentors, work placement sponsors, teachers, Fellows committee, and 2PC family* by the 2026 Memphis Fellows; *Second Presbyterian Church Foundation* by Smoky Russell; *all of the pastors* by Anonymous; *Sallie B., Mary Lynn, and The Walk Small Group* by Lucy Wepfer; *our beloved and faithful nursery teachers* by the Children's Ministry team.

In Honor of:
Dottie and Josh French, Lily French, Owen French, Bailey and Mike Kirwan, Lula Kirwan, Isla Kirwan, and Cooper Kirwan by Dot and Dick Fisher; *Chuck Coe, Todd Erickson, David Stewart, and Cyndy Wright* by Genie and Piper Gray; *Mr. and Mrs. David Jackson Bridgforth* by David, Kim, Henry, and Eleanor Bridgforth; *Sharon Jones, Sophia Bollinger, Sally Halle, and Kathe Russell* by Smoky Russell; *Laska Darling* by her family; *Mr. Finley Van Brocklin* by Anonymous; *the dedicated 2PC music staff* by Peggy and Hugh Stephens.

Second Presbyterian Church

We're so glad you're worshiping with us this Easter Sunday! Our worship times are a little different today. On typical Sundays, we gather in the Sanctuary at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. between services, and an evening service at 6:00 p.m. *(We are not meeting for Sunday School or evening worship today.)*

One of the best ways to find out what's going on at Second is to subscribe to *The Messenger,* our weekly email newsletter. To subscribe, simply scroll to the orange box at the bottom of our homepage (2pc.org) and enter your name and email address—then watch for it to arrive in your inbox on Fridays! In addition, follow @2pcmemphis on Facebook and Instagram.

Want to learn more about our church? Visit 2pc.org, call us at (901) 454-0034, or email us: pastor@2pc.org for pastoral questions or info@2pc.org for general inquiries. We'd love to hear from you!

Exploring Christianity

2pc.org/explore

Exploring Christianity is a media ministry of Second Presbyterian Church designed to give anyone with questions or doubts about Christianity a space to explore them freely.

There are also ways to follow up and find community to further explore the Christian faith.

Check out the resources currently available, and pass them along to friends, family members, and neighbors in Memphis and beyond.

Inquirers Class: April 10-12

Our Inquirers Class is a welcoming space to explore questions about the Christian faith and life in our community at Second. Over the course of the class, you'll have the opportunity to meet several pastors, staff members, and church members, as well as connect with others in the class. The class is open to anyone who would like to learn more about Second, with no obligation to pursue membership.

The next class will be held Friday, April 10–Sunday, April 12, and we'd love to have you join us! Visit **2pc.org/inquirers** for more details and to register.

Gathering on the Grounds: May 3

We are looking forward to worshiping together outside on Sunday, May 3, on the Poplar Field. We hope you'll join us and invite your friends and neighbors to come with you! This is a great opportunity to meet others from our church and enjoy time together.

We'll begin gathering at 5:00 p.m. for live music, fun, and food; worship will begin at 6:00. Dinner will be provided—burgers/hot dogs, chips, and bottled water. Bring lawn chairs/blankets for seating. Also, feel free to bring a frisbee, football, soccer ball, or anything else for a little competitive activity!

Second
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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