



First Presbyterian Church
Energized by Grace

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

11:00 AM

A SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Lectionary Texts:

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; Zechariah 10:1-12; Psalm 80:1-7; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here.

We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.



ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING — *Pastorale*

Raymond Haan

SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God, you are the source of life. Gather us together, we pray. Form us into a holy community of your own people, molding us by the breath of your Holy Spirit, and revealing in this corporate body the face of the anointed Christ. Amen.

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND PARISH LIFE

COMMISSIONING OF THE CUBA MISSION TEAM

PRELUDE — *Psalm 23*

Emma Lou Diemer

INTROIT — *How Lovely, Lord*

Hal H. Hopson

How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place; my soul is longing, fainting to feast upon your grace. The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest; and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God holds out to us the promise of new life.

Life as unpredictable, as unrehearsed, as explosive as life at the very beginning.

God calls us to respond to this gift with creativity, with joy, and with courage.

In worship, we can begin to accept this gift of new life.

Let us worship God!

† HYMN 32 — *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ELLACOMBE

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Keeper of heaven and earth, guardian of our coming and going forth, of our times of tender reflection and our moments of turmoil. Our life is fragile. We violate each other in personal relationships, as nations, as inept keepers of life's beauty. Sharpen our sensitivities. Stir in us preference for listening over speaking, for tenderness over aggression, for solidarity and community over alienation. Deepen for us the meaning of resurrection, that we not only speak words of transformation but embody those words in our life. Forgive us, and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.

† KYRIE ELEISON

Three staves of musical notation in G major and 3/2 time. The lyrics are: Lord, have mercy up on us. Christ, have mercy up on us. Lord, have mercy up on us.

† DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news;
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

† GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal, 581

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Dede Douglas Abbott

Three staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Child of blessing, Child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign, with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER READING: Psalm 23

p. 617

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *The Lord Is My Shepherd* (Psalm 23)

Howard Goodall

GOSPEL READING: Luke 10:25-37

p. 87

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON — The Compassionate Samaritan

David LaMotte

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

MOMENT FOR SILENT MEDITATION

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY — Prelude in C Major, BWV 846

J.S. Bach

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES AND OFFERINGS

† DOXOLOGY

Hymnal, 606

**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.**

† OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

GO AND WITNESS IN GOD'S NAME

† HYMN 69 — *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

HERE I AM

† BENEDICTION

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

Donald Fishel

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

POSTLUDE — *Postlude on Ellacombe*

arr. Albert L. Travis

WELCOME!

First Presbyterian Church warmly invites visitors to become a member of our family of faith. You may do so in one of the following ways:

- By Profession of Faith - The act of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and sincerely promising to live for Him. Previous baptism is accounted as valid, or the Sacrament of Baptism may be administered at the time of profession.
- By Transfer of Membership - Request our minister to contact your former church for a letter of transfer, where applicable.
- By Reaffirmation of Faith - If you have been inactive or separated from the church for some time or wish to rededicate yourself, you may be received by reaffirmation of faith.

Please contact the church office for more information.

Parents of nursery aged children please note: a nursery is provided from **8:45 am - 12:15 pm** for the following ages: Infants (0-1 years), Babies (1-3 years), Preschool (3-5 years). The nursery and pre-school rooms are located in the Education Building, first floor.

The FPC prayer chain is ready if you or someone you know is in need. Please contact Carlisle Wood at carlislewood@gmail.com or 662-832-8606. All requests are held in strict confidence.

The church has two portable defibrillators on site if a cardiac event occurs. One is located in our office hallway by the east stairwell; the other is located in the library of the Education Building.

Office Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.

Tithes and Offerings: Thank you for prayerfully supporting the missions and ministries of FPC! Every gift is greatly appreciated. Here are some ways to give:

- Completing the pledge card in the friendship register found in your pew
- Online by choosing the tab titled "Giving" at the top of the church website
(<https://fpcoxford.net/giving/>)
- Enrolling in direct deposit of withdrawal by contacting the church office.
- Scanning the QR Code provided here. Credit Card fees apply.
- Mailing gifts directly to the church office at 924 Van Buren Ave, Oxford, MS 38655

If you need assistance with any specific ways to give, please contact Frances Saralvarez at fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com, or call the church office.



TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<i>Proclaiming the Word</i>	David LaMotte
<i>Liturgists</i>	Rev. Barrett C. Milner & Rev. Andy G. Spaulding
<i>Organist</i>	Creighton Holder
<i>Ushers</i>	Teresa Flautt
	Nina Patrick
	Catherine Servati

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 21

9:00 am First Worship Service*
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes
 11:00 am Second Worship Service*
 12:00 pm Church Wide Lunch with David LaMotte
 1:00 pm David LaMotte Presentation*
 5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

Monday, April 22

6:30 pm Troop 45

Tuesday, April 23

6:00 am Men's Breakfast @ The Beacon
 10:00 am Grief Support Group
 6:30 pm UKirk

Wednesday, April 24

8:15 am Men's Bible Study
 5:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 25

12:00 pm Property Ministry Meeting
 2:45 pm Bible Study with Dave & Ruth O'Dell
 6:00 pm VIP + Youngish Adults Dinner

Sunday, April 28

9:00 am First Worship Service*
 9:45 am Sunday School Classes
 11:00 am Second Worship Service*
 3:00 pm Music at First Student Piano Recital
 5:00 pm Presbyterian Youth Fellowship

**Nursery provided*

**Are you interested in learning more? Do you have ideas to share?
 Your church staff, Diaconate, and ministry team leaders would love to hear from you!**

SESSION

Adult Faith Formation - Carole Haney (2025) & Irma Buchanan (2026)
Children & Youth Faith Formation - Catie Hester (2024) & Brynne Quick (2026)
Clerk of Session - Catherine Servati (2026)
Finance - Richard DeVoe (2024) & Brent Hardin (2025)
Membership & Hospitality - Angela Manley (2025) & Matt Nielson (2026)
Mission - David Shaw (2025) & Laura Montgomery (2026)
Personnel - Melissa Hall (2024)
Property - Bradley Goodwiller (2024) & Bo Elliott (2025)
Worship - Hale Freeland (2024)

DIACONATE

Class of 2024 - Patrick Bolen, Tommy Cribbs, Lindsey Estes, Kathy Orr Griffith, Jennifer Williams
Class of 2025: Teresa Flautt, Scotty Jimenez, David McPhail, Laura Scott, Laura Whitten
Class of 2026: Stefanie Goodwiller, Marty Mauldin, Brad Mayo, Kathy Neff, Nina Patrick

CHURCH STAFF

The Congregation	<i>Ministers</i>	Ext.
Rev. Barrett C. Milner	<i>Pastor</i> bmilnerfpc@gmail.com	3
Rev. Andy G. Spaulding	<i>Associate Pastor</i> aspauldingfpc@gmail.com	5
Rev. Allison C. Wehrung	<i>Pastor, UKirk Ministry</i> ukirk.olemiss@gmail.com	
Creighton R. Holder	<i>Director of Music</i> cholderfpc@gmail.com	4
Dave Garvey	<i>Director of FF for Children & Youth</i> dgarveyfpc@gmail.com	9
Frances Saralvarez	<i>Office Administrator</i> fsaralvarezfpc@gmail.com	6
Kate Hill	<i>Communications Director</i> kohillfpc@gmail.com	7
Wade Simpson	<i>Property Manager</i> wsimpson13@yahoo.com	
Wendy Brady	<i>Nursery Director</i> wendybrady@gmail.com	

THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY . . .

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the baptism of Dede Douglas Abbott by her family.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered during the 11:00 am service today to Dede Douglas Abbott, child of Todd and Susan Abbott, and sister of Elizabeth and Alice. We welcome Dede to the Roll of Baptized Children of the Church.

Cuba Mission Team: Please keep our Mission Team in your prayers in the days ahead as they travel to Cuba. Team members include: Ann DeVoe, Angela Manley, Barrett Milner and Greg Patton.

Pantry Volunteers: Your help is needed to staff The Pantry during the month of June! Approximately 10 volunteers are needed every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 am - 11:00 am. A sign-up genius is available in Fast Facts. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Kelley (662-832-8798) or Monte Ochs (704-763-8446).

VIP + Youngish Adults: Our next dinner will be a combined gathering on April 25 at Brent and Ramey Hardin's home. We will meet at 6:00 pm. Please bring an appetizer to share and your own beverage. Please stop by/call the church office to sign up.

4th and 5th Grade Bible Study: We are excited to host an after school Bible study for 4th and 5th graders. Students will meet with Dave and Ms. Ruth O'Dell on Thursdays from 2:45 - 3:15 pm. The Bible studies will last until May 16! Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for the kids to walk over after school, bringing as many friends with them as they would like. Come join us on the FPC front lawn for games, fellowship, and biblical teaching!

Sanctuary Floral Arrangement dates are available May 5, and June 9, and 16. To provide flowers in memory/honor of a loved one, contact Margaret Fancher at mfancher42@gmail.com or call 662-234-1359.

Mission Opportunities: FPC seeks to serve "the least of these." See Fast Facts or call the church office for more details on the following outreaches as well as other opportunities.

- **LovePacks** (lovepacksoxford.com) is an in-school pantry that provides food for 250 children in the Oxford and Lafayette county schools who experience hunger in their homes. **For the month of April, donations of peanut butter crackers are requested.** Drop your contribution by the church office anytime.
- Need a helping hand? **In Good Order** is a group of FPC volunteers available to assist members who may need a little extra help with a yard clean-up project or light home repairs.
- FPC volunteers continue to host the **Doors of Hope Step 2 Dinner** the second Tuesday of each month. It's easy! Pick up the prepared meal from Larson's, serve the meal in the fellowship hall, and sit at table with new friends.
- Each Friday from 2:30-4:00 volunteers meet at the OU Methodist kitchen for the weekly **"Food Rescue."** Left over produce from the Oxford Community Market as well as surplus food from Greek houses on campus are repackaged and taken to Oxford residents in need.
- **Memory Makers of Oxford** is a respite day service for those with memory loss. Volunteers to assist with programing and provide snacks are needed.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

FPC Members: The Family of Jean Blackston; Syd Shaw; Warner Biedenbarn; Tina and Tony Montgomery's Family; The Charles and Laura Montgomery Family; The Family of Louise Waller; Majorie Selvidge; Becky Murphey; Ann Dickins; Margaret Fancher; Mrs. Pat Atkinson; The Family of William "Wylie" Coleman; Sarah, Cliff, and Sterlin Smith; Scottye Boone; Leon McCullouch

Family and Friends: The Family of Dan Spaulding; The Family of Jeanette Wilkinson; The Family and Friends of Terry Moon; Beverly Biedenbarn; Alex Saralvarez and Family; Sigrid Long; Family of Lynda Torbert Mathers; Eileen Cheney and Family; Family of Susan Treas-Ewing; Thomas Hines; Olivia Flautt; Dr. Gladys Memnon and Friends in Bongnotte, Haiti; Family and Friends of Dr. Jack Davis Brown; Margaret Burnett; Doors of Hope Families; Lafayette County Detention Center inmates; Parchman Prison inmates; Haven House residents

U. S. Military: SSgt Jason Freeland, USAF 17th Special Tactics Squadron

Please pray, too, for those with unspecified needs.

If you wish to have a name removed or added to this list, please contact the church office.

MUSIC NOTES

As we continue in this Eastertide, we give thanks to God for the good news: **Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!** We celebrate the hope of Resurrection and abiding love of the Good Shepherd. Today's music centers around the familiar 23rd Psalm and our Lord's compassion.

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

As we gather for worship, we will hear Raymond Haan's beautiful *Pastorale*. This piece is set in ternary form (A section, followed by B section, then a return to A) and fosters a sense of constant ascension with a lyrical melody that climbs throughout the opening and ending sections. The B section offers a downward approach to the line with a meditative interlude. The prelude is a musical interpretation of *Psalms 23* by Emma Lou Diemer. Diemer has composed numerous character pieces based on Biblical passages for a variety of instruments; this piece comes from a collection of Psalms for organ solo. A true character piece, the opening and ending emulate the "still waters" and the middle section dies down ("the valley of the shadow of death") but immediately rises to new life ("I will fear no evil").

Howard Goodall's setting of the Psalm is the theme song for the BBC show "The Vicar of Dibley." While a comedy program, the message is beautiful as it was created to celebrate the ordination of women clergy in the Church of England. Listen for the purposeful repetition of "forever" at the end.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a prolific German composer during the late Baroque period. His monumental musical output enhanced the established styles of German literature through his ingenuity and adaptation of other styles and forms from across the world, particularly Italy and France. *The Well-Tempered Clavier* Book I was completed in 1722 and is a collection of preludes and fugues in all twenty-four major and minor keys. The title simply means that a single keyboard instrument (clavier) is tuned (tempered) in such a way that allows for the performer to play in all these established keys; instruments of Bach's time did not always allow for this. While Bach's preludes are meant to precede an accompanying fugue, they have their own identities, often virtuosic and free. The C major prelude is one of the most familiar of the book, beautiful in its simplistic arpeggiations that emulate a dance.

What a beautiful witness to share in the baptism of one of God's beloved children! As we welcome the newly baptized, we will hear *Lullaby on Jesus Loves Me*, an arrangement composed to remember my own daughters' baptisms. Listen closely for echoes of familiar nursery rhymes, including *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*.

Echoing "I Sing the Mighty Power of God", the postlude is Albert L. Travis' *Postlude on Ellacombe*. As we go out into the world, let us remember Christ's example of mercy and compassion and tune our hearts to the text of our final hymn: *Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*