

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
APRIL 27, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

HYMN OF PROMISE
JUDITH BROWN, PIANO

NATALIE SLEETH

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

IN THE BULB THERE IS A FLOWER
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"HYMN OF PROMISE"

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Praise God in God's sanctuary!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Praise God for God's mighty deeds! Praise God according to God's surpassing greatness!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

Let us pray -

Loving Jesus, in a broken and fearful world, you continue to reveal yourself to us each day, bringing your peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. We seek to live a life worthy of these gifts, knowing that we can never repay you. You have been our steadfast companion. Guide us still, that we might follow you before any human authority and know the saving power of your love. Amen.

* HYMN #681

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HATH MADE

"NUN DANKET ALL' UND BRINGET EHR"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess the times we have doubted Your presence and promises, like Thomas who sought proof before believing. Forgive us for questioning Your word and failing to trust in the power of your resurrection. We confess the moments we have let fear and doubt overshadow your promises of hope and life.

Thank You for gently calling us to believe, even in our doubt. Help us to trust in your resurrection, knowing that you are with us always. Strengthen our faith, renew our hope, and guide us to believe without seeing. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

*Please stand and greet those in the pews near you. Send a wave to the camera for those joining online.
We recognize how important we are to each other; we belong to each other and are stronger together.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 118:14-29

¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.
¹⁵There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
¹⁶the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."
¹⁷I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord.
¹⁸The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.
¹⁹Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
²⁰This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
²¹I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
²⁵Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.
²⁷The Lord is God, and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.
²⁸You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.
²⁹O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

ANTHEM

NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES (EASTER)

"NOEL NOUVELET"

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

(The text can be found in our hymnal, #247)

SECOND READING

JOHN 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

"PERUDO"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #231

CHRIST HAS RISEN WHILE EARTH SLUMBERS

"SUO GAN"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

* DOXOLOGY #716

GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING (Verse 1)

"BEACH SPRING"

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER- ECUMENICAL VERSION

(You are welcome to pray the Lord's Prayer with the version most familiar to you.)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

* HYMN# 817

WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT

"DUNLAP'S CREEK"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

"DENNIS"

At FPC there is a tradition of joining hands while singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" to close our service.
You are welcome to do whatever feels comfortable during this time. There is no wrong way to participate in worship!

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS ARISEN
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

"SANTO DOMINGO"

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....	David Stickler
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Mike and Cathy Levitas
Nursery.....	Jeff and Kathy Getty



WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud to be a "Big Tent Church" where everyone is welcome to join us in worshiping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life to join us. We welcome you to worship with us.

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland.

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS: Please use the orange prayer request cards, which are located in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys or concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering. The orange prayer request cards are also available in the pew racks.



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: You are welcome to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "To Families with Young Children" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship. **Nursery care is provided during worship for all**

children 4 years of age and younger!

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. You may specify live or silk flowers.

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. *[Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]*

Ways to contact Pastor Alison: 814-715-1681/revalisonpeters@gmail.com

**To help with scheduling,
please reach out to the Church Office:
301-777-3700/ firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com**

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE: as of April 20, 2025	
Total 2025 Pledges Promised	\$237,796.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 48,578.00
2025 Pledge Balance Promised	\$189,217.00
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 67,499.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 58,405.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 9,093.00

ONLINE GIVING



MONDAY, APRIL (28)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

TUESDAY, APRIL (29)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
11:00 AM STAFF MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL (30)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY (1)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY REHEARSAL

FRIDAY, MAY (2)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
7:30 PM CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

SATURDAY, MAY (3)

SUNDAY, MAY (4)

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
4:00 PM CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT
FRIDAY, MAY 2ND at 7:30 PM AND SUNDAY, MAY 4TH at 4:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

CUMBERLAND CHORAL SOCIETY'S SPRING CONCERT will be the regional premiere of JUBILATE DEO, a seven-movement work for choir and orchestra by DAN FORREST. This work brings to life the global aspect of the traditional Psalm 100 text, "O be joyful in the Lord, ALL ye lands," by setting it in SEVEN different languages which exhibit cultural influences and the composer's own style.

Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese, Zulu, Spanish and English.

"We are all connected!"

An exciting embrace of humanity!

Hope to see you!