

First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia



CELEBRATION!

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

Welcome

The Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis

Opening Acclamation

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

***Song**

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
(Refrain)

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
(Refrain)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
(Refrain)

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
(Refrain)

***Prayer** (unison)

The Reverend Laura Colee

Loving God, there is nothing that can separate us from you or your love. Not even death could keep Jesus from loving us! Thank you for raising Jesus on Easter morning and thank you for showing us that new things are possible.

Lord God, you promise to always love us, even when we make mistakes. When we fall down, your love and forgiveness lift us up again. Forgive us for when we've spoken unkindly to one another this week. Help us to choose words that are gentle and caring. Forgive us for when we've not shared with others and we've kept things for ourselves.

Teach us your generosity and compassion. Forgive us for when we've ignored others and separated ourselves from them. Help us to see the best in people and help us to forgive the worst. As we continue to pray, remind us again and again of your unending love for each one of us...

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Shine in our hearts the pur-est light of your e-ter-nal word; o -
pen our eyes to com-pre-hend the mes-sage of our Lord. A - men.

Reading the Word of God

1 John 3:16-24

Miles Vaughan

Seeing and Touching the Word

Reflections

Dr. Mullis

*Song

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

*The Apostles' Creed (unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering (You may remain seated during the Doxology.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise
God above ye heav'n-ly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us keep the feast!

Prayer after Communion (unison)

God, who takes care of each one of us, thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; now send us out into the world to tell everyone about your love. Amen.

*Closing Song

I'm Gonna Sing

I'm gonna sing when the spirit says sing. I'm gonna sing when the spirit says sing.

I'm gonna sing when the spirit says sing, and obey the spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna pray when the spirit says pray. I'm gonna pray when the spirit says pray.

I'm gonna pray when the spirit says pray, and obey the spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna cry when the spirit says cry. I'm gonna cry when the spirit says cry.

I'm gonna cry when the spirit says cry, and obey the spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna shout when the spirit says shout. I'm gonna shout when the spirit says shout.
I'm gonna shout when the spirit says shout, and obey the spirit of the Lord.

Benediction and Going Forth

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 21, 2024

Meetings This Week

Monday, April 22	Membership & Evangelism Committee	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 28	Deacons	12:30 p.m.

Earth Day Christian Education Programs - Today

Join us today at 9:45 a.m. for Earth Day programs for both adults and children. Adults will meet in the MacColl Room with Doug O'Malley, Director with Environment New Jersey and FPC member. For the children, there will be a special Earth Day Sunday School in Old Buttonwood Hall.

Twenties & Thirties Hot Sauce Tasting Lunch - Today

After 11 a.m. worship today the T&Ts will gather in the MacColl Room to taste test 10 hot sauces from Season 13 of Hot Ones over chicken and fries. Please contact Laura Colee to learn more.

Twenties & Thirties Dinner w/Christian Association At Penn

FPC T&Ts are having dinner with the Christian Association at UPenn (118 S. 37th Street) on Wednesday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Laura (youngadults@fpcphila.org).

Sojourner Truth Walk - Saturday, May 4

Please support the FPCP team for the Sojourner Truth Walk on Saturday, May 4 at 10 a.m., in support of Camp Sojourner Girls Leadership Camp, a nonprofit leadership program for girls living in Philadelphia. You can join the FPCP team for the walk or sponsor our team! For more information, visit our website or contact Jordana Woodford.

Membership at First Church

First Church is scheduling a new members class in June. If you are interested in becoming a member of First Church, please contact Rev. Laura Colee (laura.colee@fpcphila.org).

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