

First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia



CELEBRATION!
Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

Welcome

The Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis

Opening Acclamation

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

***Song**

Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

***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

Acts 8:26-40

Reagan & Wyatt Buzan

Seeing and Touching the Word

Karen Marston

Reflections

Dr. Mullis

*Song

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

*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 bless - ings flow, Praise God all crea-tures here be - low, Praise
God a-bove ye heav'n- ly host, Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Benediction and Going Forth

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia!



Meetings This Week

Sunday, April 28	Deacons	12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 1	Adult Christian Education Committee	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Facilities Committee	12:00 p.m.

Sojourner Truth Walk - Saturday, May 4

Please support the FPCP team for the Sojourner Truth Walk next 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 (missions@fpcphila.org).

Twenties & Thirties Volunteer Event

Join us as a group of T&Ts volunteer with Books Through Bars next Saturday, May 4 at 11:30 p.m. We will be filling requests for reading materials for incarcerated individuals in Pennsylvania and throughout the tri-state area. Please email Laura Colee (youngadults@fpcphila.org) if you'd like to join us!

Souls Shot Portrait Project Exhibition

On Sunday, May 5, our Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (GVPTF) invites you to attend the opening of the Souls Shot Portrait Project Exhibition after the 11 a.m. worship service in Old Buttonwood Hall. A light lunch will be served by the Deacons. The portraits are of loved ones lost to gun violence, created by local artists in conversation with grieving families. We hope that your encounter with these souls will lead you to take action. Please consider joining the GVPTF as we travel to the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg on Tuesday, May 7, with CeaseFirePA to their End Gun Violence: PA Advocacy Day. Visit ceasefirepa.org for information; contact Diane Rogers (rogerdi5115@gmail.com) if you're interested in join us on the trip.

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).

Become a Sunday School/Nursery Volunteer

We'd love to have you volunteer with our children's Sunday School or Nursery program. If you are interested in helping lead Sunday School with Pastor Laura or volunteering the nursery a few times a year, please reach out at to Rev. Laura Colee (laura.colee@fpcphila.org).

3 Ways to GIVE ONLINE

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