

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

THE SERVICE FOR THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

THE PRELUDE

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Like a mother hen, brooding over her chicks,
protecting them from the storm,

All God’s protecting presence surrounds us.

One Like a teacher,

All God smiles and says, “Try again.”

One Like a mother who comforts a hurting child,

All God kisses away all our hurts.

One Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,

All God is faithful still.

One With joy and gladness,

All Let us worship God!

THE HYMN

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Hymn to Joy

**Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.**

**Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: “Christ is risen! Get you gone!”
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!**

THE OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

O God, in whose womb the universe was conceived and nurtured, and from which all creation was birthed, we give you thanks and celebrate your fostering presence. You have brought us to this day of celebration and worship. You have nourished us with your body and blood. You have dried our tears and bound up our wounds. You have provided for us in every way. With thanksgiving and gratitude we come before you to offer our worship. Receive our praise and devotion. Amen.

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

THE FIRST LESSON

Psalm 104:24-33

One O LORD, how manifold are your works!
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

**All Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number,
creatures both small and great.**

One There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan,
which you have made for the sport of it.

**All All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**

One You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

**All You hide your face, and they are terrified;
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.**

One You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

**All May your glory, O Lord, endure forever;
may you rejoice in all your works.**

One You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

**All I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Proverbs 31:10-31

A worthy woman who can find? Her price is far beyond rubies.
The heart of her husband trusts her, and no prize does he lack.
She repays him good and not evil all the days of her life.
She seeks out wool and flax and performs with willing hands.
She is like merchant ships, from afar she brings her bread.
She gets up while it is still night
and provides nourishment for her house
and a portion for her young women.
She sets her mind on a field and buys it,
from the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
She girds her loins in strength and gives power to her arms.
She understands that her wares are good,
her lamp does not go out at night.
Her hands she reaches out to the distaff,
and her palms hold on to the spindle.
Her palm she opens to the poor,
and her hands she extends to the wretched.
She does not fear for her household because of snow,
for her whole household is clothed in scarlet.
Covers she makes for herself, linen and purple, her garments.

Her husband is famed in the gates
when he sits with the land's elders.
Fine cloth she makes, and she sells it,
a loincloth she gives to the trader.
Strength and grandeur are her garment,
and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom,
teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
She looks after the ways of her house,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her sons rise and call her happy,
her husband, he praises her,
"Many daughters have done worthy things,
but you – you surpass them all."
Grace is a lie and beauty mere breath –
a Lord-fearing woman, it is she who is praised.
Give her from the fruit of her hands,
and let her deeds praise her in the gates.

THE SERMON

Kevin Scott Fleming

"She Who Is Praised"

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

– from A Brief Statement of Faith Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE MORNING OFFERING

You may give online at <http://firstpresevansville.com/giving/>

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Spoken Prayers

The Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (*in 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.**

WE DISPERSE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE HYMN

"Faith of Our Mothers"

St. Catherine

**Faith of our mothers, living yet in cradle song and bedtime prayer,
In nurs'ry love and fireside love, thy presence still pervades the air:
Faith of our mothers, living faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, lavish faith, the fount of childhood's trust and grace,
O may thy consecration prove the well-spring of a nobler race:
Faith of our mothers, lavish faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, for youthful longing – youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision, blind our way, Thy providential care without:
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, Christian faith, in truth beyond our man-made creeds,
Still serve the home and save the church, and breathe thy spirit through our deeds:
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE