

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

“O Waly Waly”

G. Near; arr. R. Nicholls

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Come, all you weary and hurting;

All Here, find rest for your souls.

One Here, enter into the grace of forgiveness;

All Here, taste the living water of renewal.

One Come from busy weeks and anxious worry;

All Find here the stillness, like being led to green pastures;

One Songs that lift you to the heavens,

All Prayers that ease the wrinkles from your soul.

One Come and worship, for God is our Maker, our Defender, and Guide.

THE HYMN

“The Day of Resurrection!”

Lancashire

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;

The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.

From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,

Our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright

The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;

And, listening to His accents, may hear, so calm and plain,

His own “All hail!” and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth the song begin,

Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;

Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,

For Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.

THE OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Holy God, as once long ago you turned a gray dawn into a springtime alleluia, so come to us this morning and turn our sadness to joy. Call us by our own names and lead us back to the land of the living. Come, risen Christ, surprise us with your grace. Amen.

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

THE FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

“Jesus Christ, Our Savior” (BWV 626)

J.S. Bach

THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-16

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

THE THIRD LESSON

John 15:12-17

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

THE SERMON

Kevin Scott Fleming

“Now More Than Ever”

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

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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

“Though I May Speak”

O Waly Waly

**Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire.
And have not love, my words are vain; as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship and are freed.**

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

“Prelude in B minor” (BWV 544)

J.S. Bach