



**Community of Faith  
Presbyterian Church  
Second Sunday of Easter  
April 16, 2023**

**Welcome and Announcements  
Lighting of the Candle  
Centering Music**

**+Call to Worship**

L: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

**P: God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.**

L: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

**P: In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.**

L: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him, and we believe in him.

**P: For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.**

Let us pray: **God of signs and wonders, you have revealed to us that Jesus Christ is your Son and our Savior. Strengthen our faith, that we may have life in Christ's name. Amen.**

**+Hymn** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today #245*

**Call to Confession**

God has been made known to us in deeds of power, signs, and wonders, and will not abandon us if we confess the truth about our lives. Therefore, let us dare come before God, seeking forgiveness, by reading together this morning's prayer of confession:

**Prayer of Confession**

**God, you have made known to us the ways of life. Yet, too often, we put other things above you and turn from the ways of life and toward the ways of death. Forgive us and guide us back into your presence, that we may know the fullness of joy. Amen. (moment of silence.)**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

L: My friends, God is our refuge and will not abandon us. In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God.

**P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and reconciled to God! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Response** *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks (refrain only) #241*

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name! (3x)*

**The Peace**

L: Our reconciliation with God is a promise of peace and joy that we may share with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you!**

## Hearing the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

**Guiding God, send your Holy Spirit upon the reading of your Word that it may serve to show us the path of life and lead us into your presence where there is fullness of joy. Amen.**

**Scripture John 20:19-31** <sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So 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.”

<sup>26</sup>A 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.” <sup>27</sup>Then 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.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Hymn** *Thine is the Glory* #238

**Scripture 1 Peter 1:3-9** <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

<sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**Sermon**

Can I Get a Witness?

Rev. Chris White

## Responding to the Word

**Affirmation of Faith** – based on Our World Belongs to God, st. 44

**Following the apostles, the church is sent to be a witness— sent with the gospel of the kingdom to make disciples of all nations, to feed the hungry, and to proclaim the assurance that in the name of Christ there is forgiveness of sin and new life for all who repent and**

**believe – to tell the news that our world belongs to God. In a world estranged from God, where millions face confusing choices, this mission is central to our being, for we announce the one name that saves. We repent of leaving this work to a few, we pray for those who suffer for the faith, and we rejoice that the Spirit is waking us to see our mission in God’s world.**

### **Offering Prayer**

L: Friends, we have no good apart from God. Therefore let us keep God at the forefront of our minds and give generously from all that we have been given, that others may also receive from the fullness of God. Let us pray:

**P: Generous God, you are our portion and our cup. In you our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest. Bless and multiply our offerings and pledges that they may bring the joy of your presence more deeply into the world. Amen.**

### **Joys & Concerns**

**Prayer** *including a time of silent prayer*

**Response:** God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**The Lord’s Prayer: 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.**

## **Taking the Word into the World**

**+Song** *Go With Us Lord #748*

**+Charge and Benediction**

*+Stand as you are able*

*Liturgy based on “Feasting on the Word” Worship Companion*

**Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#**

**Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live**

# COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 16, 2023

## Contact

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## Scriptures for

### Sunday, April 23

Acts 2:14a, 36–41  
Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19  
1 Peter 1:17–23  
Luke 24:13–35

## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy  
Ruth Roeber  
The McDermott family  
Johanna Willis  
The Kleier family  
Jean Jennings' family  
Emilee Walden  
Kelly Montana  
Lynda Jaeger  
Ron Carlin  
Ella Grace Marksberry

## Worship Services

Join us for in-person services at 710 Western Reserve Rd., Crescent Springs, KY. You can also worship with us online via Facebook Live, or by joining the conference call. Worship services begin at 11:15 am.

## Liturgists Needed

Liturgists are needed to help lead worship. Please sign up on the sheet on the welcome table. Thank you!

## Save the Date: CLASP Carrabba's Spring FUNd- Raisier

On Tuesday and Wednesday, April 25-26, Carrabba's restaurant at the Crestview Hills Town Center will sponsor a FUNd-raiser on behalf of CLASP. For every person who brings a CLASP coupon to the restaurant that day, Carrabba's will donate 20% of the purchase price to CLASP. Both dine-in and carryout meals will qualify for a donation. Coupons will be available shortly in the bulletin, and on the Community of Faith website and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cofnky>).