



Christ
IS RISEN!
ALLELUIA!

***Welcome to Our Celebration of Worship
on This Glorious Easter Morning!***

To all who live joyfully and long to share their excitement ... to all who mourn and need comfort ... to all who are weary and need rest ... to all who are homeless and desire sheltering love ... to all who pray or are in need of prayer ... to all who sin and need a Savior ... to all who recognize Christ in their midst and hunger to share God's love with all the world ... Old First Presbyterian Church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says ... WELCOME!

**Those who are able, please stand in body or spirit.*

*(The congregation is invited to join in speaking or singing **items in bold.**)*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

INTROIT

Easter Fanfare

E.E. Ferguson

Sanctuary Choir

DRAMATIC READING

What Kind of Man?

As we begin our joyful and joy-filled celebration of Christ's resurrection to eternal life, may we prayerfully consider the many places and ways in our lives and our world where "nobody but Jesus" may make a life-changing difference!

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 118

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Praise be to Jesus, our Christ, the Messiah!

The Lord is victorious over sin and death;

let all God's people sing joyful songs of praise!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Praise be to Jesus, our Christ, the Messiah!

We will not die, but live; declaring with thanksgiving and joy
what the Lord has done!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Praise be to Jesus, our Christ, the Messiah!

The stone the builders rejected has become the
cornerstone of our faiths and our lives!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Praise be to Jesus, our Christ, the Messiah!

This *is* the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice, be glad, celebrate, and worship!

*HYMN 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, on this day of resurrected joy and everlasting hope, we come in faithful expectation, as only you may complete our hearts and lives. Without you, we live in ways that obscure your light and disfigure your image within us. We take the joys of life for granted, and when things do not go our way, we become easily overwhelmed by sadness, worry, fear, and despair. Too often, we fail to live with resurrected hearts that see your eternal possibilities amid the turmoil and turbulence that surround us. We are like the disciples on that first Easter morning ... wallowing in the dreadful despair of Good Friday, rather than running to meet the resurrected Christ with joy-filled expectation.

Loving God, empower us to live with Easter faith that sees the endless possibilities of your eternal love and everlasting grace. With thankful hearts and joyful spirits, may our eyes be open to your presence in our lives and our hearts rejoice for eternal reminders of the Risen Christ among us. Fill us with Easter joy so that we may remember who we are in the resurrection of our Christ, as we give thanks for your gracious mercy, freely given in unconditional love. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Christ, the Lord and Savior of our lives, who lives and reigns with you now and forever more ...

(Please continue in silent prayer of confession.)

Together, let all God's people say, **amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: In everlasting love, God redeems us and sets us free.

**People: God forgives us ... frees us ... and gives us peace.
To God we are ever thankful. Amen.**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

King Jesus Is Arisen!

Besig & Price

Sanctuary Choir

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.

We Listen for God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Acts 10:34-43, New Testament, p. 129 / P. 157

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Gift of Heaven Has Risen Today

Walters

Sanctuary Choir

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Preschool through 6th grade children are invited to come to the front pews.

Congregational Invitation: *(sung twice)*

**This, this is where children belong,
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
This is where children belong.**

*Our young disciples are invited to return to
their families to share in Easter worship together.*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

“Nobody But Jesus!”

*HYMN 238

Thine Is the Glory

We Respond in Word and Deed

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – *A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the One triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

OFFERING OF OUR TIME AND TALENT

INVITATION TO RECEIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Empty Now

Martin

Sanctuary Choir

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn 606)

Doxology

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING OF OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

The congregation is invited to share our prayer requests with one another.

If you would like to share a prayer request, please raise your hand and the Pastor will invite you to share your need for prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

*HYMN 245

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Hallelujah Chorus

In keeping with Old First Easter tradition, anyone who would like to join in singing the “Hallelujah Chorus” from G.F. Handel’s, “The Messiah,” may join the choir.

Please make your way to the choir loft during the final hymn.

*POSTLUDE

Toccata from Symphony #5

C.M. Widor

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!

Happy Easter to all who gather this morning to give praise, glory, and honor to the Risen Christ!

*On behalf of the family of faith at Old First, we offer our faithful prayers that **all** God’s children may find in the empty tomb a place of hope, peace, welcome, love, and faith!*

May God bless you with joy and peace throughout this Easter season and beyond!

Please continue to pray for those who remain on our prayer list:

Tom and JoAnn Bosch, Dave and Else Haddock, David and Sandy Lange, Pat and Joan Lobasso, James Schubauer, Don Thompson, Diane Walker, and Grace Youngquist

Names on our prayer list will remain for a month.

If you would like to add a prayer request, please contact Pastor Means.

From Our Family to Yours ...

Welcome to Old First!

Thank you for joining us to celebrate our risen Lord on this wonderful Easter morning. We hope and pray God's spirit has blessed each of you in our gathering and that God will continue to be revealed to us all in new and powerful ways throughout this Easter season.

If you come to this place looking for a church home, questioning your faith, or struggling in any way, please contact our Pastor, Matthew Means or speak with any church member for more information about the life and ministry of Old First Presbyterian Church.

We are a caring family of faith that seeks to provide opportunities for men and women of faith to join together in their faith journeys in ways that allow us to grow closer in relationship with our God and with one another.

May God bless you and keep you during this Easter season and always!



Acts 10:34-43

New Testament, p. 129 / P. 157

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to

appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 24:1-12

New Testament, p. 90 / P. 109

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.

² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body.

⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.