**Morning Worship**

**April 7, 2024**

**1st Sunday after Easter**

**10:45 a.m.**

***GATHERING***

**WORD OF WELCOME**

**PRELUDE “Harmony of the Angels”** Johan Burgmüller

Leslie Lyon-Schiebel, Piano

**CALL TO WORSHIP**  Pabby Arnold

Into our fears and through our locked doors,

**Come, Almighty God.**

When we think ‘peace be with you,’ means no change or disruption,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Amidst our lives that confuse religious entertainment with Easter fulfillment,

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

For the sake of a community meant to be its best during crisis,

**Come, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY** (unison)

**Lord of life, submitting to death, you conquered the grave. By being lifted on a cross, you draw all peoples to you. By being raised from the dead, you restore to humanity all that we had lost through sin. Throughout these fifty days of Easter, we proclaim the marvelous mystery of death and resurrection. For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity. Amen.**

**\*HYMN NO. 474 “O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”** PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

When we stand at the baptismal font and confess our sins, we are not doing so as lost, guilty and ambiguous human beings, who are not sure of our standing before God. We do not come groveling, but we come confident as those who are no longer dead in our trespasses but who are already alive in Jesus Christ. Without God’s grace, we would not even know we are sinners. So, we confess our sins together.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**O Lord our God, we think our best should happen when we are in control. Forgive us for not expecting the risen Christ to show up when we are anxious, content to lock the doors of your house for fear of all that is outside.**

**Forgive us for thinking that church mainly happens inside these walls and not into the world you so love and into which we are sent. Forgive us for looking for your power in all the conventional places but never in places of brokenness, crisis, and defeat.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been, repair what we are, and by the power of Christ’s resurrection, raise us up to serve others for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

You are already forgiven, loved and whole.

In Christ, you are a fully flourishing human being; go live like it. In the Spirit, you are not an isolated spiritual being, doing Christianity alone, but you are part of a community of faith; go build that. By the grace of God, every human being is seen, loved, and made whole; go practice that. Amen.

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE “Gloria Patri”**

***THE WORD***

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** Ellen Snyder

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts us and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ’s everlasting hope. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING *Psalm 133***

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there, the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM “One Bread, One Body”** J. Foley

**SECOND READING  *I John 1:1-2:2***

  We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him, there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But, if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**SERMON Pastor Stephen Sanders**

**“God is Light”**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from The Study Catechism, Question 43 & 46

*What do you affirm when you say that he was “crucified, dead, and buried”?*

**That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death, he showed us that there is no sorrow that he has not known, no grief he has not borne, and no price he was unwilling to pay in order to reconcile us to God.**

*What do you affirm when you say that ‘on the third day he rose again from the dead’?*

**That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

We become who we are called to be, not through getting, acquiring, and possessing, but in our giving. To that end, let us worship God by giving our good gifts.

**Offertory “God’s Son is Triumphant”**  J. S. Bach

**\*Doxology**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Good and gracious God, help us to say thank you, to live with gratitude, to look for the best in each other, and to live charitably with all. May your resurrection never stop surprising us, disrupting us and transforming us, until Christ’s kingdom comes. Amen.

***THE EUCHARIST***

**HYMN NO. 505 “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”** ST. FLAVIAN

*Elders serving communion should come forward at this time.*

**INVITATION**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

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 our thanks and praise.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.**

***SENDING***

**\*HYMN NO. 151 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”**  DIADEMATA

**\*BENEDICTION**

Jesus says: ‘As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ The work of church is not over; it has just begun. Go with joy where the crucified and risen Christ is sending you. And, as you go, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, go with you, now and forevermore. Amen.

**\*POSTLUDE “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”** arr. G. Martin

**SERVING US TODAY**: Music Director, Dr. Kay White … Guest Organist, Judy McGehee … Sanctuary Choir Section Leaders: Miranda Albarez, Clay Donaldson, Trish Thatai, Chip White … Ushers: Edmundo Estrada, Barbara Long, Gilbert Strueh, Barbara Waugh … Elders Serving Communion: Myra Bayes, Lee Bruner, Edmundo Estrada, Barbara Long.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** are given today by Pabby Arnold in honor of our church family, and Cathy McRae in honor of her brother, Mike Buquet, and his wife, Linda, Cathy’s new sister-in-law.

**CHRISTIAN CONCERNS:**

Jessica Alexander, Pabby Arnold, Pabby Arnold’s cousin, Mark, Sammie Baker, Bob Barry, Katie Bass (Lyme Disease), Kathy Battaglia (back procedure), Barbara Beckmann, Dave and Sue Blackshear, Julian (3) and Allie (14) Boudreaux, Andy Boykin (9), Barbara Brewster (96), Owen Carroll (17), Mary Coles, Anita Collins, Jim and Elizabeth (fall) Davis, Hunter Derouse (infant), Carolyn and Shane Doling, Marguerite Guice, Dolores Hadskey, Rev. Joe Hahn, Blanche Hamilton, Dick Helvig, Mariano Hinojosa, Joy Hymel, Debbie and Jesse Jones, Charlie Jordan, Koen Langheinz, Mike Lopez, Jeff Marinchak, Marcy McInnis (gallbladder), Lauren Johnson Muckleroy, Grant Nesbit, Gloria Ochomogo (Edmundo’s mom), Dan, Wilhelmina and Julia Palmer, Nell Phillips (fall), Rev. Judy Roeling, Kelly Root (kidney cancer), Jan and Steve Sauls, Bill Simmons, Dianne Smith (stroke), Dave Snyder, Dale Tullier, Helen Vogel, Mike Weinstein.

**THE LOVE AND SYMPATHY** of the congregation are extended to Monya and Clay Crowell, and their families, in the passing of Mrs. Willie Holt, Monya’s mother on Thursday, April 4, 2024. Dr. Milton and Willie Holt joined BPC on November 4, 1956. They were very involved members and served our church family in many ways. Dr. Holt and Hunter Allen taught an adult Sunday School class for many years. Willie was so warm and friendly and greeted everyone with a smile and a hug.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S CIRCLES 1 AND 2** will meet at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, April 8, in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited. Circle 3 will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, in the Conference Room.

**ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS** will take place during worship on Sunday, April 14, 2024. Carolyn Ott and Alex Chenevert will be ordained and installed. Lee Bruner and Alice Hondzinski will be installed.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S SPRING GATHERING** will be held here at BPC on Saturday, April 20. Information on activities planned is included on the Flyer on the table in the narthex. Please take one and plan to join us on this special day.

**CAMP AGAPE** will be held June 16-22, 2024, at the Feliciana Retreat Center. Four different camps are offered for children 3rd grade through 12th. Camp brochures are on the table in the narthex. Please take one for your child, a grandchild, or a neighbor. The deadline to register is May 18, 2024.

**OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS** are on the table in the narthex. Please take one for yourself and/or a friend.

**FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please take a moment to sign your name on the Friendship Pads located on the back of the pew near the center aisle. Include any prayer requests or concerns.

**SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES**: **Self-Rising Flour** is the requested item this week. Please bring it to Sunday school, the narthex or church office.

**CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024**

9:30 Children’s Sunday School Conference Room and F-6

9:30 The Seekers Class Education Bldg. #E-3

9:30 The Walking Faith Class Fellowship Hall

10:45 Worship/Communion Sanctuary

**MONDAY, april 8, 2024**

9:30 Presbyterian Women’s Circles 1 and 2 Fellowship Hall

4:00 Jehovah Jireh Basketball AB

6:00 Fencing Group AB

7:00 AA Fellowship Hall

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024**

4:00 Our Lady of Mercy Basketball AB

5:30 Presbyterian Women’s Circle 3 Conference

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024**

9:30 Hug-A-Bears Alice Hondzinski’s Home

4:00 Jehovah Jireh Basketball AB

6:00 Fencing Group AB

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024**

9:00 Preschool Chapel Time Sanctuary

4:00 Jehovah Jireh Basketball AB

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024**

6:00 Fencing Group AB

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024**

9:30 Children’s Sunday School Conference Room and F-6

9:30 The Seekers Class Fellowship Hall

9:30 The Walking in Faith Class Education E-3

10:45 Worship/Ordain & Install Class of 2026 Elders Sanctuary