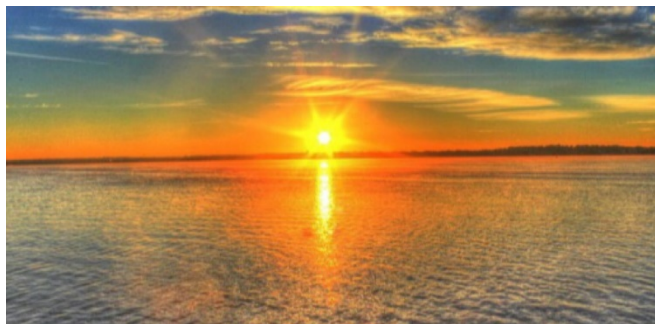


First Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio



EASTER SUNDAY

April 20, 2025

PRELUDE

<i>Festal Flourish</i>	<i>Gordon Jacob</i>
<i>Prelude to 'Te Deum'</i>	<i>Marc-Antoine Charpentier</i>
<i>Pastoral Dance on 'Bunessan'</i>	<i>Andrew Clarke</i>
<i>Chorale & Finale</i>	<i>Johannes Brahms, arr. Garner</i>

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

MINISTRY FOCUS

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Potluck Lunch

Amy Baxstrom

CHORAL INTROIT

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

GELOBT SEI GOTT

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Val Fulton

One: In the steadfast love of God, in the presence that never leaves us,
in the community that strengthens us, in the deepest moments of living,
in facing our places of life and of death, we have traveled together.

**All: From isolation to common ground, from dying to living,
from grief to mystery, from fear to joy, we have traveled together.**

One: In this morning's light, we set out to travel a new path:
from the tombs of anxiety and despair toward the resurrections of our hope.

**All: Let us walk together into this new day.
Come, let us worship our God of healing and wholeness and newness.**

PRAYER +

We give thanks to you, O God, that from generation to generation you continue to be our strength and our song. Open our hearts to the gift of your redeeming love that we celebrate this Easter Day, and enable us to be bearers of that love to the hurting places of your world. **Amen**

HYMN 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

CONFESSION +

One: On this morning of hallelujahs, we must confess how human we are, Emptier of Tombs.

We have not done great evil, but we have failed to do good when we had the chance.
 We have not intentionally hurt anyone,
 but neither have we always offered healing to the broken.
 We accept the witness of angels at the tomb, but find it difficult
 to live the lives of compassion and reconciliation that this hope demands.

All: Bring us new life, Dazzling God.

**Where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation;
 transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace;
 forgive us of all the damage we have done to others
 and to your creation, and fill us with the joy of your Spirit.**

Here each worshipper may offer personal, silent prayer.

Gracious God, hear our prayers. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

This is the Good News, my friends: God remembers us and forgives us and calls us,
 so that we might live as people of love and hope for the sake of all creation.
 On this once again remembered First New Day,
 let us journey together as a people healed and made whole. **Thanks be to God! Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . . **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

ANTHEM

Most Glorious Lord of Life (text: Edmund Spenser, 16th century)

John Rutter

Please join the Choir in singing the concluding section of the anthem:

94 *allargando* *CONGREGATION ff* **I** *Moderato maestoso* ♩ = 108
 Trumpets 3
 The Day of Re-sur-rec-tion! Earth,

99
 tell it out a-broad; The Pass-ov-er of glad-ness, The Pass-ov-er of

104 *f*
 God! From death to life e-ter-nal, From earth un-to the sky, Our

109 *ff* *allargando* **I** *Vivace* ♩ = 136
 Christ hath brought us ov-er With hymns of vic-to-ry.

114 *molto allargando* *Largamente* ♩ = 92 *molto rall.*
 Trumpets *ff*
 A - - - men.

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:1-12

SERMON *Looking for Jesus*

HYMN 238 *Thine Is the Glory!* JUDAS MACCABEUS

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE Today, we receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Through our monetary gifts, we offer something of our work and ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *When Mary Through the Garden Went* Charles V. Stanford

*DOXOLOGY 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING 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 sins, as we
forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN 248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* ODE TO JOY

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *The Heavens Are Telling* Benedetto Marcello

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*.

Chancel Flowers are given today by Val Fulton in memory of Hal Fulton.

Service Participants

The Sanctuary Choir

Luca Ivagnes & Ellis Buettner – trumpets

Esther Orlov-Mayer – French horn

Abe Frato – trombone

Charles Chapman – tuba

Eric J. Gastier, Director of Music and Organist

We extend a special welcome to our brass players from the Conservatory of Music at Oberlin College.
Thanks also to the Sanctuary Choir and the Choral Scholars for their contributions to today's service.

More Light Church and Member of Covenant Network
Earth Care Congregation and Matthew 25 Church

The Mission of the Matthew 25 Church: Matthew 25:31–46 calls us to actively engage the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. We commit ourselves to congregational vitality by acting boldly and compassionately to end systemic poverty and structural racism, serving people who are oppressed, imprisoned, poor.

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