

First Presbyterian Church  
Middletown, Ohio  
[www.fpcmiddletown.com](http://www.fpcmiddletown.com)

April 17, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.



**Prelude**

*Lift High the Cross*

Joel Raney

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

This is the good news we have received,  
In which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

That Christ died for our sins, and was buried,  
And rose again on the third day.

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

He appeared to Peter, and to the twelve,  
And to many faithful witnesses.

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

At last he came to us, that we might come to believe  
And proclaim this good news to the world.

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

**Prayer of Adoration**

**\* Hymn**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* Douglas E. Wagner

Choir and brass:

*Introduction*

Congregation: Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

*Instrumental Interlude*

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

**\* Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

**\* Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\* Gloria Patri**

*We Are Forgiven*

Hymnal #447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.  
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

## Passing of the Peace

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

## Circle Time for Young Disciples

Michael Isaacs

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

Genesis 1:1-5  
Isaiah 65:17-20

### Solo

*Empty Now*  
Tara Downie, soprano

Joseph Martin

### Scripture

Luke 24:1-12

### Sermon

“Deep Dawn”

Michael Isaacs

### \* Hymn #246

*Christ is Alive!*

Truro

### \* Affirmation of Faith (unison)

From 1 Corinthians 15

This is the good news that I have received and share with you: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures. Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If we have a hope in Christ only in this life, then we deserve to be pitied more than anyone else. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

### Anthem

*The Power of the Cross*  
Sanctuary Choir

Getty/Townend

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prayers of the People

#### The Lord's Prayer (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.

\* **Hymn #236**                      *The Strife is O'er*                      Victory

#### \* Charge and Benediction

\* **Response**                      "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah*                      G. F. Handel  
*Worshipers are invited to come forward during the third verse of the hymn in order to join the choir in singing the closing "Hallelujah Chorus."*  
*Copies of the music are available for your use.*

**Postlude**                      *Thine Is the Glory*                      G. F. Handel

\* Please stand in Body or Spirit.



# *Our Life Together...*

**Leading worship today:** Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Nancy Peterson, Worship Assistant; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist; Brian Shepard, Director/Pianist; Davis Dorrough, Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Parker Shablak, Sound Technician; Sharon Perkins, Barista.

We warmly welcome trumpeters Janelle Roeper and Jenna Tribett to our worship service this morning.

**Join us for Fellowship Hour** in the Gathering Area before and after today's service. Stop by for fellowship and refreshments.

**Hearing aids and large print bulletins** are available for use during the worship services. Please contact an usher for assistance.

**Sensory toys** are available outside of the nursery for children who may wish to use them during worship.

## *Announcements*

**COVID-19 update for April:** Please review these updated COVID-19 provisions and keep in mind as we gather for our worship and ministry:

- Masks are optional.
- Social distancing is enforced in the sanctuary by the use of alternating pews.
- Worship does not include the passing of any materials. (This will be reviewed again at our April Meeting.)

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room. This week we are continuing our study of the Gospel According to Luke.

**Sanctuary Choir** will rehearse Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

### **Children's Ministry**

**Nursery Care** is available for infants and children up to 5 years old every Sunday, located next to Room 110. **Sunday School** (children ages 6-12) is offered most Sundays in the Godly Play Room. Leaders will escort children to Sunday School. When worship concludes, parents/guardians will need to come to the Godly Play Room to pick up their child(ren). In April, Sunday School will meet on April 10, 17, and 24. We especially want to include children and youth in special worship celebrations such as Communion, etc.

**Graduates:** Are you graduating? Or is someone in your household graduating? We'd like to lift up graduates in a time of prayer during worship and offer a small gift. Please call the church office or email [sandy@fpcmiddletown.com](mailto:sandy@fpcmiddletown.com) with any names to include.

### **Prayer list**

Please submit any prayer requests for today's service to Michael before the worship service begins, the submitted requests will be included here next week.

## **Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

## **Isaiah 65:17-20**

For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice forever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

## **Luke 24:1-12**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women<sup>[b]</sup> were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men<sup>[c]</sup> said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 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.