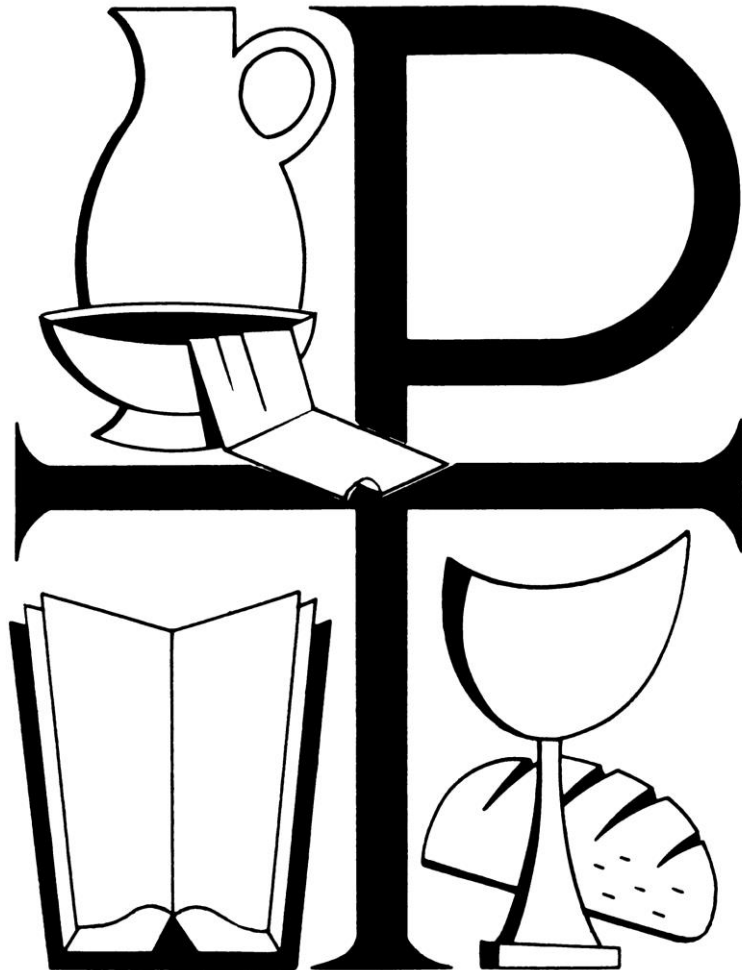


First Presbyterian Church

402 North Ship Street, Portland, Indiana 47371
www.firstpcportland.org 260-726-8462



Our Vision Statement

“To provide a ministry which will lead people to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and reach out with God’s love.”

4th Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude “Prelude from *English Suite No. 4 in F, BWV 809*” J.S. Bach

Greeting and Announcements

Opening Sentences

***Doxology** - all to sing No. 592

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Praise**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We come to God, our holy shepherd, as we come to a green meadow.

People: God prepares a place for us, and we give glory in God’s presence.

Leader: How excellent is this dwelling place under the eyes of God’s care.

People: We turn to God in joy. Our good shepherd provides for all our needs.

Leader: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn** “[Christ is Made the Sure Foundation](#)”

***Call to Confession**

1 John 3:20 & Romans 8:26

Leader: If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God’s deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

O God, you have called us to love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. You have laid down your life for us and commanded us to lay down our lives for one another. Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers when the world needs our hands and our

feet. Still, O Lord, we fail to share our lives with the world, hiding behind a myth of independence. Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness, raise us to new life in you.

A Time of Silent Prayer

***Assurance of Forgiveness** *1 John 3:16, 21–22 & Acts 2:17, 21*

Leader: We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. This is good news!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

***Response of Praise**—all to sing “Gloria Patri” No. 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen. Amen.

***We Share God's Peace**

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

(You are invited to share God's peace as you greet those around you.)

Special Music *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Evanovich

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading [Psalm 23:1-6](#) (NRSV)

Hymn (seated) “Jesus Loves Me” No. 304

Jesus loves me! This I know. For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Children's Message

(Children grades K-6 may be dismissed to Sunday School)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading [John 10:11-18](#) (NRSV)

Sermon **“For the Sheep”**

you are with me

The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People...The Lord's Prayer (‘debts’ and debtors’)

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** [“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”](#)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *Amen* arr. Schrader

(We invite you to remain seated through the Postlude.)

***Indicates that those who are able may stand.**

Lectionary readings for April 28, 2024

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31

I John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8