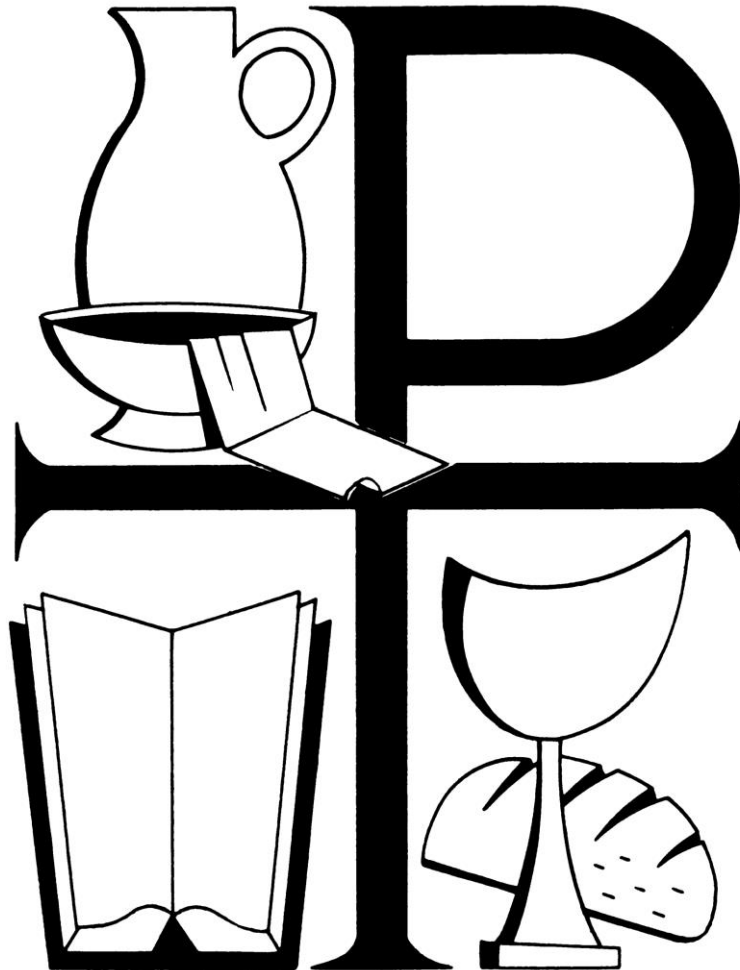


First Presbyterian Church

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.”

5th Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude

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 worship with joy, trusting God’s holy word will inspire us.

People: We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit’s blessing.

Leader: May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

People: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.

Leader: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn [“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”](#)

*Call to Confession

Romans 8:26

Leader: 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 Christ, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches. In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you and bound to one another by your

spirit. Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine, and teach us to abide in you.

A Time of Silent Prayer

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Acts 2:17, 21

Leader: 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

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Psalm 22:25-31](#) (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

[Acts 8:26-40](#) (NRSV)

Sermon

“From Jerusalem to Gaza”

those who seek

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

[“Be Thou My Vision”](#)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

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

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Lectionary readings for May 5, 2024

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98

I John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17