

6th Sunday of Easter  
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME

We're delighted that you're here! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubts, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We begin worship with the musical prelude and lighting of the candles, reminding us of Christ's presence with us. Please use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here.

PRELUDE *Great is Thy Faithfulness* arr. William Wesley

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Now is the time to wake from sleep -

**Many: the God of life is calling!**

One: Come, share your dreams of the peace Christ promises.

**Many: We envision a world made new,**

One: and the light of God shining in every heart.

**All: Let us worship God together.**

\*HYMN 403 *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* UNSER HERRSCHER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, in Christ, you came offering peace. Yet, anxiety hovers over us, and we sow seeds of discord instead of seeking reconciliation. You send us out to love our neighbors, but preoccupied by our own agendas and needs, we are reluctant to go. Forgive us! Open our hearts and our minds to discern your direction for our lives. Help us to find your peace, and to love one another as you have loved us. We lift up to you now our silent prayers of confession...

KYRIE 577 *Lord, Have Mercy* KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA 589 *Alleluia* HONDURAS ALLELUIA

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FOCUS ON CHILDREN Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING John 13:23-27

ANTHEM *True Light* Keith Hampton

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 16:9-15

SERMON *Visions and Dreams* Rev. Cat Goodrich

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

\* HYMN 351 *All Who Love and Serve Your City* CHARLESTOWN

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from the Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS\*\*

Part of your offering today is the gift of your presence. Please acknowledge your presence by signing the welcome book at the end of your row. To make a gift electronically, scan here to be directed to our online giving site:



OFFERTORY

*Pastorale*

arr. S. Wolff

\*THE DOXOLOGY 609

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures high and low.*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Praise God, in Jesus fully known:*

*Creator, Word, and Spirit one.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

\* HYMN 79 *Light Dawns on a Weary World* TEMPLE OF PEACE

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*The Rejoicing*

G. Handel

\*Please stand as you are able.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS** Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. If you are returning to a distant home, we wish you God's grace and a safe journey. However, if you live in the area and are seeking a faith community, we hope you will return soon so that we may get to know you better. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at [www.fpcbham.org](http://www.fpcbham.org). May God's peace and blessing be with you.

**IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME**, our Session meets on the *first Sunday of the month* in the Chapel following the 11:00 worship service to welcome new members. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope you will make First your home.

**FOR CHILDREN:** Children's bags and bulletins are available in the Narthex (ushers can locate them for you). Please empty and return the bags after worship. We love having kids in worship, but the following alternatives also are available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 will go to the balcony, where they experience a little of what worship is like while doing learning activities related to the scripture with coloring, puzzles, books, children's bulletins and more. When the sacraments of the Lord's Supper or Baptism are celebrated, children will return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

**LET THE BELLS PLAY!** Our 37-bell Rushton Memorial Carillon was the first such instrument in Birmingham and the third in the United States, when installed in 1924.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** Please use the Prayer Request and Information Change cards, found in the pew rack, to relay information to the church office. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office and place it in the offering plate.

**SERMONS** are available from our website at [www.fpcbham.org](http://www.fpcbham.org).

The **LITURGIST** for today is Scott Pierce.

## MISSION CENTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**FIRST LIGHT, INC.** is a mission center of FPC, giving shelter and support services for homeless women and children. If you would like to help, speak to our pastors or call Ruth Crosby, Executive Director (323-4277). First Light's website: [www.firstlightshelter.org](http://www.firstlightshelter.org)

**RUTH AND NAOMI SENIOR OUTREACH (RNSO)** has as its mission to become spiritual companions to isolated older adults and to call, equip, and support others to do so as well. Contact [chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org](mailto:chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org).

**THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER** provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is [www.eprcdc.com](http://www.eprcdc.com)

**FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA**, a faith-based community-organizing effort FPC shares with faith communities throughout the city, works to improve quality of life for all our citizens. Faith in Action is a PICO network affiliate and can be reached at [daniel@faal.org](mailto:daniel@faal.org).

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION** provides support to First Presbyterian Church for the maintenance and upkeep of this historic sacred space built in 1889. 10% of the Foundation's annuity payment aids mission selected by session. Contact Mark Aldridge for more information.

THE REV. TERRY HAMILTON-POORE, Pastor and Head of Staff

THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Associate Pastor

THE REV. JIM STANFORD, Parish Associate

MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education

DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Organist

MS. ROBIN VINES, Carillonist

MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director

MR. OWEN BLOMELEY, Facility Manager

MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Office Administrator

MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper

MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton

THE REV. DR. ROBERT S. CRUTCHFIELD, Pastor Emeritus

*Have you remembered the church in your will?*