

*First Presbyterian Church 1924*



100 Years  
1924-2024

100 Year Anniversary Worship Service  
4th Sunday of Easter  
April 21, 2024  
10:00 AM

# Welcome!

We hope you experience the grace of God while you worship with us.

*Thank you to those serving today.\*

**Service Participants:** Rev. Byron Leasure, Jim Ballengee, Anna Greene, Donna DeRose, John Reed, Guy Richards, Leah Smith, Nanci Petroski, Meg Mayo Lucas, Jane Barton

**Counters:** Frank Santini, Bob Simons

**Ushers:** Lori Hendrzak, Nanci Petroski, Christa Reynolds

## *Helpful Worship Information*

**Children's activity bags** for use during worship are in the tie-dye bags next to the table in the Narthex. Please *clean out and return bags* after the service.

**Child care** for infants and young children under age 6 is provided during the service in our nursery. The nursery is located on the Main Floor, in the Rabbit Hill classroom next to the Lounge, beginning at 9:45 to 11:15AM.

**Blue Prayer Request Cards** are available in the pew racks and on the table in the Narthex. If you would like to request prayers, please fill one out and the ushers will collect them during our first hymn.

*Please keep these members and friends in your prayers:*

Anne Branton, Dana Catania, Felicia Clapper, Jim Harrington, Gussie Logue, Lisa Neff, Rose Marie Sharkey, Mary Smith, Nora Smith, Agan Family



*\* Please stand if you are able.*

*Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org used, adapted and live-streamed with permission.*

*Today's worship music is covered by CCI License No 2315273*

## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Anna Greene

### PRELUDE

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Donna DeRose

One: We gather today to celebrate one hundred years of mission and ministry in this place.

**All: Creator God, may we continue to bear witness to your Love!**

One: We give you thanks for the Saints before us who have prayed, worshipped, studied, and given of themselves as missionaries.

**All: Living God, may we continue to bear witness to your Grace and Peace!**

One: May we continue to be a reflection of the faith of those who have prepared the way for us.

**All: Eternal God, may we continue to bear witness to the hope and joy that we find in you!**

One: We open our lives to this moment, realizing that your spirit has led us to this place and that it is your spirit calling us into the future.

**All: As you have blessed us in the past, bless us today and in all the days to come. May we be found faithful to your love by those who come after us. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord we pray, AMEN.**

#### \* HYMN 321 *The Church's One Foundation*

*Sung at the first worship service April 20, 1924, and the 10th, 15th, 25th, 30th and 50th*

### GREETINGS FROM PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA

Elder Jim Ballengee, Moderator of Presbytery

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*God is Here with Me*, Hogan

WOW Childrens Choir

### CHILDREN'S TIME

#### 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.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder John Reed

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves, about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In this Spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive)

One: Merciful God, for the things we have done that we regret,

**All: Forgive us;**

One: For the things we have failed to do that we regret,

**All: Forgive us;**

One: For all the times we have acted without love,

**All: Forgive us;**

One: For all the times we have reacted without thought,

**All: Forgive us;**

One: For all the times we have withdrawn care,

**All: Forgive us;**

One: For all the times we have looked to the past instead of forward to your future,

**All: Forgive us;**

One: For hurtful words said and helpful words unsaid, for unfinished tasks and unfulfilled hopes,

**All: God of all time, forgive us and help us to lay down our burdens of regret. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear this good news! God has loved you from the very beginning. The invitation of Christ is never-ending because resurrection and new life can happen at any moment. The Holy Spirit is transforming you even now! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen!**

\* *GLORIA PATRI 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me!*

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Elder Guy Richards

One: As a people forgiven and freed, we reach out to lift others up, offering the peace of Christ. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ. But first let us all turn and give a sign of graceful greeting to those joining us online.

## PSALM 100 (Responsive)

Elder Jim Ballengee

**All: Give thanks to God! Bless God's Name! We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

One: Acclaim God with joy, all the earth! Serve God with gladness! Enter into God's presence with a joyful song!

**All: Know that God is Lord! God made us, and we belong to the Creator, we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise! Give thanks to God! Bless God's Name!

**All: For God is good, God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.**

One: Give thanks to God! Bless God's Name! We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Rev. Byron Leasure

God of Mercy, you promised to never break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words from generation to generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Enable us to respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**HEBREW READING** Isaiah 40:9-11

Rev. Byron Leasure

*Read during the 10th Anniversary Worship Service*

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

\* **HYMN 687** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* (verses 1, 4, 5, 6)

**EPISTLE READING** 1 John 3:16-24

Leah Smith

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**ANTHEM** *My Life Flows On/The Solid Rock*, arr. Prescott-Ezickson Chancel Choir

**GOSPEL READING** John 10:11-18

Rev. Kate Morgan

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

**MEDITATION**

Rev. Kate Morgan

**\* HYMN 394** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

*Sung at the opening worship service April 20, 1924, 15th and 25th anniversary*

**INVITATION TO GRATITUDE** (Responsive)

Elder Nanci Petroski

*based on 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NRSV*

One: God who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

**All: In joy, we offer our gifts now to God.**

**GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

*Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho*, Stephenson

Bell Choir

**\* DOXOLOGY 385** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* (Old Hundredth)

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

**Living God, all good things come from you and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. In gratitude we offer you ourselves and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. We give in honor of the saints who pledged themselves to the work of your church here in Springfield and we give in joy for the future you lay out before us as we continue the work begun one hundred years ago. By your Holy Spirit take us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to call the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## LITANY OF THANKS

Elders Meg Mayo Lucas, Jane Barton

One: O Lord our God, for the vision of those who planned for this congregation, and for the commitment and dedication of all who served together at the time of origin,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

One: For those who have served so faithfully in leadership positions as Pastors, Elders, Deacons, and Staff Members,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

One: For those who have willingly given of their efforts to teach, encourage, counsel and sponsor,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

One: For those who have been such a part of our fellowship for so many years, and now serve you in the church triumphant in heaven,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

One: For the ways in which we have been able to care for one another, support one another on the journey of life, and give strength to one another,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

One: For baptisms we've celebrated, professions of faith we have heard, and answers to prayer that we have experienced,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

One: For a congregation that has always desired to worship you faithfully and vibrantly, hearing your Word, singing your praise, and seeking your strength,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

One: For a commitment to remain true to your Word in a world of confusing and conflicting voices,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

One: For generosity that has enabled us to reach far beyond this community with the word and witness of the Gospel,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

One: For hundreds of children and youth who have been here as they were trained in the ways of the Lord and now serve him around the world,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

One: And for a free and prospered land that has given us opportunity to thrive and worship and serve for the sake of your Kingdom,

**All: We give you thanks, O Lord.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**     *Counting Every Blessing*, Llewlyn/Gilkeson     Praise Band

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**\* OUR CLOSING INTERCESSIONS**

Elder Jim Ballengee

*(Romans 16:27)*

One: And now, O Lord, we pray for the children and youth here today that they may be grounded in your truth and learn to love you with a whole heart,

**All: O Lord, hear our prayer.**

One: And we pray for the children yet to be born who will sit in these pews in the years to come that they may carry your kingdom to future generations,

**All: O Lord, hear our prayer.**

One: And we pray for the mothers and fathers here that they may faithfully tell each new generation of your mercies and your salvation,

**All: O Lord, hear our prayer.**

One: And we pray for leaders, pastors, and staff members that their leadership may always be true to your Word and faithful to your calling,

**All: O Lord, hear our prayer.**

One: And we desire, Lord, that you will use us to reach to many within our community and throughout our world that in their need they may know your love and in their sin may find your grace,

**All: O Lord, hear our prayer. To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen!**

**\* HYMN 306 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* verses 1, 5**

*Sung at the first worship service April 20, 1924*

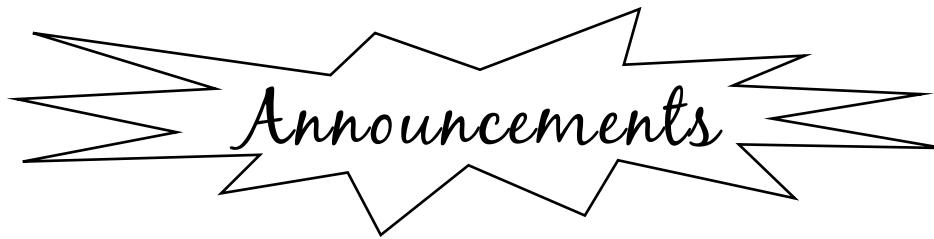
**\* BENEDICTION**

Rev. Kate Morgan

Go into the world Strengthened by the past, inspired by the opportunities before us, and surrounded by the love of this amazing family of God! Go out with joy to be God's people today.







# Announcements

## *Steeple Lighting Tonight 7:30PM!*

As part of our 100 Year Anniversary celebrations our steeple is going to be lit for the first time in many many years! We'll meet in the Memorial Prayer Garden, have a brief "Service of Light" by Pastor Kate, and light the steeple. Come and celebrate this really *bright* part of our church and history. Tonight, April 21st, 7:30PM.

## *WOW Teaching Volunteers needed*

Would you like to teach WOW?! Our WOW kids grades 2 through 5 need teacher volunteers. An easy-to-use curriculum will be provided! Please use the sign up link in Thursday's Weekly Newsletter email to choose a Sunday. Or contact Anna Greene, [annadgreene@gmail.com](mailto:annadgreene@gmail.com), or Kristen Manderachi, [kmmaze@hotmail.com](mailto:kmmaze@hotmail.com).

## *Mission of the Month*

April's mission of the month is our own Youth Group's mission trip to Blue Theology in Coastal North Carolina. Blue theology is a place where current science in marine biology meets a theology of creation justice. Each Summer, they host youth groups to engage in experiential learning, service projects, and contemplative practice with God's marine creation. This is a very exciting opportunity for our youth to further develop their faith in relationship to God and God's creation. They can't wait to go in mid July. However, we can't go without your continued support. This year, the cost is \$450 per person. We're hoping to raise as much as we can and encourage our congregation to partially or fully sponsor a youth. You can learn more about where we are going and what we will learn here at [bluetheology.com](http://bluetheology.com).

## *Vacation Bible School*

Please join us for a fun-filled four days in the summer! Our VBS is for children four-years-old to going into 5th grade and will happen June 24-27, from 9:15-11:45AM. The cost is \$10 per child or \$20 per family (in cash or check). We hope you can join us! Use this link <https://forms.gle/kg35cwSmCRa1Ln6X9> also found in Thursday's Weekly Newsletter email to sign up! We also need volunteers to help out. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kristen Manderachi, [kmmaze@hotmail.com](mailto:kmmaze@hotmail.com), or Anna Greene, [annadgreene@gmail.com](mailto:annadgreene@gmail.com).

# Schedule

## **Today, Sunday, April 21**

10AM Worship

11:30AM Luncheon ~ FH

1PM Phila Freedom Chorus Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

2-4PM Cub Scouts ~ LH

7:30PM Steeple Lighting ~ Memorial Prayer Garden

## **Monday, April 22**

7-8:30PM Boy Scouts ~ FH

7-9PM Boy Scouts ~ LH

## **Tuesday, April 23**

10AM Knitters ~ LO

## **Wednesday, April 24**

6:30PM Rabbit Hill Night of Creativity

6:45PM Praise Band Rehearsal

## **Thursday, April 25**

6:30PM Handbell Rehearsal

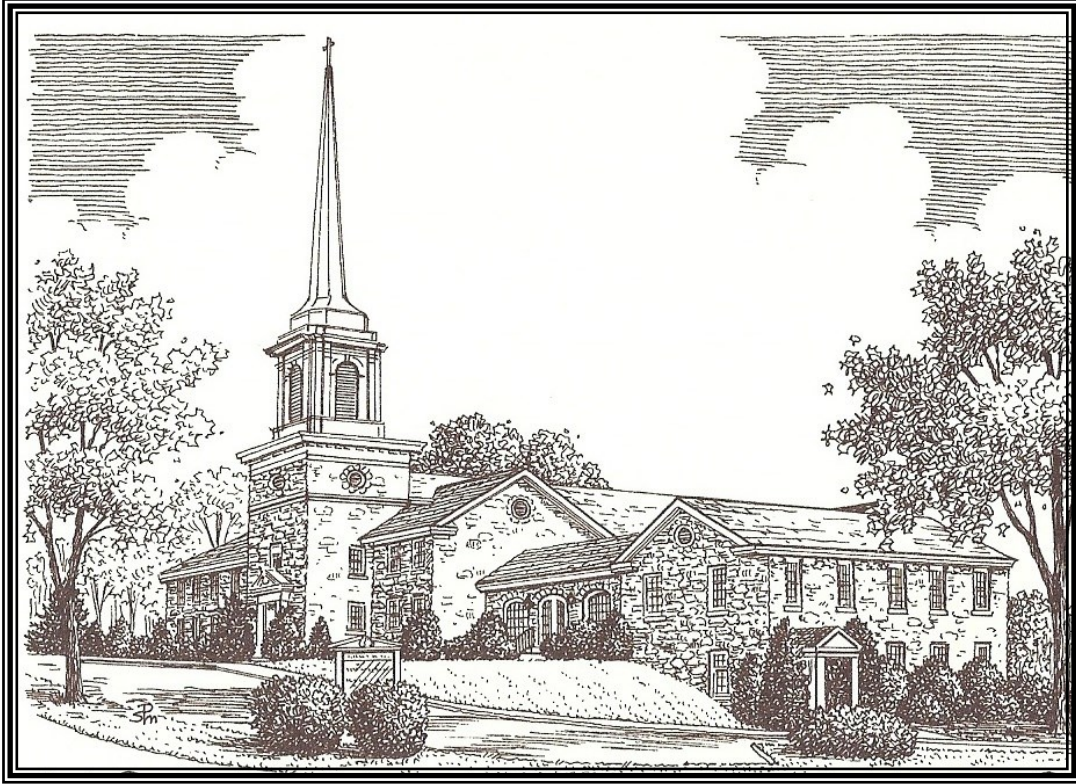
7:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, April 26**

6:30PM Al-Anon ~ LH

*Rev. Kathryn Morgan, Pastor*  
*Megan Prescott-Ezickson, Director of Music Ministry*  
*Anna Greene, Family Ministries Coordinator*  
*Kara DeRose, Office Manager*  
*Ted Hidell, Sexton*  
*Mike Beswick, Sexton*

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Notes, thoughts, memories...