



Second Sunday of Easter • April 7, 2024

Keeter Lecture Sunday

Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs

GATHERING

God of light, I praise you for the gift of this new day. By the power of your Spirit enable me to live in your light and seek the holy fellowship of Jesus Christ my Lord. In whose name I pray, Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace be with you.

How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.

Receive the Holy Spirit.

It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of the Lord.

* HYMN 246

Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the one true Lord and Savior. Our allegiance should be with you unequivocally, but we both know that isn't so. When we feel threatened, we demonstrate our idolatry by conflicting with others. Bless those we have wounded, family, friends, and fellow church members, in our attempts to gain control. Forgive us, Lord. Lead us back to where we demonstrate our hope really is in you. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* ACT OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

Hymn 581

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.

THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 22:25-31 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 501

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Anonymous

Alleluia Choir; Rebecca Ruescher, Conductor

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Sarah Whitfield

(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 8 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 126

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Politics of Magic, and the Kingdom of God

Michael Wear

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (11 A.M.)

It Is Well with My Soul

arr. B. C. Reep

April Basiletti, alto

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well, with my soul. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Oh my soul! And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul.

* DOXOLOGY

Hymn 606

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

* THE 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.

SENDING

* HYMN 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Tom Chamberlain, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Dan Sutton, Michael Wear, Sarah Whitfield

ELDER ON DUTY: Elisa Neale-Tobener

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

ALLELUIA CHOIR

CHAPEL USHER: Tom Chamberlain; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert

VIDEO TEAM: Norah Barat, Oliver Dowling, John Rayl; **SOUND:** Bruce Brashear

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHAPEL are given to the glory of God and in memory of Leonard Emmel by BarBee & Chuck Geiger and all the family.

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in honor of my sister, Mabel, who is 99 years old, by Cora Kurtz.

WELCOME MICHAEL WEAR, OUR 2024 KEETER LECTURER. Michael Wear is the Founder, President and CEO of the Center for Christianity and Public Life, a nonpartisan, nonprofit institution based in the nation's capital with the mission to contend for the credibility of Christian resources in public life, for the public good. For well over a decade, he has served as a trusted resource and advisor for a range of civic leaders on matters of faith and public life. Michael is a leading voice on building a healthy civic pluralism in twenty-first century America. He has argued that the spiritual health and civic character of individuals is deeply tied to the state of our politics and public affairs.

Michael previously led Public Square Strategies, a consulting firm he founded that helps religious organizations, political organizations, businesses and others effectively navigate the rapidly changing American religious and political landscape.

Michael holds an honorary position at the University of Birmingham's Cadbury Center for the Public Understanding of Religion. Michael and his wife, Melissa, are both proud natives of Buffalo, New York. They now reside in Maryland, where they are raising their beloved daughters, Saoirse and Ilaria.

- from www.michaelwear.com

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. You can find a "Three Steps to Membership" card with information about how to join the church in the pew racks. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

Prayer of Belief: *Lord Jesus Christ, I admit I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment, and offering forgiveness. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior. Amen.* (If you are saying this prayer for the first time today, please let the pastor or elders on duty know.)

Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

Rev. Scott Stuart - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

Business Manager

Trudy Bonerba - business@1stpc.org

Operations and Administrative Associate

Laura Montgomery - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Specialist

Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org

Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

FPC Weekly Figures

In-Person Attendance 3/24	233
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$35,061
Received Week of 3/24/24	\$51,413
Weekly Offering	\$8,034
Designated Offerings	\$3,391
Other Revenue	\$28,848
Preschool	\$11,141
FPC Fiscal Year: July 2023-June 2024	
YTD Budget Requirements	\$1,367,363
YTD Received	\$1,321,156
YTD Expenses	\$1,189,631

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968, rev. 1995
 MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778
 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO
 LM

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 22:25-31 (NRSV)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ²⁸For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. ³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, ³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 8 (NRSV)

¹And Saul approved of their killing him. That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. ²Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. ³But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

⁴Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. ⁵Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. ⁶The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, ⁷for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. ⁸So there was great joy in that city.

⁹Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. ¹⁰All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." ¹¹And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. ¹²But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! ²¹You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. ²²Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness." ²⁴Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me."

²⁵Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth." ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

THE KEETER LECTURES

The Pat Keeter Spiritual Enrichment Lectures were approved by the session of First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville, Florida in February of 1976. Mrs. Minnie Lee Keeter Sparks gave a gift in loving memory of her brother, Pat Keeter, a distinguished Gainesville businessman with a deep concern for the church and its ministry of teaching. Later in 1988, Mr. and Mrs. Aden Keeter supplemented those funds to continue to provide education and inspiration from well-known guest speakers from outside the Gainesville community.

The first Keeter lecturer was Dr. J. A. Ross Mackenzie on March 14-16, 1976. Since then, First has been blessed to welcome many great spiritual leaders to the lecture series. This year we welcome Michael Wear as our 2024 Keeter lecturer.

Michael Wear is the founder and president of the Center for Christianity and Public Life, a nonpartisan, nonprofit institution based in the nation's capital with the mission to contend for the credibility of Christian resources in public life, for the public good. He is also the author of *The Spirit of Our Politics*, which offers insight on how to engage with hope in a politically challenging world. Visit www.michaelwear.com for more about Michael, his work, and his writing.

Join us for 8:30 a.m. worship in the chapel, at 9:30 a.m. in Gordon Hall, or at 11 a.m. worship in the sanctuary.

GLORIFY GOD

The third Love in Action concert will be held during 11 a.m. worship next Sunday, April 14 (There will not be an 8:30 worship service). In preparation, the Local Missions Committee is asking you to join our Love in Action Challenge: participate in at least one activity to share God's love with those in need in our community. How will you step up to the challenge?

The Sights and Sounds of Space: Friday, April 26 at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. An immersive experience using Webb telescope images and live music from our choirs, handbells, organ, piano, violin, and percussion. The concert features music from television, films, and video games, as well as classical and modern collections. For more information, visit www.1stpcmusic.org.

Calling All Graduating Seniors: If you are graduating from high school, please let us know your plans for after graduation. Those of you who are graduating from college, please let us know what your degree is in as well as your post-graduation plans. Email communications@1stpc.org or call the church office at (325) 378-1527 by Sunday, April 21.

MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Nursery Care (6 weeks old through pre-kindergarten) is available on Sundays from 10:45 a.m. through the end of the 11 a.m. worship service. Email Jenna Mueller at jdmueller2009@gmail.com with questions or to sign up. Families, please find the sign-in cart upstairs in the Christian Education building by room 204.

Children's Worship Guides are located in the narthex, and Gordon Hall. Pick one up before the service to help your child participate in worship and return the bags to the baskets after the service.

Kids-4-God: Children (K through 2nd) will gather in Room 217 after the Time for Young Disciples to engage with their faith through the end of the service. Families will meet in Gordon Hall following worship. Volunteers are needed. Contact Evelyn Lewis at citytr122@gmail.com.

LOGOS: (Ages 3 through high school) Gather this Wednesday, April 10 at 3:30 p.m. for LOGOS and our annual Talent Show! LOGOS includes worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and fellowship for children and youth with 6 p.m. family time dinner. Email Bev Vloedman to **RSVP** for dinner and the Talent Show at dvloedman@aol.com.

Multiply Sunday Class will meet again next week in room 201 on the second floor of the Education Wing at 9:30 a.m.


Gordon Hoover Sunday School will meet again next week with 2 Corinthians 4. All are welcome!

MEET HUMAN NEEDS

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Jayne Fox, Carol Hayes-Christiansen, Elizabeth Miller, and Marjorie Pedrick. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

Lunch with Eric Davis, Director of Housing at St. Francis House on Thursday, April 18 at noon in Gordon Hall, hosted by the Local Missions Committee. He will discuss the issues of homelessness and affordable housing in Gainesville and the mission of St. Francis House to help. Lunch will be provided. Please **RSVP** by Tuesday, April 16 to the church office.

The Church-wide Fellowship and Lake Day is Saturday, April 27 at Montgomery Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$10/person or \$35/family. **RSVP** by Sunday, April 14 to dvloedman@aol.com.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.**
for our televised broadcast 
or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts



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Is there something you would like to announce in the Bugle or Bulletin? Contact communications@1stpc.org