

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 175

“Seek Ye First”

Lafferty

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison) The Apostles’ Creed
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; 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.

Pastoral Joys and Concerns of the Church

Litany of Celebration for our Graduates (Responsive)
God of truth and knowledge, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth. Bless our graduates as they now finish this course of study.
We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way.
Walk with the graduates as they leave and move forward in life. Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose.
Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people.
For the graduates, this truly is a day of new beginnings, a time to remember and move on, and a time to believe what love is bringing.
May they always know that Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

Seniors, Teachers and Scholarship Recipient Recognition

Call to Stewardship

All undesignated cash goes to the Compassion Fund.

Offertory

arr. Michael Burkhardt

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*Congregational Response Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth*
Doxology

**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.**

*Offertory Prayer

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

*Hymn 192

Shine, Jesus, Shine

“Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining”

*Invitation to Discipleship

*Charge and Benediction

*Closing Choral Response

Hal H. Hopson

“Go Your Way Rejoicing”

Sanctuary Choir

Go your way rejoicing; God is with you.

He will guide your way. Amen

*Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

*Closing Voluntary

G. F. Handel

“Allegro Maestoso”

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Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

May 19, 2019 10:40 A.M.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**The congregation is invited to stand as music begins.
Additional worshipers may enter as the congregation sings.*

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! As we light the Christ Candle, we are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. As we pour the Baptismal Waters in the Font, we recall our baptism and newness of life. As we bring in the Bible, we remember the centrality of the Word. We worship our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. *(Please sign the attendance register, pass it down the pew, and then back so everyone can greet those worshipping near you.)*

Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary

Laudes Domini
arr. Ron Mallory

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”
Sanctuary Handbells

Entrance of Baptismal Water and The Christ Light
Chimes and the Entrance of the Bible

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We praise you, Lord! We give thanks to you with
our whole heart!

**Great are your works, full of honor and
majesty and studied by all who delight in them.**
The works of your hands are faithful and just.

Your precepts are trustworthy.
Our reverence for you is the beginning of wisdom.

You are to be praised forever.

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 300 *They'll Know We Are Christians*
 "We Are One in the Spirit"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of grace, in this season of Easter, we forget that the promise has been fulfilled through Christ our Lord. We turn away from your love and disregard your commandments. Forgive us for not trusting you enough. Forgive us for seeking comfort in other things that are not you. Teach us to follow your commandments. Enable us to embrace you with the totality of our hearts and minds. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus.

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Congregational Response Hymn 288 *Living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Music Ministry

ry Lobe Den Herren
“Let the Amen Sound Again!”

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur
stilled. To God all praise and glory.

Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own His power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!

Now cast each idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone.
To God all praise and glory.

(The Congregation is invited to join)

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him.**

Let the Amen sound again and again!
Forever adore Him, Amen!

Children's Moment The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

Children's Worship

*Children up through 5th grade may leave the Sanctuary at this time.
Following worship, parents should pick up their child in room 6.*

Old Testament Reading Pew Bible
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Page 616

The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148 Pew Bible Page 582 Cantor: Dave Young

[†] REFRAIN



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Sermon Text

Various Text

The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. David A. Slyter

A NEW BEGINNING