

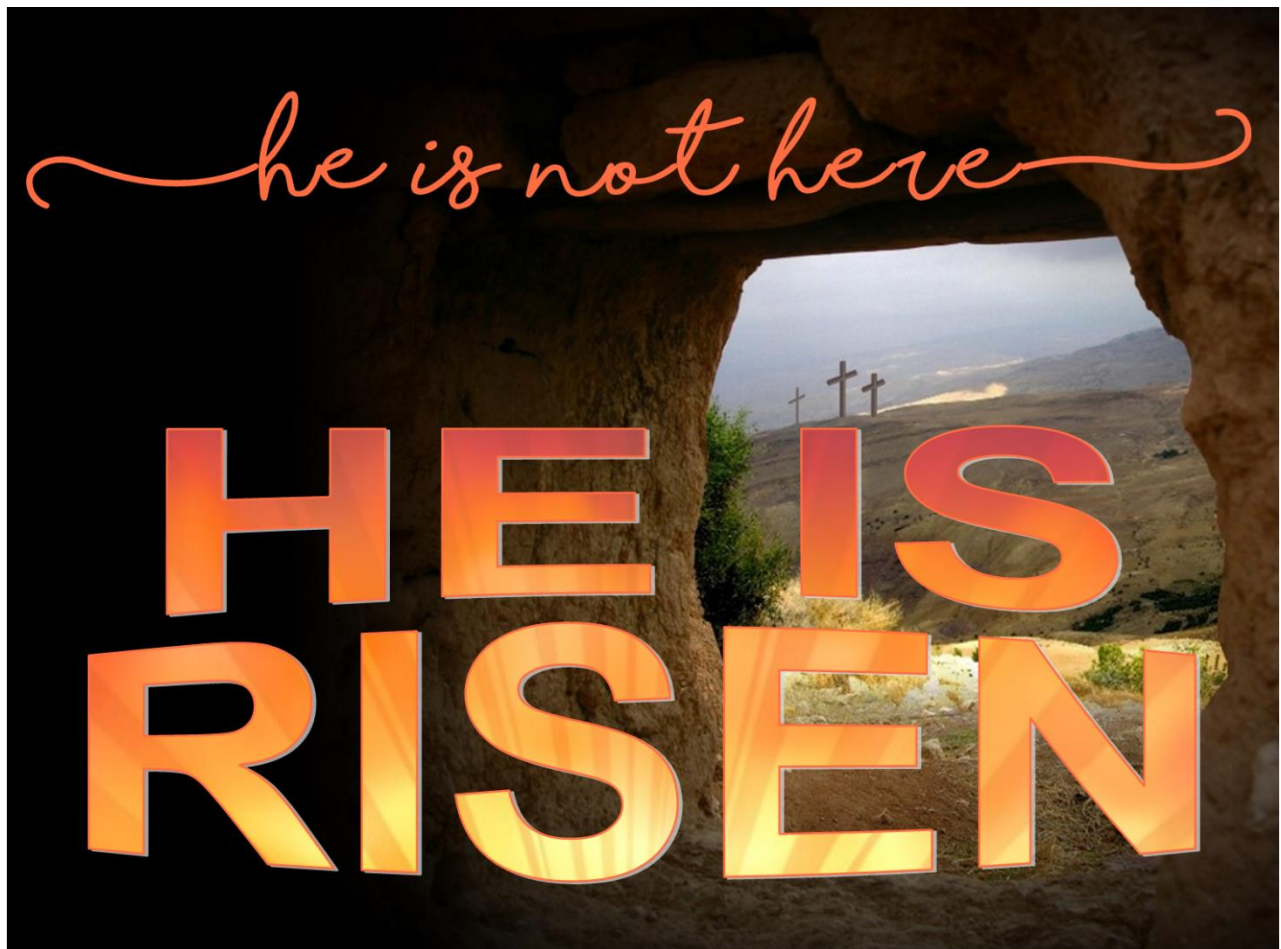
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday
April 20, 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



Sermon based upon Luke 24:1-12 and Isaiah 65:17-25

Our Mission

"Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other."

*The Service for the Lord's Day
Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day*

*EASTER PROCLAMATION

Pastor

Procession of the Light with Gale Buck on Bagpipes
Medley: *Flower of Scotland/Ode to Joy*

*OPENING HYMN

*Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness
(Christ, Be Our Light)*

GTG 314

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Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many
despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are
cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. [Refrain]

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor

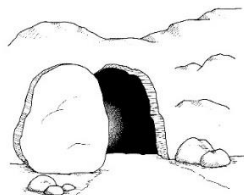
Leader: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

PRELUDE

In the Darkness of the Morning
Chancel Choir

G. Laycock



OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

This is the good news we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

That Christ died for our sins, and was buried,
and rose again on the third day.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

He appeared to Peter, and to the twelve, and to many faithful witnesses.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

At last he came to us, that we might come to believe
and proclaim this good news to the world.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption,
and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death.
Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*PRAISE HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

GTG 232

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Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

Almighty God,

in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFSSIONAL RESPONSE

"Kyrie"

PH 572

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*Gloria Patri*)

PH 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.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

Isaiah 65:17-25

(OT pg.696)

ANTHEM

Behold the Lord of Love

Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir

Second Reading:

Pastor

Luke 24:1-12

(NT pg.90)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Pastor

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***RESPONSE HYMN**

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

GTG 248

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Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus, "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing hosanna, everyone!

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

***The Doxology**

GTG 607/PH 592

**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~**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets.

Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth and set us among all your creatures to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful to you you kept faith with us.

When we were slaves in Egypt, you broke the bonds of our oppression, brought us through the sea to freedom, and made covenant to be our God. By a pillar of fire, you led us through the desert to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. You spoke of love and justice in the prophets, and in the Word made flesh you lived among us, manifesting your glory. Christ died that we might live, and is risen to raise us to new life.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to save us. He came with healing in his touch, and was wounded for our sins. He came with mercy in his voice, and was mocked as one despised. He came with peace in his heart, and was met with violence and death. By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb, and at his command the gates of hell were opened. The one who was dead now lives. The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation, the Lamb upon the throne. The one ascended on high is with us always, as he promised.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God,

pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Give us who are fed at his hand, grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. **Amen**

Words of Institution

Serving of the Feast

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

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.

*CLOSING HYMN

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

GTG 234

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Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!

Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal:
but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing
your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Amazing Grace"

J. C. Pardini

*Please stand as you are able



Welcome to our visitors today!

We are glad you are here and we hope you will join us for worship again. If you are interested in joining our church, there are three ways you may do so. They are letter of transfer from your church of previous membership, reaffirmation of faith if you have already been baptized; and baptism and affirmation of faith if you have not been baptized. If you are interested in joining, please ask our pastor, or one of our elders, for more details.

Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

Please use the friendship register located in the pew to indicate your presence in worship. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Let the children come to me: Children & Youth of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to actively participate in worship. For those desiring supportive materials, "sermon notes" for young children through older youth are available in the narthex. Clipboards and crayons are also available to take to your pew. Please return them to the narthex after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of **John Bowles** who passed away on Monday, April 14, 2025 in Martinsville, VA. A celebration of John's life will take place Monday, April 21st at 4:00 PM at Wright Funeral Service Chapel (1425 Greensboro Rd., Martinsville).



Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance ending hunger after disasters, and promoting the self-development of all people. Look for envelopes in the pew racks.

The church office will be closed Easter Monday, April 21st and the **Weekday School will be on spring break** Friday, April 18th through Friday, April 25th.

The FPC Women's Circle Meeting is Monday, May 5th at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Marty Sherwood of Forest Hills PC will be leading the 9th and final lesson, Sustaining Creation's Health for All. If you are not a King's Grant resident, please sign in at the front desk and purchase your lunch ticket for \$12 upon arrival.

Weekday School upcoming events:

Art Show - Thursday, May 8th at 6:00 PM

Preschool Graduation - Thursday, May 15 at 6:00 PM

Handbell and Choir rehearsals are each Wednesday (unless otherwise noted on the calendar). If you are interested in joining, **handbells begin rehearsal at 5:30 PM** in the session room and the **choir meets at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. New folks are always welcome! Talk with Spencer if you have any questions.

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (creamed corn 15 oz.)** (Other needs: toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine products, dish and laundry detergent) when you do your grocery shopping. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday – 9:30 – 2:00 PM

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of John Bowles, Family of Betty Stanley, Anne Abercrombie, Sue Benfield, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Nancy Davis, Jerri DeVault, Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Doug Goldstein, Marvin Hudson, Jamelle Waid Linker (Ed Linker's daughter-in-law), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Cecil Robbins, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Carl Utley, Lil Wall, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, Jodi White (sister of P. Marshall/G. Chaney), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries. Areas and families affected by hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, April 20

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Easter Sunday

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 23

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room

Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Sunday, April 27

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

2 Cents a Meal Offering

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, April 28

4:00 PM

Session Meeting

Wednesday, April 30

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room

Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Sunday, May 4

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Communion

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, May 5

11:00 AM

1:00 PM

PW Circle Meeting at King's Grant

Session Visioning

Wednesday, May 7

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room

Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Thursday, May 8

6:00 PM

WDS Art Show in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 11

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary & Lemonade on the Lawn

Tuesday, May 13

9:00 AM

Cooks Who Care

Wednesday, May 14

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room

Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Thursday, May 15

6:00 PM

WDS Graduation in Fellowship Hall

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
April 20 - Easter	Sam Smith	Duke and Liz Ferrell
April 27	Susan Pilson	Bob Wuetefeld, Barbara Duncan
May 4	Ashby Pinkard	Billy and Sharon Kirby
May 11	Lynn Pritchett	Johnny and Ashby Pinkard
May 18	Ron Rebman	Joe and Jerri DeVault
May 25	Martha Rollins	Taylor Shank, Sandra Shank

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.