**Morning Worship**

**April 14, 2024**

**3rd Sunday after Easter**

**10:45 a.m.**

***GATHERING***

**WORD OF WELCOME**

**PRELUDE “Prealudium in D minor BWV 926”** J. S. Bach

**CALL TO WORSHIP**  Pabby Arnold

The Lord hears us when we call:

**Come, let us put our trust in God.**

The Lord fills our hearts with gladness:

**Come, let us sing God’s praises with shouts of joy!**

The Lord grants peace to our weary souls:

**Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God’s grace.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY** (unison)

**Almighty God, through your only Son, you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we who celebration our Lord’s resurrection may, through the renewing power of your Spirit, arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN NO. 108 “Christ Is Alive”**  TRURO

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

To repent is to turn away from sin and turn toward Christ Jesus. Scripture promises that when we confess, God hears our cries and wipes away our sin (Acts 3:19). Trusting in God’s promises of new life, let us confess our sins and the sin of this world.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**Risen Christ, we are often troubled by our doubts. But you are not troubled by them. You do not require perfect understanding. Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again that we might come to know you. Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck, when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do. Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us. Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide it, when we fail to offer it to others. Renew us and make us whole, that in this world of strife, we may be bearers of your peace. In resurrection hope, we pray. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are” (1 John 3:1). Children of God, we are claimed by God, forgiven of our sins, and set free for love. Alleluia! Amen.

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE “Gloria Patri”**

***THE WORD***

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Pastor Stephen**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Redeeming God, as we hear your Word spoken to us, open our eyes to see the risen Christ, open our ears to hear the good news of his salvation for all the world, and open our minds to understand the mysteries of your love. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

**FIRST READING  *I John 2:1-11***

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But, if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Now by this, we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. Whoever says, "I have come to know him," but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person, the truth does not exist; but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says, "I abide in him," ought to walk just as he walked. Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. Yet, I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says, "I am in the light," while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person, there is no cause for stumbling. But, whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM “To God Be the Glory”** M. Archer

**SECOND READING  *I John 2:18-28***

  Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. From this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But, by going out, they made it plain that none of them belongs to us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth.

Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he has promised us, eternal life. I write these things to you concerning those who would deceive you. As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But, as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he is revealed, we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

**SERMON Pastor Stephen Sanders**

**“Keep the Faith”**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Verses from Romans*

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

In response to God’s abundant grace at work in our lives, let us present with gratitude our gifts of time, talent and treasure, for the building up of God’s kingdom.

**Offertory “Danza de la moza donosa”**  A. Ginastera

**\*Doxology**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Living Lord, we give you thanks for the bounty of your grace: you create us in your image, shower us with your love, forgive us when we turn away from you, and give us a future with hope. Bless these gifts we offer you today and make us good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. May our gifts bring joy and peace in our church and in our community. In Christ’s holy name, we pray. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

**ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF ELDERS** *See bulletin insert*

***SENDING***

**\*HYMN NO. 439 “In Christ There Is No East or West”**  ST. PETER

**\*BENEDICTION**

As you go out from this place, remember that “Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body … Christ has no body now on earth but yours.” Together, we are the resurrected body of Christ in the world. And, wherever we go, however we live into that call, the risen Christ will be with us. God’s love will surround us, and the Spirit will breathe new life into our weary souls. Amen.

**\*POSTLUDE “Come, Thou Almighty King”**  arr. M. Gaspard

**SERVING US TODAY**: Music Director, Dr. Kay White … Organist, Brennan Plummer … Sanctuary Choir Section Leaders: Miranda Albarez, Clay Donaldson, Trish Thatai, Chip White … Ushers: Edmundo Estrada, Barbara Long, Carolyn Ott, Mike Zobrist … Greeter: Barbara Waugh.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** are given today by Steve and Jan Sauls in loving memory of Jan’s mom, Iva Mae Barber, on the occasion of her birthday April 17.

**CHRISTIAN CONCERNS:**

Jessica Alexander, Pabby Arnold, Pabby Arnold’s cousin, Mark, Sammie Baker, Bob Barry, Katie Bass (Lyme Disease), Kathy Battaglia (back procedure), Barbara Beckmann, Infant Jane Marie Berry, Dave and Sue Blackshear, Julian (3) and Allie (14) Boudreaux, Andy Boykin (9), Barbara Brewster (96), Owen Carroll (17), Mary Coles, Anita Collins, Jim and Elizabeth (fall) Davis, Hunter Derouse (infant), Carolyn and Shane Doling, Marguerite Guice, Dolores Hadskey, Rev. Joe Hahn, Blanche Hamilton, Dick Helvig, Mariano Hinojosa, Joy Hymel, Debbie and Jesse Jones, Charlie Jordan, Koen Langheinz, Mike Lopez, Jeff Marinchak, Marcy McInnis, Lauren Johnson Muckleroy, Grant Nesbit, Gloria Ochomogo (Edmundo’s mom), Dan, Wilhelmina and Julia Palmer, Nell Phillips (fall), Rev. Judy Roeling, Kelly Root (kidney cancer), Jan and Steve Sauls, Bill Simmons, Dianne Smith (stroke), Dave Snyder, Dale Tullier, Helen Vogel, Mike Weinstein.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS** will take place during worship today. Carolyn Ott and Alex Chenevert will be ordained and installed. Lee Bruner and Alice Hondzinski will be installed.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S SPRING GATHERING** will be held here at BPC next Saturday, April 20. BPC’s Presbyterian Women will host this great event. Women from all around the presbytery are invited. There will be a time of registration, fellowship, worship, workshops, presentations, and lunch. If you would like to attend or assist in any way, please contact Ellen Snyder.

**BPECC’S MAY DAY PARADE to support St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital.** Our preschool children will ride their favorite tricycle, bicycle, or big wheel around the gym on May Day. If you would like to support one or more children (or make a donation), please see the flyer with more information on the table in the narthex. Thank you for supporting our children as they ride to help others.

**CAMP AGAPE** will be held June 16-22, 2024, at the Feliciana Retreat Center. Four different camps are offered for children 3rd grade through 12th. Camp brochures are on the table in the narthex. Please take one for your child, a grandchild, or a neighbor. The deadline to register is May 18, 2024.

**OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS** are on the table in the narthex. Please take one for yourself and/or a friend.

**FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please take a moment to sign your name on the Friendship Pads located on the back of the pew near the center aisle. Include any prayer requests or concerns.

**SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES**: **Spam or Corned Beef** is the requested item this week. Please bring it to Sunday school, the narthex or church office.

**CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024**

9:30 Children’s Sunday School Conference Room and F-6

9:30 The Seekers Class Education Bldg. #E-3

9:30 The Walking Faith Class Fellowship Hall

10:45 Worship/Ordain & Install Class of 2026 Elders Sanctuary

**MONDAY, april 15, 2024**

4:00 Jehovah Jireh Basketball AB

6:00 Fencing Group AB

7:00 AA Fellowship Hall

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024**

4:00 Our Lady of Mercy Basketball AB

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024**

9:30 Hug-A-Bears Alice Hondzinski’s Home

11:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir

4:00 Jehovah Jireh Basketball AB

6:00 Fencing Group AB

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024**

9:00 Preschool Chapel Time Sanctuary

4:00 Jehovah Jireh Basketball AB

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024**

2:00 Set Up for Presbyterian Women’s Gathering Fellowship Hall

6:00 Fencing Group AB

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024**

9:30 Registration Begins for Presbyterian Women’s Gathering Fellowship Hall

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024**

9:30 Children’s Sunday School Conference Room and F-6

9:30 The Seekers Class Fellowship Hall

9:30 The Walking in Faith Class Education E-3

10:45 Worship Sanctuary

12:00 Session Meeting Conference Room