**April 30th, 2023**

**4th Sunday of Easter**

**Communion Sunday**

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:** (Please rise if you are able)

ONE: Lord, may this candle which we light illuminate all our difficulties and decisions. May this candle be a fire that burns away all our pride, selfishness and all our temptations. May this candle be a flame that warms our hearts and helps us to love one another better.

**ALL: Jesus Christ is the light that shines throughout the world, bringing hope and love to all believers. Let us cause his light to shine through us and make the world a better place.**

(Light the candle)

**One**: Let us now open our hearts to worship God almighty.

**Musical Introit - #445** "Open our eyes, Lord"

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #433 –** “All creatures of our God and King” vs.1,2,5,6

1 All creatures of our God and King

lift up your voice and with us sing:

sing praises, hallelujah!

O brother sun with golden beam,

O sister moon with silver gleam,

sing praises, sing praises,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

2 Wild rushing wind, unbounded, strong,

high clouds that sail in heaven along:

sing praises, hallelujah!

New rising dawn in praise rejoice,

kind lights of evening, find a voice:

sing praises, sing praises,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

5 Let everyone of tender heart,

forgiving others, take their part:

sing praises, hallelujah!

Al who long pain and sorrow bear,

give God your burdens and your care,

sing praises, sing praises,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

6 Let all things their Creator bless,

and worship God in humbleness:

sing praises, hallelujah!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:

sing praises, sing praises,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**Hymn #485** - “Saviour, like a shepherd lead us”

1 Saviour, like a shepherd lead us:

much we need your tender care;

in your pleasant pastures feed us;

for our use your folds prepare:

blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

You have bought us; yours we are.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

You have bought us; yours we are.

2 We are yours; in love befriend us;

be the guardian of our way;

keep your flock from sin, defend us;

seek us when we go astray:

blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

Hear your children when we pray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

Hear your children when we pray.

3 Let us always seek your favour;

let us always do your will.

Jesus Christ our only Saviour,

with yourself our spirits fill:

blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

You have loved us, love us still.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

You have loved us, love us still.

**Children’s Time**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: Acts 2:42-47

Second Lesson:   1 Peter 2:19-25

**Responsive Psalm**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM**

**Psalm 23**

ONE: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**ALL: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.**

ONE: He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

**ALL: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;**

ONE: For you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

**ALL: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

ONE: You anoint my head with oil;

**ALL: My cup overflows.**

ONE: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

**ALL: And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

**Gloria Patri**

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.

Gospel Lesson:  John 10:1-10

**Anthem -** “Deep in my heart”

**Sermon -**  *“*The Good Shepherd*”*

**Hymn #290 -** “Immortal, invisible, God only wise”

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

most blessed, most glorious,

the Ancient of Days,

almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,

nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;

thy justice like mountains high soaring above

thy clouds, which are fountains

of goodness and love.

3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;

in all life thou givest, the true life of all;

we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,

and wither and perish,

but naught changest thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,

thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;

all laud we would render; oh help us to see

tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

**Offertory Prayer**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation to the Lord’s Supper**

**The Invitation**

**Communion Hymn** **#560 -** “Put Peace” vs. 1-3

1 Put peace into each other’s hands,

and like a treasure hold it;

protect it like a candle flame

with tenderness enfold it.

2 Put peace into each other’s hands

with loving expectation;

be gentle in your words and ways

in touch with God’s creation.

3 Put peace into each other’s hands

like bread we break for sharing;

look people warmly in the eye:

our life is meant for caring.

**Affirmation of Faith - Apostle’s 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, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sits at 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.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:  BoP #564**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Communion Hymn #560 -** “Put Peace” vs. 4-5

4 As at communion, shape your hands

into a waiting cradle;

the gift of Christ receive, revere,

united round the table.

5 Put Christ into each other’s hands,

he is love’s deepest measure;

in love make peace, give peace a chance,

and share it like a treasure.

**Benediction**

**Recessional**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. We hope you experience the love of God and of this congregation as we worship, celebrate, and serve one another.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TODAY –** We hope you can join us for the Hymn Sing this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Come enjoy an afternoon of inspiring music followed by a time of fellowship!

**Mon., May 8th** – Board of Managers will meet at 6:30 p.m.

**Tues., May 9th** – Session will meet at 6:30 p.m.

**Sun., May 7 - 7:00 p.m.** - St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Westville presents “**An Enjoyable Evening of Music”.** Featuring a variety of talent including choirs and brass followed by a social time. Free will offering. Everyone welcome!

**Sun., June 11th, 2:30p.m. – “Save the Date” -** The Trinitarians and Guests are hosting “A Spring Choral Concert” at Trinity United.

**Recognition of Graduates**: Parents, grandparents, and students - If you are or have a student graduating this year (high school, college, technical school or graduate school) and would like to share the news with the congregation, please let us know, we’d be happy to spread the word! You can call the church office (902-752-5691) or email the name of the graduate along with details i.e. school graduating from, degree obtained, brief description of future plans etc. We welcome news regarding our young people and their accomplishments. There is so much to celebrate!

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Description automatically generatedWe need more ushers to help out on Sundays. If you are interested in being part of the rotating team, please contact Sharon Mason at 902-752-0724 or by email at slmson60@gmail.com

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS**

**Scripture reader**: Jennifer Thibeau

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office Entry) – Sandra Arthur and Ian Semple

James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Jackie and Gary Ross

**Early Christian Educators**: Lynne Ann and Lois MacLellan

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Minister: Rev. Andrew MacDonald (c) 902-331-0322

Organist: Clare Grieves

Office hours: Tues. to Fri. – 10 -1pm

Rev. MacDonaldoffice hours -Tues. to Thurs. 10-2 or by appointment

**Mission Statement:** But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple. Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously – take God seriously. Micah 6: 8-The Message