Welcome

Prelude *“Gloria”* Rob Roy Peery

*Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

Choral Call to Worship

The Story of Jesus in Word and Song

*Narrators: Eric and Laura Gourley*

*“Was It A Morning Like This?” - Nancy Falkner, Solo*

*“He is Alive”*

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: We gather in the name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ!

**People: We gather as sisters and brothers of the resurrected one.**

Leader: We gather to share our faith and to worship God who loves.

**People: We gather to proclaim the good news of Easter! Christ is risen! Alleluia! Amen!**

\*Opening Hymn *“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”* Red Hymnal, #217

Prayer for Easter Morning (**Unison** – from PCUSA Mission Agency)

**Living God, on the first day of the week you brought to birth a new creation through the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. Fill us with the hope and joy of new beginnings, so that we may share the good news of your liberating, life-giving power with all the world; through Christ our Savior, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and always. Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri (*Glory Be to the Father…)* Red Hymnal, #623

Flowering of the Cross

Music:

(During the song, you may come forward to place a flower on the cross in honor of a loved one.

Flowers are available at the front for you to use, or you may bring your own flower.)

Scripture  *“Matthew 28:1-10*” (page 1549)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: *"What’s in a Name?"* Rev. Kimby Young

\*Litany of Faith (adapted from Ann Weems, *Reaching for Rainbows*)

Leader: Christ has risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: God is alive…

**People: New birth is given.**

Leader: Hope is alive…

**People: A new age is dawning.**

Leader: Joy is alive…

**People: Redemption is here.**

Leader: Love is alive…

**People: Death cannot harm us.**

Leader: We are alive…

**People: New life is within us.**

Leader: The church is alive…

**People: God’s Spirit empowers us.**

Leader: So dance, sing, laugh, shout!

**People: Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen!**

\*Hymn *“The Day of Resurrection”* Red Hymnal, #226

Offertory Meditation *“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth”* G. F. Handel / arr. by Benton Price

\*Doxology

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*(All bread is gluten free. Prepacked elements are available in the back.)*

Invitation

Great Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution – Breaking of Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Closing Hymn: *“Thine is the Glory”*  Red Hymnal, #227

Choral Benediction

The Story of Jesus in Word and Song

*Narrators: Eric and Laura Gourley*

*“Name Above All Names / No Other Name / All Hail the Power of Jesus Name.”*

*“Come Celebrate Jesus”*

Postlude: *“The Hallelujah Chorus”* G. F. Handel / arr. by Bruce Carl \*Those who are comfortably able will please stand.

**Childcare is always available in the nursery** (off the hall to the west of the sanctuary).  Children are welcome to stay in the sanctuary thru the whole service, or to leave at any time.  Allison Perry is our primary childcare attendant.

**Offering Plates** are at the entrance of each aisle for your contributions to the work of the church.

**Gardner Multi Service Center** collection is ongoing every week and is always in need of any non-perishable food. Bring something every week or once a month.

**Fair Trade Products for Sale** on Sundays Coffee, tea, chocolate, nuts, olive oil, dried fruit, baking products, and a few other items are for sale each Sunday at church.

**Harvesters Food Distribution** is always seeking volunteers. Every 3rd Saturday at Trade Net Parking lot and every 4th Wednesday at Divine Mercy Parish. Distribution begins at about 1 p.m.

**OGHS collection is received** on March 31, Easter. Mark check OGHS.

**Mission fundraiser** for hygiene kits $5.00, woman/girls health kits $25.00.

**Session has established a "Suggestion Box"** just outside the office for ideas, comments, questions, and thoughts.  Contents will be reviewed at session meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month.  Names are helpful if we need to follow up, but you may remain anonymous.

**Women Fellowship Meeting** on Wednesday, April 3, 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall.

**PYF Fundraiser for Mission Trip for 2025** Chicken N Noodles Dinner, Sunday, April 21 11:30 – 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

**PW Annual Spring Brunch on Saturday,** April 27th 9”30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

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  First Presbyterian Church

*In the heart of Gardner since 1866 ~ Serving from the heart of God*

*Sunday,* *March 31, 2024*

*Worship & Celebration of the Resurrection*

*8:45 AM*



**Welcome –** Thank you for joining us for worship today.  Please fill out a visitor information card found in the pew racks and place those in the offering plate so that we may follow up with you in the future.  Your presence with us today is a blessing to us, we hope that you feel the presence of God and the welcome of this congregation.

*Rev. Kimby Young, Pastor*

*Dean Faulk, Music Ministries*

*Alice Rollf, Organist; Nancy Falkner, Solo*

*Eric and Laura Gourley, Narrators*

*Mike McGuire and Brad Cornell, Slide Production*

*Davis Tropansky, Tech, and Videographer; Kim Liu, Sound*