

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 4, 2025

11:00 a.m.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER COMMUNION SUNDAY

### WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.  
Please silence your cell phone as worship begins.*

VOLUNTARY: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need.....Barbara Kinyon  
*Westminster Ringers*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Jill Duffield

\* CALL TO WORSHIP .....Turner Pierce

Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
Through the resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ,  
we have been born anew into a living hope;  
we have been given an inheritance that will never pass away!

**All: Blessing and glory  
and honor and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever!  
Amen.**

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 667 – When Morning Gilds the Sky ..... LAUDES DOMINI

\* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of glory,  
you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,  
to reveal your love for all people.**

**We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light.  
We turn away from the poor;  
we ignore cries for justice;  
we do not strive for peace.**

**Forgive us, God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,  
and baptize us once again with your Spirit,  
so that, as forgiven and renewed people,  
we may reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ  
into our world. Amen.**

*A brief period of silence is observed for personal confession.*

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

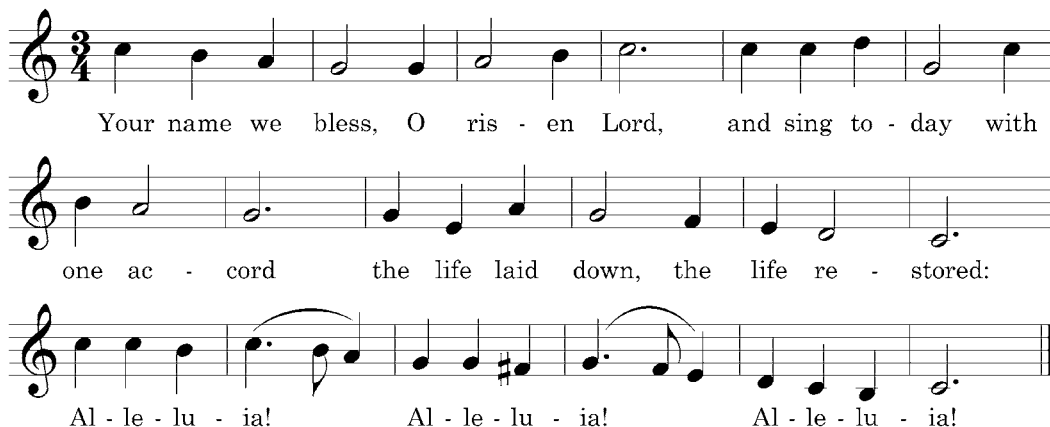
\* THE PEACE

**Leader:** Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

\* RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!  
GELOBT SIE GOTT



## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Revelation 5:11-14* .....Wyatt McHenry

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!”

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might  
forever and ever!”

And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD READ: *Acts 9:1-20*

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation:** Thanks be to God.

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 662 – Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky..... RATISBON

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE ..... Matt Bussell

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING..... Jill Duffield

Leader: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.  
People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

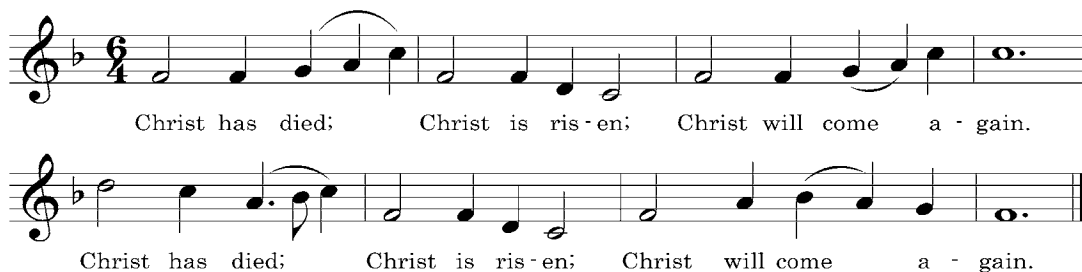
Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, ... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, —  
2. Bless - ed is he who comes

God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, ... 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.



Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us ... 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.



Leader: And as our Savior taught us we are bold to pray:

## 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION..... Matt Bussell

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*Ave Verum Corpus* .....W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)  
*Chancel Choir*

<i>Ave, verum corpus natum</i>	Hail the true body, born
<i>ex Maria Virgine:</i>	of the Virgin Mary:
<i>vere passum, immolatum</i>	You who truly suffered and were sacrificed
<i>in cruce pro homine:</i>	on the cross for the sake of humanity.
<i>cujus latus perforatum</i>	From whose pierced flank
<i>unda fluxit et sanguine:</i>	flowed water and blood:
<i>esto nobis praegustatum,</i>	Be a foretaste for us
<i>in mortis examine.</i>	in the trial of death.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION .....Jill Duffield

CALL FOR THE OFFERING..... Matt Bussell

*You may also participate in the offering using the QR code on the back page of this bulletin. Information for giving by other options, including text, app, and regular mail, can be found there as well.*

OFFERTORY: Jubilant Celebration.....J. Wayne Kerr  
*Westminster Ringers*

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise  
 God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-  
 lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Praise  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-  
 lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... Matt Bussell

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION .....Jill Duffield

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 761 – Called as Partners in Christ’s Service.....BEECHER

VOLUNTARY: Voluntary in D .....George Dyson (1883-1964)  
*John Alexander, organ*





## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Jill Duffield, *Senior Pastor*

Matt Bussell, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*

Phaedra Smith, *Associate Director of Children & Youth Ministry*

Turner Pierce, *FPC Youth*

Wyatt McHenry, *Lay Reader*

Charlotte Freeze and James Garner, *Acolytes*

John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*

Rebecca Pugh, *Assistant Organist*

*Chancel Choir*

*Westminster Ringers*

“When Morning Gilds the Sky” Text: German hymn; Music: Joseph Bamby.

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!” Text: Cyril A. Alington; Music: Melchior Vulpus.

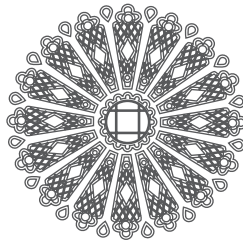
“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky” Text: Charles Wesley; Music: German folk melody.

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*.

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” Text: Jane Parker Huber; Music: John Zundel.

\* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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**2024-2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS:** *Adult Formation:* Margee Jones, John Sullivan. *Youth Formation:* Leigh Abraham, Layne King. *Children's Formation:* Sally King, Lorie Jones. *Church Officer Development:* Tim Cook, Graham Farless. *Communications:* Rich Prigge, John Vanderwerff. *Discipleship:* Lauren Martin, Nancy Courts. *Finance:* Rob Peddrick, Dave Thompson. *Hospitality:* Caroline Showers, Bet Vanderwerff. *Human Resources:* Ralph Davison, Lisa Cook. *Outreach:* Margaret Arbuckle, Rhonda Wakefield. *Pastoral Care:* Tamara Slaughter, Sheri Evans. *Property:* Brian Pierce, Sam Simpson. *Stewardship:* Dan Goley, Tom Gillespie. *Technology:* Sam Bostian. *Worship:* Chip Bristol, Morgan Hood. *Nominating:* Nancy Moore, Ross Harris. *Appointments:* Randy Jackson, Leigh Jones.

***WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith.***

Rooted and reaching in Christ's love, we seek to serve God as Spirit-led changemakers for good. Our vision is to be a caring, compassionate, and inclusive faith community welcoming those who seek an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ, meaningful worship, authentic connections, lifelong learning, and transformative service. We are continually growing and evolving, even as we remain strongly rooted in the Greensboro community and the Presbyterian tradition.

*Come as you are and prepare to be transformed by God's love.*



**TAKING ATTENDANCE:** The QR code, left, directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts. If you do not have a smartphone, you can pick up a physical copy of an attendance card as you enter the Life Center or

Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.

**NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED** for infants through age 4 on the first floor of Mullin Life Center. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.



**WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL**

**EMERGENCIES:** If during the service you or someone near you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency please contact the closest usher.

**PARKING MINISTRY:** This ministry helps members with mobility issues get from their cars to the sanctuary for the 11 am service on Sundays. Two volunteers work on Greene Street 10:30-11:15 am. Passengers may be dropped off at the Greene Street door and will be escorted into the sanctuary. Drivers will be directed to a reserved space as needed. One volunteer is needed after the service until 12:15 pm. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at [fpcgreensboro.org/signup](https://fpcgreensboro.org/signup).

**THE LITURGICAL COLOR *WHITE*** seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

**PASTOR ON CALL:** When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

**WAYS TO GIVE:** In addition to the in-person offering, you may give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code (right) to give online. Go to [fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text](https://fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text) to download the FellowshipOne Giving mobile app (Apple  or Android ) and for instructions for giving via text. Mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.



**TODAY IS COMMUNION SUNDAY:** All are welcome to the Lord's table. Our Communion bread is gluten free. If you are unable to come forward, please raise a hand and an elder will come to you to serve you. We pray that as Christ meets you here you will be refreshed for the journey and strengthened in faith. After worship, elders will take communion to church members in care communities and private homes who are unable to attend services. For information, contact Debby Foster, 336.478.4702 or [dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org).

**ABOUT THIS MORNING'S ROSEBUDS –** The rosebuds in Rejoice! and in the sanctuary celebrate the birth of Reynolds Royce Hansen. Born April 24, 202, Reynolds is the son of Jenny and Kevin Hansen and joins siblings Talton and Emory. The family resides at 8192 McClanahan Drive, Browns Summit, NC 27214.

**ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS:** The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Sandra Holderness Davis and in memory of her late husband, Egbert Lawrence III by Dr. & Mrs. Howard Holderness, Jr.

**200TH ANNIVERSARY SCOTLAND PILGRIMAGE:** We invite you to pray for 28 pilgrims from our church and the Greensboro area who are traveling in Scotland through May 10. This pilgrimage is rooted in reformed tradition and includes Presbyterian history.

# 667 When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing  
 2 Does sad - ness fill my mind? A so - lace here I  
 3 Let earth's wide cir - cle round in joy - ful notes re -  
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di -

cries: may Je - sus Christ be praised! A -  
 find: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or  
 sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let  
 vine: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be

like at work and prayer to Je - sus I re -  
 fades my earth - ly bliss? My com - fort still is  
 air and sea and sky from depth to height re -  
 this the e - ter - nal song through all the a - ges

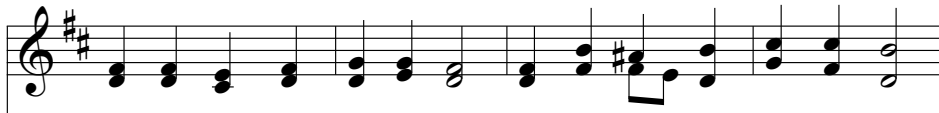
pair: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 this: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 ply: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

This is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

# Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.



This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740

MUSIC: German folk melody; adapt. Johann Werner, 1815; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

RATISBON

7.7.7.7.7

# Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761



- 1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
- 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
- 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
- 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.  
help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,  
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e-qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.  
blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.  
bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.