



# **First Presbyterian Church Portsmouth**

A Christ-Centered and Mission-Minded Church of the PCUSA

## **Christ has risen!**

The Rev. Ronald N. Johnson, Minister of Word and Sacrament  
Elder Betty Kennedy, Liturgist  
Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music  
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist



# **Easter Sunday**

## **March 31, 2024**

*He is Risen, Indeed!*

### **GATHERING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY**

#### **WELCOME AND GREETING**

Rev. Ron Johnson

#### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elder Betty Kennedy

L. Yesterday, we thought death had won.  
Yesterday, we thought all was lost.  
Yesterday, we thought Christ was gone.

***P. But not today.***

***Today, we know that love has won.***

***Today, we know that hope is real.***

***Today, we know that Christ is here.***

L. We have a reason to hope.

***P. We have a reason to sing!***

L. Alleluia!

***P. Alleluia!***

L. Christ is risen today!

#### **\*PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Elder Kennedy

**\*OPENING HYMN** #232 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" **GTG**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Elder Kennedy

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(spoken in unison)*

Elder Kennedy

***God of Resurrecting joy, we confess it's not easy to sustain Easter hope. We let discouragement, fear, and frustration settle in, and we let anger and anxiety turn our hearts away from you. Resentment and disappointment cling to us, and we forget your great mercy and love. Forgive us. Restore within us the joy and hope you promise us in Christ, our Risen Lord.***

***Amen.*** *(Silence for personal confession and meditation)*

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Johnson

L. ...

***P. Thanks be to God! Amen.***

### ***\*THE GLORIA PATRI (sung in unison)***

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.

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

### ***A PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING***

Rev. Johnson

### ***SCRIPTURE LESSON***

Luke 24:1-12 NRSVUE

Rev. Johnson

#### ***The Resurrection of Jesus***

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

***All: Thanks be to God!***

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Ms. Michele Imes

**THE MESSAGE**      "Wandering Heart – And I Hope"

Rev. Johnson

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**      (*spoken in unison*)

Rev. Johnson

**We may weep through the longest nights. We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers. We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more. But today, we are a people of hope. We believe in new beginnings. We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death. We believe that Jesus abides among us, healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.**

**We believe that a tomb could not hold him. We believe that the sun does rise. We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us. Today, we are a people of hope.**

**\*HYMN** (*sung in unison*)      "*Christ Arose*"

1) Low in the grave He lay, Jesus, my Savior!  
Waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord!

\* (Chorus)      Up from the grave He a-rose,  
With a might-y tri-umph o'er His foes;  
He a-rose a vic-tor from the dark do-main,  
And He lives for-ev-er with His saints to reign;  
He a-rose! He a-rose! Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ a-rose!

2) Vain-ly they watched His bed, Je-sus, my Sav-ior!  
Je-sus, my Sav-ior! Vain-ly they sealed the dead, Je-sus, my Lord!  
(repeat chorus)

3) Death could not keep his prey, Je-sus, my Sav-ior!  
He tore the bars a-way,  
(repeat chorus)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Johnson

... Christ who taught us to pray together, saying...

*The Lord's Prayer*

***Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.***

## **GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD**

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING***

Elder Kennedy

***OFFERTORY MUSIC***

Dr. Roberts

**\*The Doxology**

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.

***\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION*** *(spoken in unison)*

Elder Kennedy

***God of Resurrecting Grace, we offer our gifts with grateful hearts, recognizing how much you have given us in Christ and what that gift has cost. Empower these gifts to spread the hope and joy we feel today in the world you love, in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

***\* CLOSING HYMN*** #238 "Thine is the Glory"

**GTG**

**\*CALLED TO MISSION**

Elder Kennedy

***Soli Deo Gloria*** *(To God Alone be Glory)*

***God's story shaping ours.***

***In Christ, one and many, coming by grace,  
following in faith, serving with love, in neighborhoods near and far. The Word proclaimed, the work fulfilled,  
the World transformed toward Zion here and coming.  
To God alone be the glory!***

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Johnson

**POSTLUDE** (*Please be seated for the postlude*)

Dr. Roberts

**\*The asterisk indicates when we rise to our feet in spirit, as we are able in body.**

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## **Calendar**

Mar. 31: Easter Celebration with Easter Egg Hunt

Apr. 3: Mission and Congregational Care (MCL) meets, Fellshp. Hall, 4P.

Apr. 7: Communion is celebrated, 11A.

April 7: Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 2, 1:30P.

Apr. 4: Food Pantry Closed

Apr. 11: Community Food Pantry open, 12-2P

Apr. 14: Worship with Minford Nursing Home, Minford, 3P.

Apr. 17: Armbrust Student Loan Committee (ASLC) meets, Hybrid, 5:30P

Apr. 18: Mission Yard Sale, Fellwsh. Hall, 4P-7P

Apr. 19: Mission Yard Sale, Fellwsh. Hall, 10A-5P.

Apr. 20: Mission Yard Sale, Fellwsh. Hall, 9A-12P.

Apr. 21: Worship with Hillview Nursing Home, Chapel, 3P.

Apr. 25: Community Food Pantry open, 12-2P.

Apr. 29: Bicameral Meeting with Board of Deacons & Session, Hybrid Meeting, 12:30P.

**THE PRAYER LIST IS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD  
IN THE EDUCATION ANNEX**

Pastor & Church Secretary's Office Hours for the Week

Sunday: Worship and office hours. Mondays:

Home office (worship planning, prep, and meetings)

Tuesday thru Thursday: 10 A - 4 P Fridays: Off

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**<https://www.firstpresportsmouthoh.com>**

**<https://www.youtube.com/@firstconnections4806>**

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# SERMON NOTES

SERMON TITLE

SCRIPTURE VERSE(S)

WHAT DID I HEAR THAT RAISED QUESTIONS?

HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE?

MY HEART-FELT PRAYER TO GOD FOR THOSE IN MY LIFE AND MYSELF