

# First Presbyterian Church

## Portsmouth, Ohio

The Rev. Lisa R. Eye, Pastor  
Ms. Michele Imes, Liturgist  
Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music  
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist/Musician  
Ms. Stephanie Scaggs, Media Specialist



Ascension fresco by Giotto from the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua

**May 17, 2026**  
**Ascension of the Lord / 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

# Gathering Around the Word

*Welcoming the Community*

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

*Announcements & Celebrations*

Ms. Michele Imes

*Prelude*

Dr. Phillip Roberts

*The Prelude marks the beginning of worship. It offers us a way to enter into God's presence, setting aside all that competes for our attention in our busy world, and making way for the Spirit to gather us in and move among us. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.*

*\*Call to Worship*

Ms. Imes

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with songs of joy.

**God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

God is ruler over all the earth; the Lord reigns on a holy throne.

**God put this power to work in Christ, raising him from the dead.**

God has highly exalted him, giving him the name above all names.

**Jesus Christ is Lord! Glory to God in the highest.**

*\*Prayer of the Day*

Ms. Imes

*\*Hymn #263*

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

**GTG**

*\*Call to Confession*

Ms. Imes

*\*Prayer of Confession (unison)*

**Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen. (Silent prayer)**

*\*Assurance of Forgiveness*

Rev. Eye

*\*Response: Hymn# 240 Refrain*

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

**GTG**

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

*\*Sharing the Peace*

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## *Hearing and Proclaiming the Word*

*Prayer for Understanding*

Rev. Eye

*Scripture*

Luke 24:44-53

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture*

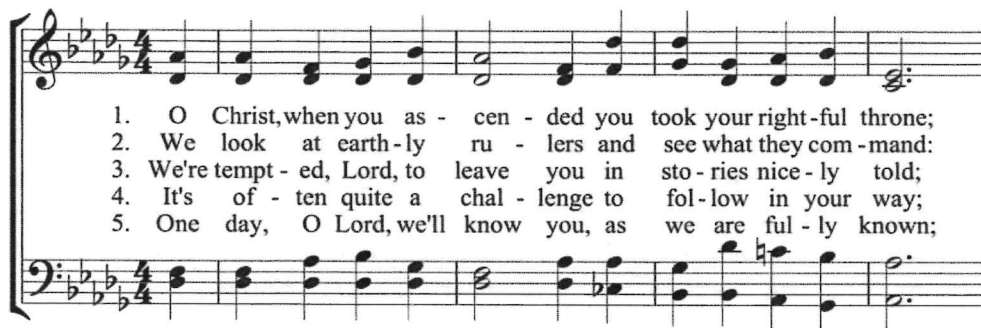
Acts 1:1-11

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

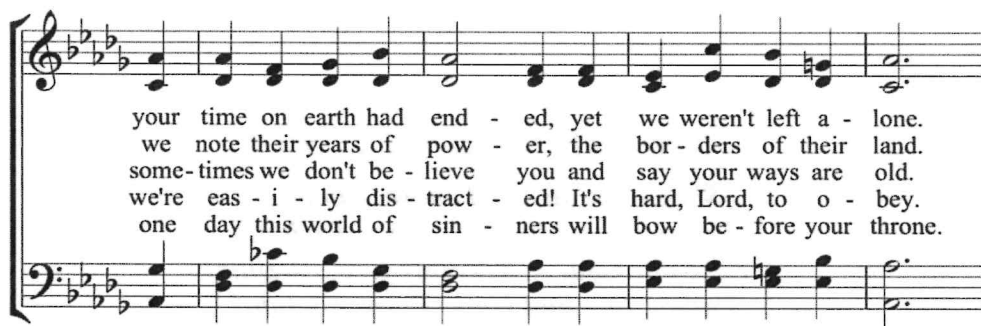
## Responding to the Word

\*Hymn

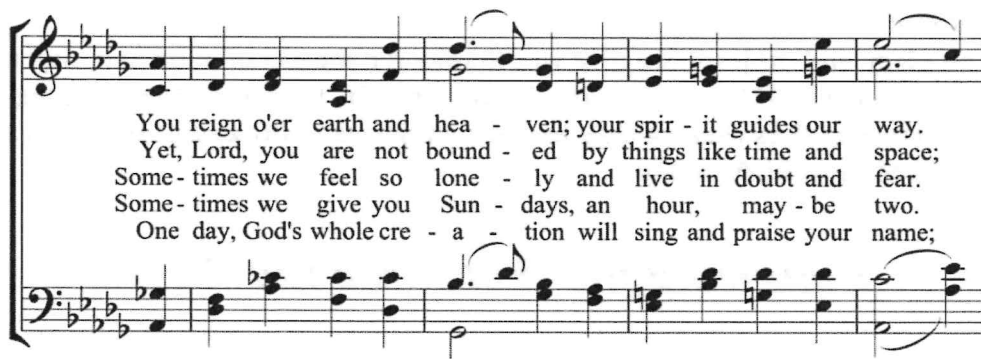
### O Christ, When You Ascended



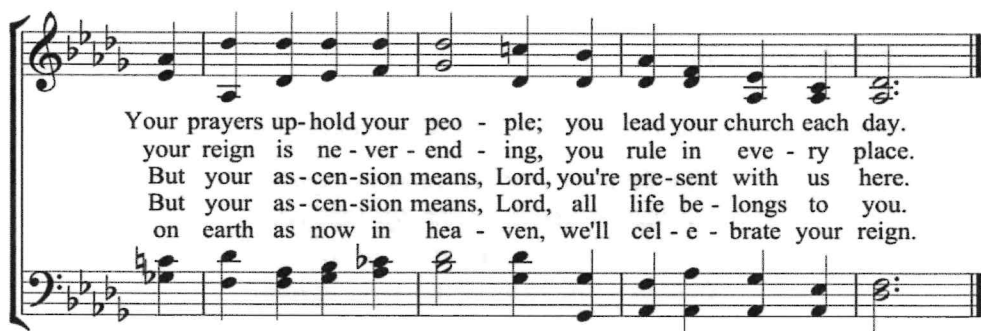
1. O Christ, when you as - cen - ded you took your right - ful throne;  
 2. We look at earth - ly ru - lers and see what they com - mand:  
 3. We're tempt - ed, Lord, to leave you in sto - ries nice - ly told;  
 4. It's of - ten quite a chal - lenge to fol - low in your way;  
 5. One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are ful - ly known;



your time on earth had end - ed, yet we weren't left a - lone.  
 we note their years of pow - er, the bor - ders of their land.  
 some - times we don't be - lieve you and say your ways are old.  
 we're eas - i - ly dis - tract - ed! It's hard, Lord, to o - bey.  
 one day this world of sin - ners will bow be - fore your throne.



You reign o'er earth and hea - ven; your spir - it guides our way.  
 Yet, Lord, you are not bound - ed by things like time and space;  
 Some - times we feel so lone - ly and live in doubt and fear.  
 Some - times we give you Sun - days, an hour, may - be two.  
 One day, God's whole cre - a - tion will sing and praise your name;



Your prayers up - hold your peo - ple; you lead your church each day.  
 your reign is ne - ver - end - ing, you rule in eve - ry place.  
 But your as - cen - sion means, Lord, you're pre - sent with us here.  
 But your as - cen - sion means, Lord, all life be - longs to you.  
 on earth as now in hea - ven, we'll cel - e - brate your reign.

Biblical References: Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

Tune: Henry Thomas Smart, 1835 ("The Day of Resurrection")

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*The Apostles' 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, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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; and the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer***

Rev. Eye

...Receive all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as together we pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray, saying, **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 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

***Invitation to the Offering***

Ms. Imes

***Offering Instrumental***

Dr. Roberts

**\*Doxology #232**

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, verse 4*

**GTG**

***Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!***

**\*Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)**

Ms. Imes

**O God of all glory and majesty, we give you thanks for the gift of your Son, and his power at work in our lives and our gifts. Bless these gifts for the benefits they afford in bringing life to others in your name. Bless our lives that we may be your witnesses to the end of the earth as we love and serve you, O God most high. Amen.**

## ***Following the Word into the World***

**\*Hymn #266**

*Joy to the World*

**GTG**

**\*Congregational Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Eye

**\*Sending Song #541, verse 1**

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

**GTG**

***God be with you till we meet again;  
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.***

***Acolyte Recessional***

***Postlude***

*(Please be seated for the postlude.)*

Dr. Roberts

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**We are glad you are here and want you to feel welcome as you share in worship!**

\*The asterisk indicates that worshippers are invited to rise in body or in spirit, as able.

**Bold text** indicates that the congregation is invited to speak.

**GTG** refers to *Glory to God*, the hymnal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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

Let us pray for our ability to be faithful disciples, family, and friends; our church, pastor, the session, deacons, committees, lay leadership, our ministry, outreach, and stewardship; the Boney Fiddle community and its churches, schools, the city of Portsmouth and its leadership, state and national leadership, and those who are incarcerated.

**Building Update:** The first phase of the sanctuary work – the structural repair – has been completed! Worship will continue to be held in the Fellowship Hall while the second phase – ceiling restoration, painting, and cleaning – takes place. Thank you to all who have made financial gifts to support this work! We are planning a cleaning/organizing day in the future. Please stay tuned for more updates.

**Armbrust Student Program Applications Are Open!** The Armbrust Student Loan Program is gearing up for a new school term, and applications are now available! Persons interested may download the application from the church website and get ready for an exciting year of learning and growth. If you have any questions, please let us know.

**The FPC Food Bank has reopened as of Thursday, May 14 from 12 to 2 p.m.** Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Rachel Collingsworth or the Church Office to learn more.

**Join us a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship Gathering following worship on May 31<sup>st</sup>** – We'll meet at Giovanni's Pizza located at 1925 11<sup>th</sup> Street for "Dutch treat" lunch and an informal time to visit with FPC friends. Everyone is welcome!

**A memorial service for Dr. Eugene John Valentine**, husband of Anne Nickerson, will be held at Noon on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Christ Community Church with Rev. Lisa Eye officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the church.

## Church & Community Calendar

**May: Armbrust meeting TBA**

**Tuesday, May 19: Presbytery of Scioto Valley Meeting at Circleville Presbyterian Church at 3:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, May 20: Regular Session meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Lounge**

**Thursday, May 21: Food Pantry from 12:00-2:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 24: Pentecost Sunday;  
Regular Deacons' meeting following worship in Lounge**

**Monday, May 25: Memorial Day, Church Office closed**

**Thursday, May 28: Food Pantry from 12:00-2:00 p.m.**

## Church Contact Information

Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm

Virginia M. Stinnett, Admin. Aid/Church Secretary—Email: [vstinnett.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:vstinnett.fpc@gmail.com); Phone: (740) 353-4259

Bev Phipps, Treasurer—Email: [bevphipps1stpres@gmail.com](mailto:bevphipps1stpres@gmail.com); Phone: (740) 353-4259

Rev. Lisa R. Eye, Pastor—Email: [leyefirstpresportsmouth@gmail.com](mailto:leyefirstpresportsmouth@gmail.com); Pastor's Study: (740) 529-7177

Rev. Eye ordinarily works from her home study on Mondays and observes Fridays as sabbath time.

In case of pastoral emergency, she may be reached at (859) 329-9026.



## **First Presbyterian Church**

221 Court St., Portsmouth, OH 45662

(740) 353-4259 Church Office

Email: [firstpresportsmouth@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresportsmouth@gmail.com)

Website: [www.firstpresportsmouthoh.com](http://www.firstpresportsmouthoh.com)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@firstconnections4806](http://www.youtube.com/@firstconnections4806)

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchportsmouthohio>



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