



First Presbyterian Church Portsmouth

Rev. Ronald Johnson, Minister of Word and Sacrament

Elder Diane Boster, Liturgist

Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music

Dr. Stanley Workman, Guest Musician



FOURTH SUNDAY in EASTER

April 21, 2024

GATHERING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

WELCOME AND GREETING

Pastor Ron Johnson

PRELUDE

Dr. Stanley Workman

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elder Diane Boster

L. Come, children of Creation, and celebrate the wonder of spring.

P. Come, Brothers and sisters of the human family, and rejoice at the renewal of life.

L. Come, people of God, and acclaim the resurrection of Christ.

P. Come, friends of Christ, and marvel at the empty tomb.

L. Come, you who are loved by God, and receive this gift of renewal.

P. Come, you who love God, and make your lives a witness to holy love.

L. Then will Christ be resurrected in us, redeeming life from death.

ALL: Then will we be resurrected in Christ, a blessing to the world.

***PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Elder Boster

***OPENING HYMN** #35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" **GTG**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder Boster

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken in unison)*

Elder Boster

Compassionate God, we too often ignore the cries and suffering of your creatures. Our lives are bound up with other species, and we ask your forgiveness for the ways we mistreat your creation. Give us clean hearts and caring hands, O God. Remind us that we, too, are creatures, interdependent and vulnerable. Amen.

(Silence for personal confession and meditation)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Johnson

***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

Elder Boster

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 1:25-31a NIV

Rev. Johnson

²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 8:18-25 NTFE

Elder Boster

¹⁸ This is how I work it out. The sufferings we go through in the present time are not worth putting in the scale alongside the glory that is going to be unveiled for us. ¹⁹ Yes: creation itself is on tiptoe with expectation, eagerly awaiting the moment when God's children will be revealed. ²⁰ Creation, you see, was subjected to pointless futility, not of its own volition, but because of the one who placed it in this subjection, in the hope ²¹ that creation itself would be freed from its slavery to decay, to enjoy the freedom that comes when God's children are glorified.

²² Let me explain. We know that the entire creation is groaning together, and going through labor pains together, up until the present time. ²³ Not only so: we too, we who have the first fruits of the spirit's life within us, are groaning within ourselves, as we eagerly await our adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ We were saved, you see, in hope. But hope isn't hope if you can see it! Who hopes for what they can see? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it eagerly—but also patiently.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Dr. Stan Workman

THE MESSAGELife on God's Terms

Rev. Ron Johnson

HYMN OF RESPONSE#14 "For the Beauty of the Earth" **GTG****PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

The Lord's Prayer:

All: 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 Boster

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Dr. Workman

***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 Boster

We are not our own; we belong to you. You have created us and given us life anew, O God, our Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. We extend our arms and open our hands to present our offerings to you. We make these gestures to display outwardly our hearts' overflowing gratitude for all your gifts. Receive these gifts from us, and through them, bring life and hope to many. We pray in the name of the mighty, magnificent, and miraculous name of Jesus. Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN**

#370 "This Is My Father's World" **GTG**

CALLED TO MISSION

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

***SENDING SONG** #541 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

GTG

POSTLUDE (*Please be seated for the postlude*)

Dr. Workman

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



Calendar

- Apr. 21: Worship with Hillview Nursing Home, Chapel, 3P.
- Apr. 24: Capital Campaign Steering Cmte., 2P
- Apr. 25: Community Food Pantry open, 12-2P.
- May 1: Mission and Congregational Care (MCL), 4P.
- May 5: Celebrate Communion
- May 8: Board of Session meets hybrid, 5:30P.
- May 12: Mother's Day Celebrated
- May 12: Pastor at Vespers, Waverly, 7:30P
- May 19: Pastor at 2PC, 9:30A.
- May 20-28: Pastor away.
- May 21: Scioto Valley Presbytery meets hybrid, 3:30P
- May 27: Memorial Day observed, Office Closed.

**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
