



“YOU ARE WITNESSES
OF
THESE
THINGS.”

LUKE 24:48

First Presbyterian Church

1573 N. Highland Avenue Jackson, TN 38301 731-422-1591 fpcjacksontn.org

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18, 2021

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Beautiful Savior
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Christiansen/Cassler

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based on Luke 24:36-48)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: Come and see the love God has given to us.

People: *Come and see what it means to be children of God.*

Leader: Come with this hope, that Christ's presence is real.

People: *With joy, we come to see the Lord.*

HYMN 231 *Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers (verses 1 and 2)*

SUO GAN

TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Leader: Risen Lord Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

People: *When we are full of ourselves, it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.*

Leader: Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture that obscures the signs pointing to you.

People: *Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart when we don't recognize you in our neighbor, or in the form of the poor or the dispossessed.*

Leader: Our eyes and ears have become so crammed with the sights and sounds of living that we simply fail to see you or to recognize your voice.

ALL: *God of the lost, we look for you in all the wrong places,
and wonder why we cannot find you.*

*We wander the corridors of power,
while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless.*

We sit at the head tables of the world,

while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen's backdoor.

We applaud those who win the race,

while you are cheering on those in last place.

In forgiving us, God of new life,

*you would transform our cold hearts
into those melted in service to others.
In granting us mercy,
you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored.
In gifting us with grace,
you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.*

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Leader: Easter is the affirmation that Jesus came into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him.
So, hear the good news: “Those who are in Christ are a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
All this is from God, to whom we are reconciled through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen! Alleluia!

THE WORD

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

MINUTE FOR MISSION: EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

Elder Marian Harbin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

MUSIC

Reckless Love
Izzy Arthurs, soloist

Cory Asbury

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. John White

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 24:36b-48
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Rev. John White

SERMON

“Jesus Ain’t Walking Through that Door”

Rev. John White



RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*From "A Declaration of Faith"*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

**Jesus is our living Lord.
Jesus was dead and buried, but God raised him from the dead.
The risen Lord appeared to his followers.
They recognized him as their Master who had been crucified.
Before Jesus left them, he commissioned them to proclaim to all people
the good news of his victory over death, and promised to be with them always.
We are certain that Jesus lives.
He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God.
He lives as one of us with God.
Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love,
we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.
We declare that Jesus is Lord.
His resurrection is a decisive victory
over the powers that deform and destroy human life...
We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ
in every sphere of life.
'Jesus is Lord'
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.**

HYMN 247 *Now the Green Blade Rises* (Verses 1, 2 and 3)

NOËL NOUVELET

OFFERING

Rev. Courtney Bowen

*Doxology (Tune: 591)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SENDING

***CHARGE**

Rev. John White

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. John White

POSTLUDE

Con moto maestoso
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Mendelssohn