

# Second Sunday of Easter

APRIL 24, 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





## Gathering As God's Beloved People

### Gathering Music

*From All that Dwell Below the Skies*  
*Fantasia on MILES LANE*  
*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Charles Callahan  
Will Stockfon  
Marilyn Alison

### Prelude

*Arioso from Concerto in F Minor*

J. S. Bach

### Chiming of the Hour

### Welcome and Announcements

#### ✦ Call to Worship

Happy Easter Season! Today is the first day of the week.

**The joy of Easter still sings in our hearts.**

Breathe the breath of new life in our spirit!

**We open our hearts to all the wondrous work God has for us to do.**

Welcome to worship this glorious day! Alleluia!

**Let our lives be testimony to God's redeeming love! Amen.**

#### ✦ Hymn 664

*Morning Has Broken*

BUNESSAN

#### ✦ Call to Confession

#### ✦ Community Confession

God of Surprises,

**You call us to boldly be your Easter people. Sometimes this is easier said than done. We**

**hide. We deny. We run the other way. We will bear witness when it is more convenient.**

**Help us to be more obedient in our proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. Turn**

**us around from running away from the cross to being out in the world sharing the story**

**of the resurrection. Amen.**

#### ✦ Hymn 695

*Change My Heart, O God*

CHANGE MY HEART

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God; make I be like you.**

#### ✦ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**



## Proclaiming the Word

### Wondering with God's Children

#### Anthem

*Witness*

Traditional Spiritual

Krista Firkus and Jodi Atkins, soprano  
Alicia Taylor and Aubrey Evans, alto

Arr. Jack Halloran  
S.S.A.A. arr. Dick Bolks

### Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

#### Scripture Reading

Acts 5:27-32

#### Message

*Surprise! The Surprising Turnaround*

Seminarian Alisa Castilla



## Responding to the Word

#### ✦ Hymn 462

*I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

#### ✦ Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from Confession of Belhar

**We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit  
has conquered the powers of sin and death,  
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity,  
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit  
will enable the church to live in a new obedience  
which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.**

### Prayers of the People *and* 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.**

### Offering Our Gifts

#### Offertory

*I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*  
Janet Carmichael, soprano

George Frideric Handel

## ✦ Hymn 240

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

ALLELUIA NO. 1

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

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

***Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.***

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

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

## Prayer of Gratitude



## Being the Church in the World

## ✦ Sending Hymn 363

*Rejoice, the Lord is King*

DARWALL'S 148TH

## ✦ Charge and Benediction

## Postlude

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

Paul Manz



## Worship Notes

The instrumental postlude is an integral part of the act of worship, offered to assist our prayer and contemplation, to kindle our imaginations, to reflect on words just spoken, and to connect us to God; therefore, we ask that you remain seated until the postlude has concluded.

Musical offerings are an act of worship. If you wish to express thanks to God at the conclusion of a musical offering, feel free to offer a hearty "Amen," a Biblical way of saying "so be it!" and affirming spiritual gifts.

Music printed in our bulletins and streamed online is covered by One License # A-728738 authorizing their use.

### Nursery for Children

Nursery care is available for children newborn through first grade. Our nursery is located on the lower level. Please ask an usher to direct you. Children are also welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pew.

### Worship Bags for Children

The bags are labeled with children's name tags clipped to their bag, and they are invited to use the same bag each time they come to worship. For our visitors and newcomers, we have bags labeled "Child of God." The bags are available in the narthex.

### Contact Cards

There are new Contact Cards in each pew. We ask that all visitors sign in each week and place the Contact Card in the offering plate. If you are a visitor or interested in church membership, signing in gives a way to contact you.

Members may also choose to fill out a contact card if their contact information has changed or if they would like to get more involved in the church. Please indicate if you are open to options or are drawn to a certain form of involvement.

## Serving Today

Tech Team | Brad Phillips, Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley  
Acolyte | Kately Lane      Usher Chair | Billy Fortson



## Sermon Series

The women at the empty tomb experienced the ultimate surprise discovering the Lord had Risen, indeed! This element of the surprise of God continues throughout our biblical story. For the next several weeks, we will explore together the surprising acts of God through our study of Acts in worship. We will come to welcome an unpredictable God and to expect the unexpected! We will witness Peter having a change of heart. We will be surprised by a holy friendship between Ananias and Saul. We will meet Tabitha and Lydia this Eastertide. Our study on the book of Acts will conclude on the day of Pentecost! Surprise!

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability” (Acts 2:4)

You are invited to explore the unlikely, ironic, and surprising stories in the book of Acts this May!

- Neeley



## Worship Music

### Morning Has Broken

The text of this hymn was written by Eleanor Farjeon (d. 1965) for the tune BUNESSAN. The text appeared first in *Enlarged Songs of Praise* (1931) and in its present form from *The Children's Bells* (1957). Farjeon wrote nursery rhythms and singing games for children. A contemporary popular music recording by Cat Stevens helped make this text familiar to present-day culture. Farjeon was born in London and at 17 became Roman Catholic.

BUNESSAN is a Gaelic melody first published in *Songs and Hymns of the Gael* (1888). It later appeared with the Christmas text "Child in a Manger" (1917). The present arrangement was made for the *Psalter Hymnal* (1987) of the Christian Reformed Church by Dale Grotenhuis in 1985.

### Change My Heart, O God

This song was written by Eddie Espinosa, and his own story behind the song goes like this: "The year was 1982. I had been a Christian since 1969, but I saw a lot of things in my life that needed to be discarded. I had slowly become very complacent. I acknowledged my complacency, and I prayed to the Lord. 'The only way that I can follow you is for you to change my appetite, the things that draw me away. You must change my heart!'"

Eddie continued, "Shortly thereafter, I was in my car on the way to my work, feeling a desire to draw near to God and with the wrestling still going on in my heart. Suddenly, a melody and some words began to flood through my mind. As I stopped at a stop sign, I reached for something to write on. The first thing I found was a small piece of yellow paper, which, by the way, I still have, and began to write as rapidly as I could. It was like taking dictation. I wrote the words on the paper, and kept the melody in my mind. Change my heart, O God! Make it ever true. Change my heart, O God! May I be like you. You are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray."

"Our church home was the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Anaheim, California, and someone told the pastor

that I had written a song that would be good for the congregation to sing. The pastor asked me to play it for him, and afterwards asked if I would share it with the congregation. From that point on, I began to get reports that my song was being taught in San Diego, Los Angeles, and in many other places."

The essence of Eddie's song is a prayer asking God to change us, making our hearts "true," and changing us into his own image.

## **Witness**

John T. Halloran (d. 1997) was an American composer and choral director. Born in Rock Rapids, Iowa in 1916, Halloran earned degrees in music from Morningside College and Northwestern University. Halloran sang with a male quartet called the Cadets on several Chicago-based radio shows, including "The Breakfast Club with Don MacNeil." He later formed the Jack Halloran Quartet, which appeared on the television programs "Dave Garroway at Large" and "The Pat Buttram Show." Relocating to Hollywood, he became a choral director for films, records, and television, working with such entertainers as Roy Rogers, Pat Boone, Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra, and Dean Martin. He landed the job as choral director and arranger on The Dean Martin Show while working with the singer on his recording of "Volare." Halloran also organized the Jack Halloran Singers, which performed throughout Southern California.

In 1957, Halloran arranged and recorded the current version of the now-popular Christmas song *The Little Drummer Boy* (at the time, titled *Carol of the Drum*) for the Dot Records album *Christmas Is A-Comin'*. However, the recording was not released as a single that year. In response to this Dot producer Henry Onorati, introduced the song to Harry Simeone. When 20th Century Fox Records contracted with Simeone to make a Christmas album, Simeone hired many of the same singers that had sung in Halloran's version and made a near identical recording with his newly created *Harry Simeone Chorale*. It was released as a single in 1968, and later on the album, *Sing We Now of Christmas*. This version became very successful, and has since become a popular Christmas song. The only difference between Simeone's version and Halloran's version, was that Simeone's contained finger cymbals, and had been retitled *The Little Drummer Boy*. Simeone and Onorati claimed and received joint composition credits along with Katherine Kennicott Davis, although the two did not actually compose, write, or arrange it. Halloran never received a writing credit for the song. The song has since been covered by hundreds of artists, including multiple re-recordings by Simeone.

Halloran directed the orchestra and chorus for Bing Crosby's 1958 LP *Join Bing and Sing Along*. He directed the chorus for Bing's 1962 LPs *On the Happy Side* and *I Wish You a Merry Christmas* and Bing's 1971 LP *A Time to Be Jolly*. He was also a member of the Ray Conniff Singers. Halloran died at 81 of a stroke.

## **I Love to Tell the Story**

William Wilberforce, the Christian statesman and abolitionist, led a fierce campaign in 19th-century England to eradicate slavery from the British Empire. The geographical center of the campaign was a wealthy neighborhood in the south of London known as Clapham, where a group of Anglican evangelicals lived. The "Clapham Sect" also advocated prison reform, education for children, and the expansion of missionary efforts overseas. Though lampooned for their efforts, they changed the world.

Annabella Katherine Hankey was born into this environment in 1834. Her father was a banker in Clapham and a leader in the Clapham Group. Early in life, Kate became involved in religious work. As a young girl, she taught Sunday school; and when she was 18, she organized a Bible study for "Factory girls" in London. (This Bible study was never large, but the girls became close and fifty years later, five of them met together at Kate's funeral.) When her brother fell ill in Africa, Kate traveled there to bring him home. That trip sparked a passion for foreign missions, and in later life Kate devoted all proceeds from her writing to missionary work.

During the winter of 1865-66, Kate, thirty, became seriously ill. The doctors warned her to abandon her Christian activities and remain in bed for a full year. To occupy her time, Kate wrote a poem of one hundred

stanzas entitled "The Old, Old Story." She began the first section, "The Story Wanted," on January 29, 1866. Later that year, she wrote a second section entitled, "The Story Told."

The following year, at the international convention of the Young Men's Christian Association, Major General Russell ended his powerful sermon by quoting from Kate's poem. Songwriter William Doane, in the crowd that day, put a portion of Kate's poem to music, giving birth to the hymn, "Tell Me the Old, Old Story." Another composer, William G. Fischer, set a second portion of Kate's poem to a musical score he named HANKEY, and thus we have this hymn, "I Love to Tell the Story." It was first published in an American hymnbook in 1869, and was later popularized around the world in the great evangelistic campaigns of D.L. Moody and Ira Sankey.

## **I Know That My Redeemer Liveth**

*I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* is from the third movement of *Messiah*, George Frideric Handel's masterpiece, and most well-known work. Like the rest of its songs and choruses, the text is entirely based on Scripture, in this case on verses from Job 19:25-26 and 1 Corinthians 15:20. Amazingly, the 260-page libretto of *Messiah* was written in an astonishingly short 24 days! While he was composing, it is reported that Handel ate next to nothing and that most of the meals delivered to the door of his room remained untouched. Caught off guard by a house servant checking on him at one point during composition, he emotionally declared to the surprised man, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself." Incredibly, he had just finished writing a movement which would take its place in history as the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Upon its premiere at a charity benefit concert on April 13, 1742, *Messiah* raised 400 pounds and was favorably received by its audience. This signaled a turn of fortune for the then 57-year-old composer, who had given what he considered his retirement performance almost exactly one year prior. Having been plagued by years of setbacks and mounting debt due in large part to the changing favor of the British monarchs, the German-born composer had often found himself competing with the established composers of England, and losing; however, *Messiah* turned things around for Handel. A year after its premiere, he staged a performance of the work in London, and in spite of controversy from the Church of England, which objected to using the Bible in a secular performance environment, the King attended the show. As the first triumphant notes of the *Hallelujah Chorus* rang out, the King stood to his feet, followed by the entire audience, a tradition that lives on to this day.

## **Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks**

Both the text and tune of this contemporary Easter hymn were composed by Donald Fishel (b. 1950) for the Word of God Community in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the summer of 1971. The hymn is a composite of several of Paul's themes, as well as the Easter theme of resurrection. Fishel is a native of Hart, Michigan.

ALLELUIA NO. 1 was composed for this text by Fishel. The arrangement and descant are the result of a collaborative effort by Betty Pulkingham and Fishel, the editors of *Songs for Celebration: Church Hymnal Series IV* (1980).

## **Rejoice, the Lord is King**

The text was written by Charles Wesley. A form of the hymn was published in *Moral and Sacred Poems* (1744). It was rewritten and published in *Hymns for our Lord's Resurrection* (1746). It is based on the scripture verse "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). DARWELL'S 148TH was composed by John Darwall. It was published in Aaron Williams *New Universal Psalmist* (1770) as the setting for "Ye Boundless Realms of Joy," a paraphrase of Psalm 148.

John Darwall (d.1789) was born in Staffordshire, England, educated at Manchester Grammar School and Brasenose College, Oxford (B.A. 1756), and ordained in 1761. He was curate and then vicar of St. Matthew's Church in Walsall. Darwall composed metrical settings for all 150 psalms in the *New Version of the Psalms of David* (1696). He died at Walsall. The descant is by Sydney Hugo Nicholson.





# Worship Art

The children of our church are learning about the liturgical seasons by exploring worship art. The butterflies in worship this morning were crafted by our children. Although butterflies in the Bible aren't mentioned explicitly, their lifecycle is a remarkable illustration from nature of the transforming work of Jesus Christ in the lives of believers.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

(2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

The word transform is metamorpheo in Greek, from which we get the English term metamorphosis. It describes the type of change a caterpillar undergoes to become a butterfly. The same word is used to explain Christ's transfiguration. The idea conveys a radical change or complete transformation. At Jesus' transfiguration, his physical appearance was temporarily metamorphosed from an ordinary human to a divine being in all his glory.

*As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.*

(Matthew 17:2, NIV)



## Want to Get Involved?

Reach out to become a more involved member of the church! We always have something happening that we would love for you to be a part of. You could be an integrated member of our church by volunteering with our witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or any number of activities.

Reach out to the office and we'll point you in the right direction!

Email: [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or call: 770-786-7321

## Deacons

Day Kennon (2022)  
Eleanor Scarborough (2023)  
Darcel Tabb (2024)  
Alice Walker (2022)

## Mission Statement

Covington First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.

## Session

**Class of 2022**  
Aubrey Evans  
John McCarthy  
Stephanie Scarborough  
Trista Hooten Wilson

**Class of 2023**  
Stan Hall  
Louly Hay Kapp  
Ed Perkerson  
Bob Tabb

**Class of 2024**  
Billy Fortson  
Pat Harper  
Brad Phillips  
Curtis Watson

## First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane  
Alisia Castilla  
Alicia Taylor

*Senior Pastor*  
*Seminary Intern*  
*Director of Music &*

Alice Walker

*Worship Arts*  
CAGO, AAGO

Catherine Laseter

*Organist/Ambassador Choir*

Peni Kehoe

*Director of*  
*Communications & Operations*  
*Church Administrator*

*Caring for Our Children*  
*in the Nursery*

Danielle Schubert  
Beverley Beasley  
Amiah Williams  
Ian Rein  
Kennedy Lynn



**Sunday, April 24 Second Sunday of Easter**

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

**Monday, April 27**

6:00pm Strategic Planning Meeting

**Tuesday, April 26**

12:00pm Lectio Divina

2:15pm Church Office Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, April 27**

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

4:00pm Joyful Noise Music Rehearsal

5:30pm Session Meeting

6:00pm Gospel According to Ted Lasso

6:00pm Carillon Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, April 28**

Neeley at Merryvale

**Saturday, April 30**

Meals on Wheels Delivery

Cheerio Challenge

**Sunday, May 1 Third Sunday of Easter**

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:00pm Celebration for Alisa



# SOUL FEAST

Wednesday Night Supper is back!  
Feed your body and soul with your FPC family.

**Wednesdays 5:00 pm beginning May 4th**  
**\$5 for adults, \$3 for kids**

Ages 4 and under are free. Childcare is provided.  
Reserve your seat each Monday by noon:  
770-786-7321 or [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)



After a hiatus due to COVID concerns, Singing Ambassadors will meet for two Start-Up Rehearsals.

The first will be on **Wednesday, May 4**, at 1:30 PM in the First United Methodist Church Choir Room.

An identical rehearsal will be held on **Thursday, May 5**, at 2:00 PM in the First Presbyterian Church, Covington Choir Room.

For the convenience of choristers both rehearsals will continue weekly.

We will soon know several anthems which we can sing at Salem Camp Meeting on July 18. Please plan to be with us for our very first rehearsal. We have room for other interested singers also, so please invite your friends and family!

**GALATIANS**  
BIBLE STUDY  
Wednesdays, 6 pm  
May 4, 11, 18

**I have been crucified with Christ;  
and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me.**

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to:  
[catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)

Requests will be removed after three weeks if not updated. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle.

### Ukraine

Looking for a way to give? Donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Funds are being used for emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, and more.

To donate, text PDAUKR to 41444

or use this link for their website:

<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/>

You may also write a check out to FPC with "Ukraine" in the memo line and we will donate it to PDA for you.

### Illness

- ✦ Bruce Brown, brother of Sherri Bolton - hospitalized with pancreatitis
- ✦ Rick Brown, brother of Sherri Bolton - diagnostic surgery
- ✦ Tootles Tingler
- ✦ Bernice Bailey
- ✦ Dottie Baimn, niece of Neeley Rentz Lane - intestinal issues
- ✦ Jeff Hipps - liver problems
- ✦ Barbara Phillips, friend of Alice Walker - cancer
- ✦ Kim Bailey, family of Bernice and Betty Bailey
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Joe Burckel, nephew of Danny and Beth Vining - brain cancer
- ✦ Bobby Cocker, nephew of Judy Davis - colon cancer surgery
- ✦ Anne Cranford - breast cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - kidney problems
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care

- ✦ Cathy Martin, sister-in-law of Chris Martin - breast cancer
- ✦ Melissa, friend of the congregation - cancer
- ✦ Saba Tanner, friend of Warren and Jeanie Liem - cancer
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

### Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with Jan Giles and her family as they grieve the death of her brother, Jim Davis.

### Independent and Assisted Living

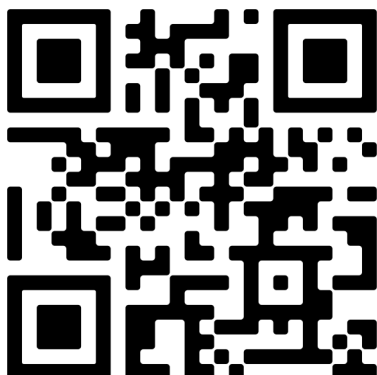
- ✦ Penny Blakeney - home
- ✦ Julia Brubaker - Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Guy McGiboney - Merryvale
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Betty Robinson - Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

### Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

### Thank You for Donating Teacher Treats for Fairview Elementary!

There has been a red basket for collecting treats for teachers in the narthex each week. We have received so many wonderful treats and we have enough to finish out this school year so we will no longer need additional donations. Thank you for brightening our teachers' days at Fairview.



You are invited to  
**"Text to Give"**  
your offering:  
Text FPCCOV to:  
73256

*Or point your camera at the code and follow the link to give online.*

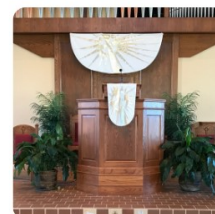


## THE WORSHIP TEAM

We are working to equip the saints at FPC! As works in progress, we seek to be vibrant and vital as a church family. Therefore, we are asking all to be engaged in the worship team. You are a Saint! Sign up to learn the behind the scenes ministry of worship. Anyone looking to get involved is welcome to sign up to help with communion, changing of the paraments, or ushering!

**VISIT FPCCOV.ORG OR CALL THE OFFICE  
TO SIGN UP TODAY**

**USHERS  
HELP GREET,  
HAND OUT  
WORSHIP  
GUIDES,  
AND MORE**



**CHANGE THE  
PARAMENTS  
TO PREPARE  
THE SANCTUARY  
FOR A NEW  
SEASON**