



The Incredulity of Thomas by Caravaggio

Service for the Lord's Day

April 7, 2024

The second Sunday of Easter

Gathering Around the Word

Gathering Music

Ruth Brown

Striking of the Hour

Welcome

Prelude

Open Our Eyes

Bob Cull

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

Call to Worship

Like drops of water running together, we have come here to wait for you.

Like the disciples in the locked room, we are longing for you.

We have heard stories that you are alive.

We are hoping to meet you.

Like drops of water running together, we have come here to wait for you.

We are waiting to meet you, but some of us are not sure that we will.

Some of us have lost our hope. Some of us are skeptical.

Some of us need you to be real so much.

Like drops of water running together, we have come here to wait for you.

Lord, meet us here, greet us with your peace, bring us together like drops of water into a flood, into a blessing.

Opening Hymn 452

Open the Eyes of My Heart

OPEN THE EYES

Call to Confession

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

O Lord our God, we think our best should happen when we are in control. Forgive us for not expecting the risen Christ to show up when we are anxious, content to lock the doors of your house for fear of all that is outside.

Forgive us for thinking that church mainly happens inside these walls and not into the world you so love and into which we are sent. Forgive us for looking for your power in all the conventional places but never in places of brokenness, crisis, and defeat.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, repair what we are, and by the power of Christ's resurrection, raise us up to serve others for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A Silence is observed for Personal Confession

Confessional Hymn 835

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

CLOSER WALK

Declaration of Good News

Passing the Peace of Christ

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here in this safe and sacred place.

So let us greet one another as a sign of God's peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Hearing the Word

All Sit

Prayer for Illumination

All Stand

Gospel Reading (responsive)

1 John 1:1-2:2 from The Message

Walk in the Light

From the very first day, we were there, taking it all in – we heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands. **The Word of Life appeared right before our eyes; we saw it happen!** And now we're telling you in most sober prose that what we witnessed was, incredibly, this: **The Infinite Life of God himself took shape before us. We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ.**

Our motive for writing is simply this: We want you to enjoy this, too. **Your joy will double our joy!** This, in essence, is the message we heard from Christ and are passing on to you: **God is light, pure light, there's not a trace of darkness in him.**

If we claim that we experience a shared life with him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth; we're not living what we claim. **But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin.**

If we claim that we are free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. **On the other hand, if we admit our sins – simply come clean about them, he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing.** If we claim we have never sinned, we out and out contradict God; make a liar out of him. **A claim like that only shows off our ignorance of God.**

I write this, dear child, to guide you out of sin. But if anyone does sin, we have a Priest-Friend in the presence of the Father, Jesus Christ, righteous Jesus. **When he served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for good – not only ours, but the whole world's.**

Anthem

The First Day of the Week

Austin C. Lovelace

Gospel Reading

To Believe

John 20: 19-31

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side. The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting; "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you." Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

But Thomas, sometimes called the twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master." But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side; I won't believe it." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them and said, "Peace to you." Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe!" Thomas said, "My Master! My God!" Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

All Sit

Sermon

Doubting Thomas! ...?

Tim Leigh

Responding to the Word

All Stand

Response Hymn

Open Our Eyes

Bob Cull

*Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.*

Affirmation of Faith (responsively) from *The Study Catechism*, Questions 43 and 46

What do you affirm when you say that he was "crucified, dead, and buried?"

That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death, he showed us that there is no sorrow that he has not known, no grief he has not borne, and no price he was unwilling to pay in order to reconcile us to God.

What do you affirm when you say that 'on the third day he rose again from the dead'?

That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.

Offering

Offertory

More Than Wonderful

Lanny Wolfe/arr. Mark Hayes

Doxology

Sealing the Word in the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

.... Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus

Sanctus
(congregation and choir)
*Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of power and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry.
Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.*

Communion Anthem

Be Present at Our Table, Lord

Arlen Clarke

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

Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World

Closing Hymn 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

Benediction

Postlude

Find Us Faithful

Jacob Mohr

WELCOME VISITORS!

We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by ministers, officers, and congregation.

The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101

270-843-4707 • www.bgpres.org

Clerk of Session: Debbie Trickey Treasurer: Steve Moore
Elders: Class of 2024-Frederica Kernohan, Tim Leigh, Bobby Rabold, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden; Class of 2025-Karol Kirby Ahmed, Buzz English, Pamela Napier, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; Class of 2026-Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan
Deacons: Class of 2024 Trudy Burkeen, Evan Goad, Linda Leigh, Catherine Reber, Susan Thomison; Class of 2025-Barbara Brindle, Craig Long, Teri Polen, Ernie Small, Dan Stelling, Fred Trickey; Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Brianna Trickey

The Presbyterian Church Staff

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<i>Sunday Sexton</i>	<i>Sara Parkerson</i>

Announcements

USHERS: The Polen and Thomison families

COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE: Wyatt Edmunds, Hailey Goodwin, Darcy Merriman,

Jeremiah Simpson, Johnna Smith

LAY READER: Sheila Reeves

MEDIA PERSONNEL: David Clarke, Lillan Hargesheimer

NURSERY: Alisia Simmons, Yamilet Bruno Sanchez, Hailey Gadberry

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY, April 14: Acts 3:12–19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1–7; Luke 24:36b–48.

DEACON OF THE WEEK this week will be Craig Long. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

TODAY

THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP will meet at Azzip Pizza, 651 31W Bypass this Sunday, April 7.

COMING UP:

THE DEACONS' MEETING which was postponed due to the weather will now take place this coming Tuesday, April 9, at 5:00pm in the Conference Room.

Calendar

Sunday, April 7

9:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Children's Music
10:30 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Eating Out Small Group
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, April 8

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love

Tuesday, April 9

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:00 a.m. Special Care
5:00 p.m. Deacons
7:00 p.m. Sunny 16 Camera Club

Wednesday, April 10

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group (Teresa's)
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Friday, April 12

7:30 a.m. Mens' Breakfast (Lisa's)

CECELIA MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH We are now accepting donations for our **Spring Giveaway** (May 25th). Any items that you can definitely live without, please let me know. Arrangements can be made to pick them up, we can meet you at a church, or you can drop smaller items off at your church office. Please contact Lovelyn at lovelynab@yahoo.com, or ceceliamemorial1234@outlook.com. You may call her at 619-368-2103 or 270/935-5110 for more information. Any donation is appreciated. Thanks in advance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES begin at 9:15am.

- Preschool taught by Jimmy and Betsy Tyrie
- Godly Play taught by Mary Evans – Kindergarten through 5th grade
- Middle and high school taught by David Clarke
- The Coffee and Conversation Class offers book study for adults with rotating leadership
- Bible study class that is focusing on the Book of Mark -coordinated by Julia Roberts.

PLC DINNER AND AUCTION – On Sunday, **April 28**, join us in Fellowship Hall for a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser and a silent auction that will take place after our worship service. All donations to the fundraiser and silent auction are welcomed. Please contact the Director, Kimberly Watkins by e-mail if you are interested in making a donation for the auction, or just come and enjoy fellowship and spaghetti to help support our PLC!

SATURDAY MEALS April 27th is the Presbyterian day to host. We will need eleven (11) drivers, six sorter/packers, two kitchen helpers and at least two for cleanup. Please let me know if you can help in any capacity - call or text Lovelyn at 619/368-2103. Thank you everyone for your faithfulness. This is a wonderful program and we are honored to be able to be a part of it.

LAY READERS NEEDED FOR MAY A signup page is online for upcoming lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve on one Sunday, please visit this link and sign up for a date. Lay reader information will be emailed on the Friday prior to the date. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e49acac23a7ff2-layreader> Thank you!

OTHER NEWS

THANK YOU to all who assisted with the **Gloves With Love Mission**. We were able to distribute over 200 items on the fence. Your donations kept those in need warm through your donation of socks, thermals, jackets, hats, and scarves.

WE ALSO THANK the many who volunteered with **DRITI** this year. Since mid-November 13 people volunteered each week in the many roles it takes to provide a warm caring shelter for the unhoused. This ministry takes volunteers to drive the bus, be an inn-keeper, set up cots, dress the cots, clean up Friday morning, provide a dinner, clean the kitchen, provide breakfast, care for the many guests' needs as a host, provide linen service, and act as a coordinator. The Mission Ministry thanks you for your generosity of time and service.

AN EXHIBIT of Photography by Sheila and Alan Reeves and Paintings by Diane Simmons titled **The Lens and The Brush** will be on display in the Fellowship Hall Gallery, March 22 to May 3. The artists invite you to stop by and enjoy this tribute to the splendor of nature and the Glory of God.

ATTENDANCE REGISTERS Tell us you're here, please! There are **navy blue notebooks** at the inside aisle end of every pew. Please write your name and any other information you'd like the church to have so we can better communicate with you. Then pass the notebook to your neighbors in the pew so they can sign in, too. After everyone has signed, please pass the notebook back to the inside aisle, so others in the pew can learn your name. Please also sign up for Wednesday evening dinners during Lent on the register!

Donate Online: The church website accepts online donations. Just go to our website, and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You may also scan this QR code.
<https://bgpres.org/give>

