



*Christ shows himself to Thomas. Artist: LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte<sup>2</sup>*

## ***Service for the Lord's Day***

**April 27, 2025**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

***Gathering Around the Word of Worship***

**Gathering Music**

Mike Kanan

**Striking of the Hour**

**Prelude**      *Christ lag in Todesbanden*      Anonymous (*Die Lüneburger Orgeltabulatur*)

**Welcome**

***We Rise in Spirit and in Body***

**Call to Worship** (responsive)

God of peace, we enter this holy room knowing the gospel's cornerstones of grace and mercy are often rejected in our world.

**Yet we understand that rejection is not the end of the story.**

We know that those we have come to know as the builders and the rulers of the world do not have the final word.

**The Gospel of Grace is the Word that will endure forever.**

Despite powers and principalities, despite the clamoring of meanness and cruelty, this is the day that the Lord has made.

**Grace is the ground upon which we walk. Let us rejoice and be glad.**

**Call to Confession****Prayer of Adoration and Confession** (unison)

**Lord of resurrection, we praise you that life overcomes all death-wielding powers. But, we have found ourselves in fear, locked in rooms of inaction and indecision, unclear where we are called or what we could offer. Anxiety's voice is so loud we have not heard your voice. We have failed to see you alive and moving in our world. We have believed death is final and that our weakness dooms us to resignation to the way things are. Refusing to see and believe, we fail to nurture the life of your reign. God of new life, restore hope in us. Help us to breathe again. Strengthen us for the joy that is before us. Grant us eyes to see your beloved people all around us and ears to hear your good news through all the noise. Even as we have looked away, come to see us, call us forth from our locked rooms and bring us out to walk with you in the world you so love.**

*Silence is observed for Personal Confession*

**Confessional Anthem**

KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ, have mercy upon us,  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**Declaration of Good News** (responsive)

The God of truth is present to us in the speaking of truth. The Spirit of grace is present to us in the sharing of grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

**Passing the Peace of Christ** (responsive)

Christ in his resurrection reigns with compassion, mercy, and love. The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**A Time with Young Christians** (children welcomed to the front of the sanctuary)***Hearing the Word***

*All Sit*

**Prayer for Illumination** (unison)

**Holy God, we have come here for a word of life. As we seek you in your Word, meet us here. Grant us your wisdom and your hope.**

**New Testament Reading** (responsive)

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought [Peter and the disciples], they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us."

**But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."**

**Anthem**

*The First Day of the Week*

Austin C. Lovelace

*All Stand*

**Gospel Reading**

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*All Sit*

**Sermon**

*Beginning Faith*

Kyle Otterbein

### ***Responding to the Word***

*All Stand*

**Response Hymn 257**

*The Risen Christ*

WOODLANDS

**Affirmation of Faith** (unison)

*from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

*All Sit*

**Offering**

*Call to Offering*

**Offertory**

*The World Will Know*  
Wayne Pope, guitar/vocal

Tim Sheppard

*All Stand*

**Doxology**

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison)

**God of abundance, receive these offerings, which are the fruit of your generosity, and use them to draw us closer to each other, to you, and to the world we are called to love and serve. Amen.**

*All Sit*

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*A Moment of Silence*

*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***

*All Stand*

**Closing Hymn 817**

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

DUNLAP'S CREEK

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Vita sanctorum*

*Michael Praetorius*

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<sup>1</sup>Parts of today's liturgy were adapted from liturgy created by Karen Rohrer.

<sup>2</sup>Christ shows himself to Thomas. Artist: LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte. **Location:** Resurrection Chapel, Washington National Cathedral

## This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The background is a clean, solid white color.



**USHERS:** Polen and Thomison families

**COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE:** Keelin Murrell, Johnna Smith, Aletheia Burt, Mack Overfelt, Wyatt Edmonds and Jeremiah Simpson

**LAY READER:** Larry Gildersleeve

**MEDIA PERSONNEL:** Laura Parkerson

**NURSERY:** Alisia Simmons, Yamilet Bruno Sanchez

**LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY MAY 4:** Acts 9:1–6 [7–20]; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19

### **TODAY**

**DEACONS OF THE WEEK** this week will be Phillip and Trudy Burkeen. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** will resume today at 9:15 a.m. It will conclude an hour later in time for 10:30 a.m. church service.

**BUCK IN A BASKET** for today will go to support the Preschool Learning Center (PLC). Buck in a Basket Offering is a twice a month opportunity to consider contributing during the offering for a particular mission not included in our regular budget.

**THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP** will have lunch at Garcia's Grill Downtown at 360 E. 8th Street.

### **COMING UP:**

**YOUTH SUNDAY/MOTHER'S DAY** Our Youth will be leading service on Sunday, May 11. They will be honoring all mothers with a special token of love. Plan to join the Youth in honoring these special women of our church.

**ART EXHIBIT** We are pleased to exhibit *RHYTHM AND SHAPE: The Art of Laurin Notheisen*. Lauren Notheisen's art will be on display in the Fellowship Hall from March 28-May 22. Everyone is welcomed to come and enjoy this Spring Exhibit.

**SIXTH ANNUAL GIVEAWAY** Cecelia Memorial will be taking donations for the upcoming 6th Annual Giveaway!! They will be accepting anything from clothing to household items to toys. The date for the event will be May 10. Thank you for your help in advance.

**2025 STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE** Our church has been invited to participate and receive donations for our food pantry, from the Postal Service food drive. We need 5 (or more) volunteers on May 10th at 2pm at the US Post Office on Scottsville Rd. to help sort, and transport donations to the church that afternoon. Please call Frederica Kernohan 270-991-7904 or the church office, if you have some time to assist on May 10th at 2 pm.

**FELLOWSHIP PICNIC** Plan to join us on Sunday, May 18 for our Fellowship Picnic. There will be plenty of food, fun, and fellowship. More information will be available at a later date.

**2025 ANNUAL CPR/DEFIBRILLATOR COURSE** sponsored by the Christian Education Committee, and taught by the Friends and Family Outreach Department of the College of Health and Human Services at WKU. The course will be held on Wednesday, May 21 in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served at 8:15 a.m. and the course will begin at 9:00 a.m. It will last approximately 2 hours. No experience necessary and repeat students welcome. Last year's course received rave reviews from attendees. Sign-up sheets will be placed on the landing table so we can make appropriate plans. This is an important skill for our church members to have, from teens to seniors. We look forward to your attendance.

## **OTHER NEWS**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be June 8-11 from 5-7:30. The theme is Wild Wonder. Children will be invited to delight in God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all living things by immersing them in the wonders of the created world. A registration form is now available online for participants. Please scan the QR code to visit link:



If you are interested in volunteering for the 2025 Vacation Bible School, please scan the QR code to visit the link to sign up:



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** Sunday Morning Circle meets the second Sunday in each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor. Circle 9 meets the second Monday in each month at 12:00 noon at a member's home; Tuesday Evening Circle meets the second Tuesday in each month at 7:00 p.m. at Diane Simmons' home; Wednesday Morning Circle meets the second Wednesday in each month at 9:30 a.m. in the 10th Street Parlor. An exact location for Circle 9 meetings will be provided on the church bulletin's calendar and in the 60-second email.

**LAY READERS NEEDED FOR MAY/JUNE** A signup page is online for lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve one Sunday, please scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date. Lay reader information will be emailed on the Friday prior to the date. Thank you!



**NEWSLETTER FOLDERS/SEALERS** A signup page is online for upcoming months for Newsletter folders/sealers. If you are willing to volunteer to help in the office with this task, scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date, contact Robin by phone at 270-843-4707, or email at [info@bgpres.org](mailto:info@bgpres.org).



## 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 the minister, officers, and congregation.*

**Clerk of Session:** Debbie Trickey    **Treasurer:** Steve Moore

**Elders:** 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; Class of 2027-Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden  
**Deacons:** 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; Class of 2027-Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan

## The Presbyterian Church Staff

*Transitional Pastor  
Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director  
Children's Music Director  
Organist  
Financial Administrator  
Treasurer  
Office Coordinator  
Director, Preschool Learning Center  
Custodian  
Clerk of Session  
Sound Attendant/Sunday Sexton*

*Rev. Kyle Otterbein  
Dr. Wayne Pope  
Mrs. Beth Pope  
Dr. Nathaniel Brown  
Mrs. Terry Johnson  
Mr. Steve Moore  
Mrs. Robin Watkins Tolbert  
Ms. Kimberly Watkins  
Mr. Cedric Whitney  
Mrs. Debbie Trickey  
Ms. Laura Parkerson*

**Visit Our Church Website:** <https://bgpres.org>



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



### Calendar

#### Sunday, Apr 27

8:30 a.m. Fellowship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
9:15 a.m. Children's Music  
9:45 a.m. Godly Play  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. After Church Eating Out Grp  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group- The Shack, Miniature Golf

#### Monday, Apr 28

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

#### Tuesday, Apr 29

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:00 a.m. Special Care

#### Wednesday, Apr 30

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group  
5:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, May 1

7:00 p.m. Neighborhood Group

#### Friday, May 2

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group

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

270-843-4707 • [www.bgpres.org](http://www.bgpres.org)

**Pastor Kyle Otterbein • [kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org](mailto:kyle.otterbein@bgpres.org) • 319-400-6546**