

A vibrant, textured painting featuring three pink and white flowers with green leaves. The background is a mix of yellow, green, and purple, with small red dots scattered throughout. The text is written in a white, cursive font.

Because
I live,

you also
will live

Easter Sunday

10:30 AM MARCH 31, 2024

Quote For Meditation

"It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder, let alone resurrection wonder, to another. It's the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard, to circumvent expectations and assumptions. Wonder can't be packaged, and it can't be worked up. It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement." - Eugene H. Peterson

** indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*
(PH denotes *The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

(Please keep conversations to a minimum so that all may enjoy the music at this special time of worship preparation.)

Gathering in God's Name

PRELUDE

"Morning Has Broken"

Arr. Nathaniel Hontz

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Easter Anthem"

William Billings
Arr. Nathaniel Hontz

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: This is the day, Easter Day:

People: when tears are wiped away,

Leader: when shattered hearts are mended,

People: and fears replaced with joy.

Leader: This is the day the Lord rolls away the stone of fear,
casts off death's clothes,

People: and goes before us into the future God prepares.

Leader: Today we rejoice, for Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is Risen indeed!

*** HYMN PH #113 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”**

*** EASTER LITANY**

Leader: As Easter dawned, our hopes lay bound in the tomb,
sealed in by stone.

People: We rejoice with Mary that the stone has been rolled away.

Leader: The tomb lies empty.

People: Where once death and despair lay locked in time,
now light has dawned to shine in our shadows.

Leader: Death cannot hold our Savior, and by his mercy,
we proclaim, death has lost its hold on us as well.

ALL: Today we rejoice, for Christ is risen!

***SONG OF JOY PH #123 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (verse 1)**

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*** SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

When we pass the peace of Christ, we express that the very nature of our community is founded upon the love, grace and peace that Jesus Christ extended to us all. May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. (Please share the peace from a distance.)

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

G.G. Handel
Arr. DeCesare

Listening For God’s Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in Unison)

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Acts 10:34-43

The Message Version

Leader: Peter fairly exploded with this good news: “It’s God’s own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from – if you want God and are ready to act justly as God says, the door is open.

People: **The Message God sent to all the children of Israel – that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again – well, God is doing that everywhere, among everyone.**

Leader: “You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. Jesus was able to do all this because God was with him.

People: **And we saw everything Jesus did, even to Jerusalem, where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had Jesus up, alive, and out where he could be seen.**

Leader: Not everyone saw. Witnesses had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand.

ALL: **We were the ones, there to eat and drink with Jesus after he came back from the dead. Jesus commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that Jesus is the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we’re not alone in this. Our witness that Jesus is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets.”**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

SERMON

"Death is Not the Last Word"

Responding to God's Word

*** HYMN PH #118**

"The Day of Resurrection!"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)**

This Easter day, we rejoice that death is not the last word.

God raised Jesus from death,

turning sorrow into joy, despair into hope.

We sing of Jesus raised from the dead. We sing hallelujah.

The Risen Christ lives today,

present to us and the source of our hope.

We sing of a church

seeking to continue the story of Jesus

by embodying Christ's presence in the world.

We are called together by Christ

as a community of broken but hopeful believers,

loving what he loved, living what he taught,

striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and place,

even as we look in hope for a new heaven and a new earth.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

"I Know My Redeemer Lives, Jesus Shall Reign"

Bell Choir

*** SONG OF GRATITUDE “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” (verse 1) PH #123**

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God’s love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!*

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

Going Into The World as Christ’s Disciples

*** HYMN PH #104 *“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”***

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *“Postlude In B^b”* Arr. Michael Ryan

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**As we conclude our worship, we will gather outside and  
each take a flower or two and jointly fill the cross in  
with the joy and beauty of resurrection life.**  
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Liturgical Resources include: Affirmation Of Faith from *A Song of Faith*,
the United Church of Canada

We give thanks to all those participating in today's service:

Our choir, bell ensemble, ushers/greeters,
and worship leader Scott Hoffman.

A special thanks to the Hontz family and
McGinnis Miller for their music today.

Our Staff

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Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

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www.youtube.com (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON
Week of March 31, 2024**

- Sun. 3/31 **Easter Sunday!**
Family Choir Practice
10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary (One Service)
- Mon. 4/1 **10:00 am Wired Word**
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Manna House Board Meeting
- Wed. 4/3 **8:00 pm Midweek Vespers via Zoom**
- Thur. 4/4 **7:00 pm Bell Choir**
- Fri. 4/5 **1:00 - 3:00 pm Hearts and Hands Craft Group**
- Sat. 4/6 **11:00 am Memorial Service for Randy Pittenger (sanctuary),
followed by luncheon (Fellowship Hall)**
- Sun. 4/7 **Communion**
9:00 am Adult Study & Prayer
9:00 am Faith Formation classes
9:00 am Worship in the Chapel
9:30 am Family Choir Practice
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary