



*McLeod Memorial Presbyterian Church
and
First Presbyterian Church of Ft. Meade*

Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

*All the doubt in the world cannot wash away our inheritance from God- an inheritance of love, refuge, and strength.
Acts 2, Psalm 16, 1Peter 1*

Call to worship (based on 1 Peter 1:3-9)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

In this we rejoice, even if now for a little while we have had to suffer various trials.

Although we have not seen him, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy.

Call to confession

God is always before us. God never abandons us. God shows us the path of righteousness and is always ready to redirect us on the Way when we confess our sin and ask for correction.

Prayer of confession

God of resurrection and new life, we confess that in times of trial and suffering we huddle in fear rather than turn to you in faith. We see only our dashed expectations and neglect to perceive your creative goodness. Knowing that our risen Lord comes to us when we are most afraid, we boldly share our deepest anxieties. Seeing Christ's fresh wounds, we bare our own, our shame and regrets, our mistakes and failures. Trusting in Jesus' compassion and mercy, we ask for your forgiveness so that we can testify to your saving grace. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been given a new birth into a living hope. Forgiven and freed, we embrace our mission to go out into the world to extend God's forgiveness to others.

Hymn

"The Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

Online Sermon
Rev. Anthony Gilbert
"The Everlasting Breath of Christ"

Affirmation of faith (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn "Thine Is the Glory"

Call for the offering

Our Lord comes to us bring the gift of peace and the power of the Holy Spirit. He sends us to do God's work of reconciliation, bringing the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth. The giving of God's tithes and our offerings furthers the work with which Christ entrusts us. Let us worship God with our morning's offering.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of redemption and resurrection, we come to you as we are, rejoicing that our Lord is alive, yet still afraid of the chaos around and within us. We cannot help but doubt your goodness when so much suffering surrounds us. The pandemic continues to cause sickness and take life. Resources are scarce in the places they are needed the most. People all over the world are desperate for life's basic necessities. Our Easter alleluias get stuck in our throats when we survey the pain of your glorious creation.

Come, Risen Lord, walk among us, show us your wounds, give us your peace, breathe the Spirit into our weariness and worries.

God of pursuing grace and mercy, we come to you as we are, grateful for the gift of reconciliation, yet still unsure if we have the courage to go and extend your forgiveness to others. We are prone to hold grudges and too often find satisfaction in the downfall of our enemies. Partisanship continues despite our need to come together to defeat the scourge of injustice, ever growing inequity and the pervasiveness of poverty. Our Easter alleluias feel hypocritical when we look around at the systemic sin in which we participate.

Come, Risen Lord, walk among us, show us you are alive, grant us the peace that passes understanding, embolden us with the Spirit so that we might speak your Word and do your will.

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God of loving kindness and relentless reconciliation, we come to you as we are, praising you for your unwillingness to leave us alone, yet tired in the face of the world's overwhelming needs. We believe that Jesus is our Lord and God. We know he commands us to follow his example of servant leadership. We remember all he taught us about the least and the last, asking and receiving, moving mountains with mustard seed faith. Knowing that you come to us, just as we are, keeping your promises and never abandoning us, we shout our Easter alleluias echoing the heavenly chorus that spurs us on to run the race set before us.

You are here, risen Lord, wounded and standing before us. Your sure presence gives us peace. Your Spirit, our Advocate, Comforter and Teacher, will show us the way and accomplish your plans.

We worship you, our Lord and our God, and we pray in your name and as you taught us, saying, *Our Father...*

Charge and benediction

Receive the Holy Spirit. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield
and provided for free distribution.

Hymn: #121: "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

Words: Latin hymn, 5th century; Trans. John Mason Neale, 1852; alt.

Music: Trier ms., 15th century; Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910

Hymn: #122: "Thine Is the Glory"

Words: Edmond Louis Burdry, 1884; Trans. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923; alt.

Music: George Frederick Handel, 1748

ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ ***Please continue to visit the church website and Face book page during our time away from each other physically.*** Starting next week Anthony will be posting on Tuesday and Thursday inspirational devotionals to listen too. Then on Wednesday, Joan will be sharing recipes and activities for a mid week inspirational activity.

❖ ***"These Days" daily devotionals*** are still available in the small mailbox located at the church office or you can go to this free link to read it online: pcusastore.com/TheseDays

❖ ***PRAYERS:*** If you need a updated prayer booklet from the Prayer Chain Ministry, please contact Wendi at home and she can email you an updated version . Continue to keep church member Gene Seger in prayers while he continues to get better and for the family of Dwaine "Buster" Smith, he passed away on April 13, 2020 at his home. Continue to uplift in prayer his wife Alison, daughter, Jennifer and father Quinten Smith Sr. Dwaine and his mother Hazel and father were members of McLeod in the 70's and 80's.

❖ ***TITHES AND OFFERINGS: McLeod Memorial*** is accepting tithing by: 1. Secured lock box at the church office 2. Mailed to 695 West Stuart Street; Bartow, FL 33830 Attn: Mike Marchman 3. Mike Marchman, Treasurer; 1625 Wallace Avenue; Bartow, FL 33830. **1st Pres of Ft. Meade** is accepting tithing mailed to PO Box 176; Ft. Meade, FL 33841.

❖ ***ARMORED YOUTH:*** The gatherings for the Internet Safety for Youth with the Crime Prevention Programs and Services, Stephanie Schultz and the iWait Abstinence Education program will both be rescheduled for this summer. Dates will be announced as our ministry reschedules with the guest speakers. Today's ZOOM meeting...5:30-6:30pm topic FAMILY based on Joshua 25:15. Sometimes family can be amazing and messy, but a family that loves God together can be an awesome thing for the world to see. Continuing with our series on "Relationships" God created us for relationship and there is no relationship quite like that of a family that is seeking God. What will be Jennifer's choice of game activity today? Family charades or a photo scavenger hunt. Join Jennifer, Wendi & Becky this afternoon to find out.