



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

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

***Christ is here, ready to be revealed. Watch and wait for the new growth that is coming.
Luke 24***

Call to worship (based on 1 Peter 1:21-23)

Through Christ you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.

You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Call to confession

We have been ransomed from futile things with the precious blood of Christ. We need not fear condemnation, but instead come to the throne of grace to repent boldly and trust in God's power and will to forgive and transform.

Prayer of confession

Lord, we have been cut to the heart. We know there is nothing we can do to earn the grace we have received through Christ. We regret the times we cheapen it, accepting your gifts while neglecting your commandments. Forgive us for not loving one another. Forgive us for not sharing with others. Forgive us for going our own way and refusing to follow you. Do not let us get so focused on the headlines that we forget the good news of the gospel. Come alongside us and remind us of your Word and our purpose in this world. Hear our confession, free us from guilt, open our eyes that we might see and know our Savior, alive and present with us now. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

God knows the concerns on our hearts and the worries on our minds. God listens and then speaks the Logos of truth and mercy, grace upon grace. The risen Christ comes alongside us, grants us peace, forgives us and sets us free. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Hymn

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine! "

Online Sermon
Rev. Anthony Gilbert
"A Caring Stranger on the Road"

Affirmation of faith (*The Apostles' Creed -Traditional*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who 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

"Open My Eyes That I May See"

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of all times and places, we cannot stop talking about the painful events we have witnessed this week. We are discussing the numbers of people killed by COVID-19. We speak constantly of the suffering brought on by this pandemic. We talk about the economic, physical, mental, spiritual and psychological distress all over the globe. We debate the merits and risks of re-opening our country. We cannot turn away from the anxiety that feels ever-present. We know you hear our voices and our supplications. We give thanks that you do not leave us alone.

As the risen Christ comes alongside us now, we pour out our hearts, unashamed to share exactly how we feel and what we fear in this moment. We rest in your sure presence as we share with you now our thoughts and worries, hopes and doubts. (*Silent prayer*)

God of all times and places, tell us again the story of salvation. Remind us how you rescued us from Egypt and sustained us in the wilderness. Help us to remember that you were with us in exile and made a way to bring us home. Do not let us forget that you can use for good even that which we intend for evil. Bring to our minds the countless times you have not allowed the storms of this life to overtake us. We know you hear our voices and our supplications. We give thanks that you do not leave us alone.

As the risen Christ comes alongside us now, we urge him not to leave, but instead to stay with us. We abide in your resurrected presence as we listen for your living Word, give us your guidance in this trying time. (*Silent prayer*)

God of all times and places, having heard your Word and broken bread with you, we recognize our Lord, alive and showing us the way. You do indeed make all things possible, defeating evil, overcoming death, restoring us to right relationship with you and one another. Send us to those places in deepest need of knowing that creation is redeemed and nothing can separate us from your love. Hear our voices and our shouts of praise as we proclaim: We have seen the Lord. He is risen indeed! We are not, and will never be, alone. We make our prayer in the name of One who taught us to say when we pray, Our Father...



Charge and benediction (from 1 Peter 1:22-23)

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ Please continue to visit the church website and Face book page during our time away from each other physically. On the church website you will be able to pull up a daily devotional on Tuesday and Thursday. Then on each Wednesday, Joan will be posting a inspirational activity on Face book. Thank you to Cory Coler for volunteering his time to send emails, post links and maintaining the website and Facebook page for our congregations to stay connected with each other.
- ❖ "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 McLeod for the Prayer Chain Ministry, please contact Wendi at home and she can email you an updated version.
- ❖ 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 P.O. Box 176; Ft. Meade, FL 33841.
- ❖ ARMORED YOUTH: 5:30-6:30pm - ZOOM Meeting on April 26th and Ms. Jennifer has a fun evening planned for you, so you don't want to miss out. She will be contacting the parents with the last month calendar or our regular Sunday meeting dates and then we will see how and when we can plan some summer activities.
- ❖ BIBLE STUDY: If you are interested in joining the next ZOOM Meeting Bible Study that Anthony is leading it will be held this coming Thursday, April 30th at 3:30pm. You can contact him by phone or email and he will forward your name to Jayne Bates so that a Zoom invitation can be sent to you to join the study meeting.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield
and provided for free distribution.
For more resources,
visit pres-outlook.org.

Hymn #341: "Blessed Assurance"

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873

Music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873

Hymn: #324 "Open My Eyes That I May See"

Words and Music: Clara H. Scott, 1895