



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

26165 Farmington Road,
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
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In preparing our hearts for worship, we will be dimming the lights in the narthex, indicating a time to prepare ourselves for worship. Please enter the sanctuary quietly and in time to hear the welcome and announcements.



Prayer of Preparation

Loving God, on this celebrative day, many may join us for worship who do not regularly join with your people. We pray for the gift of hospitality today, that our community will welcome them with open arms. May each worshiper sense the power of the gospel today and be drawn closer to you, by the power of your Spirit. Amen

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
FPC Bell Choir

Arnold Sherman

*Call to Worship based on John 12

Liturgist

This is the good news—the grave is empty;

Christ is risen. Hallelujah!

This is the good news— the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

Christ is alive. Hallelujah!

This is the good news— once we were no people; now we are God’s people.

Christ reigns. Hallelujah!

Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

Jesus Christ is risen today. Hallelujah!

*Opening Hymn #245

Christ The Lord is Risen Today

**“Christ the Lord is risen today!” Alleluia!
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!
Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!
Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!**

Prayer of Confession

If, at times, we deny you, God forgive. When the risks of discipleship are high,
and we are nowhere to be found:

God forgive.

When we wash our hands of responsibility:

God forgive us.

When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors and seek to buy freedom with silver:

God forgive and wash us clean.

When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth, or prejudice keeps us from believing it:

God forgive and have mercy on us.

In the bright light of Easter morning, O God, our sin is exposed, and your grace is revealed. Tender God, raise us in your love so that, with joy, we may witness to your awesome deeds, in the name of Jesus, the risen one. Amen

Words of Assurance -- Romans 8:9-11, NRSV

You are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, God who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Give thanks to our risen Lord, who forgives us and gives us new life. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Reading

John 20.1-18

Liturgist

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So, she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you

weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Anthem	I'm Gonna Rise FPC Choir	Paul Marsena
Time with children		Kari Gorman
Sermon	"It Was What It Is"	

Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards

*Doxology #606

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

We Respond to God's Word

Prayer of the People, Thanksgiving, & The Lord's Prayer

Liturgist

O Holy God, we come before you this Easter day in gratitude. We confess, O God, that we like to think of Easter as a sunny and warm day, full of light and sweetness, scented of all that is fragrant in springtime. Yet no matter what the weather outside, on this day your world remains in so many corners a dark and stormy place, sunk deep into the cold winter of sin and evil.

Those who first witnessed your Son's resurrection found it to be a fearful and fearsome event. For you, O great God of surprises, crashed into our reality with something new and unexpected. But on this morning we do not want to forget the darkness of last Friday afternoon and the way by which the Easter victory, about which we so happily sing this day, came about. We cannot forget the sacrifice, the bloody death, the God-forsaken pain of it all. This clash between your kingdom and this world was fierce.

Today we do praise you for all the might, power, and creativity by which you won the victory, our holy and righteous God. We praise you for raising from the dead our Lord and

Savior, Jesus Christ, the great shepherd now of all of us sheep who follow him. But because we cannot and must not forget also the darkness of sin that even still is around us, we make petition this morning for all people anywhere and everywhere who continue to feel crucified by a cruel world and yet do not perceive any Easter.

We pray for refugees, for tortured prisoners, for the innocent victims of war. We pray for abused children and battered women, for stricken families from whom a loved one has disappeared without a trace. We pray for the homeless poor and those victimized and diminished by racism, discrimination, and oppression of all kinds. We pray for all those who can see no Easter light because all that is good and lovely has been eclipsed by a depression that will not lift, by chronic pain that will not abate, by a stretch of unemployment with no end in sight, or by a job that is slaying the spirit day by day because the work seems so meaningless.

O Lord, the things that led Jesus to the cross have not yet disappeared from the face of the earth. The need for resurrection remains stubbornly present in the lives of millions. Make us, O Spirit of the living God, life-giving spirits to minister to those in need this Easter Sunday and always. Right here there are also so many needs. So we pray for the widow or widower who marks this Easter for the first time without a beloved spouse. Be with anyone who feels that he or she needs to believe in the resurrection more than ever but is finding it more and more difficult because the absence of that dear person is too real to deny, too total to grasp. We pray for those who are sick this day or who are worried about a loved one who is very ill.

And be with each of us gathered for this service. Thank you for friends and family who are our guests this morning, and grant them a special blessing by your Spirit. We worship you, our Father, for gracing us with musicians who spend their talents thoughtfully and well in this place so that all of us may be edified and, through the mystery of music, be drawn closer to you.

Above all we thank you for the presence of the Spirit of the living Lord, Christ Jesus. As we encounter nothing short of your very self here this morning, may we know for sure that we have indeed been in your sacred presence, and may this encounter in turn embolden us to live an Easter life not only now but also in the days to come and forevermore. Help us to take what we experience and learn here and to allow it to set a holy tone for us always and everywhere. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ who teaches us to pray

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.

We Follow God's Word into the World

*Hymn of Sending # 249

Because You Live O Christ

1. Because you live O Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower;

The darkness of the tomb is flooded with your resurrection power.

2. Because you live, O Christ, the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;
Our cages of despair no longer keep us closed and life denying.

3. Because you live, O Christ, the rainbow of your peace will span creation;
The colors of your love will draw all humankind to adoration.

Refrain:

The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter day, for Jesus Christ has risen, has risen, has risen, has risen!

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring

JS Bach
Flute Charlene Diehl



Mourning the Loss of Donald Prieskorn

Donald Prieskorn, a member of our congregation, moved to more life on March 31st.

A graveside memorial for Donald will be held on Monday, April 21, 2025. Contact the Prieskorns for additional details.

<https://www.heeney-sundquist.com/obituary/donald-prieskorn>

The 2025 CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, May 4, 2025.

Donations can be made online, given directly to one of the walkers or sent to the church office. Online donations are preferred, but cash and checks written to CWS/CROP Hunger Walk are also accepted. The online link

is: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/first-presbyterian-of-farmington> and our team name is "First Presbyterian of Farmington". Donations will also be collected in the Narthex on April 27 and May 4. Everyone is welcome, so invite your family and friends. Please contact Dorothy Tait (detai1957@gmail.com) for more info or to sign up to walk. The walk is downtown Farmington at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River. We are so grateful for your support of this program which can make an immediate and life-saving impact. Watch our new Goal Chart in the Narthex grow!

BAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!

Our 9th annual craft show is coming very soon. We need lots of bakers and volunteers. There is a sign up sheet on the Kiosk or speak to Deborah Draper, Sue Cooper or Leslie Moyna.

CARES Food Pantry

The number of people needing assistance in providing enough food for their family continues to grow. Between 750 and 800 households are served by CARES each month. Please take home a yellow CARES shopping list, found in the pews, and take it with you on your next shopping trip. We have provided a plastic bin in the Narthex for your generous donations. Thank you for remembering your neighbors.

CALLING ALL WOMEN EUCHRE PLAYERS for a fun afternoon

Our next afternoon of cards will be: **Friday May 2** from 2:00 to 4:00 in the **Library**. Add this date to your calendar and sign up on the kiosk. Get in on the fun before we go on summer break! New players are welcome- we can teach YOU!

-Questions? See Nancy Prieskorn

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From the initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

OGHS envelopes are available on the back of the pews. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church Farmington but be sure to note that it is for OGHS on the memo line.

Hospitality Time Schedule

You are invited to bring ONE food item on ONE Sunday each month. Your Sunday depends on the first letter of your last name. It would be greatly appreciated if you are also able to help with set-up or clean-up. Please note healthy options are welcome as well such as fruit, eggs, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

April 20: Last names beginning A-D

April 27: Last names beginning E-K

May 4: Last names beginning L-R

May 11: Last names beginning S-Z



QR Code for Donations!

If you ever forget to go to the ATM, or simply don't carry cash on you, we've decided to include the church QR code for a more streamlined donation process. To donate, just scan the QR code and follow the prompts!

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Transitional Senior Pastor

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music

Office Administrator

Administrative Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

Rev. Bruce Mulder

Rev. Craig Aue

Peter Cartwright

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamer



we've got fun wrapped up!

Join us in ancient Egypt! You'll explore Pharaoh's palace, experience thrilling "real-life" dramas, play high-energy games, sample tasty snacks, and hear unforgettable music. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

Location: Hope Lutheran Church:
39200 W 12 Mile Rd,
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

The adventure begins: August 11th - 15th

Celebration time: 9am - 11:30am

**More info
and Registration**



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