

GILBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Glorify God
Plant seeds of Faith
Cultivate Disciples

ALL ARE
WELCOME!



GILBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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480-892-6753 www.azgpc.org
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APRIL 28, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WELCOMING OF VISITORS AND
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRELUDE *Jesus Lives, and So Shall I* Cruger/Shackley
Susan Martinez

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** (from 1 John 4)

Liturgist – George Prohaska

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;

All: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Leader: There is no fear in love; perfect love casts out fear.

All: We love because he first loved us.

Leader: The commandment we have from him is this:

All: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

***THE MORNING PRAYER**

Liturgist – George Prohaska

O God,

Form the minds of your faithful people into a single will.

Make us love what you command

and desire what you promise,

that, amid all the changes of this world,

our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

Hymn 483

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As far as east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions.

Let us now come before the Lord together to confess our sins and receive his Grace.

People: Eternal Father, to whom all hearts are known, we seek your mercy and forgiveness for failings in the things we have done and in the things we have left undone. Please pardon us for the sake of your Son, our Risen Lord and help us to reflect His love and faithfulness in all our ways, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Now in silence, let us continue our confession (Time of silent prayer) Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Lord, your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Through the merit of your Son. You have assured us we may confidently approach the throne of Grace to receive forgiveness and renewal of life. In His name, we offer our grateful thanks and praise.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Hymn 582

***SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

GOD'S WORD FOR OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor George Prohaska

All children are welcome in the front *Parents - livestream in progress (kids in front will be viewed online)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Be at Peace

McKibben
Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that understanding, we may believe, and believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

New Testament Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

SERMON

Interrupted by Grace

Lisa Gurney

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and
neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit

who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world

the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

OFFERTORY

Beloved

Lanz

***DOXOLOGY**

Hymn 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, we praise you... We praise you, Almighty Father, through Christ your Son, and in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen*

HYMN *Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers* Hymn 231

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Love Lifted Me* Smith/Schram
Susan Martinez

***If you are able, please stand.**



Thank you to our Worship and Tech Teams, Susan Martinez, Amy Johnston, Gaill Blackburn, David & Jennie Burel, Roy & Alex Martin.

Thank you to those Serving today:

Liturgist: Pastor George Prohaska
Hymn Leader/Choir Director: Amy Johnston
Ushers: Diane Howard, Marla Jackson, Betty Walford

Announcements

FOOD COLLECTION NEXT WEEK!

We'll be collecting food for United Food Bank next Sunday, May 5. Stock up now and bring your donations to church next week.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

You are invited to attend a service in recognition of the National Day of Prayer on **Thursday, May 2 at 7:00pm** at **First Presbyterian Church of Mesa, 161 N. Mesa Drive**. The evening will consist of prayers and brief comments will be shared by several faith and community leaders. Hosted by Mesa's Faith Leaders' Coalition & First Presbyterian Church of Mesa.

SPRING RECITAL – PIANO SUSAN

You are invited to attend a piano recital with Susan Martinez and her students here in our sanctuary on Saturday, May 4 at 4:00 pm. All are welcome!

GPC General Information

FIRST TIME GUESTS - Welcome to our first-time visitors. A packet of information about our church is available in the entryway or from an usher. We're glad you're here!

OFFERINGS/DONATIONS – You may donate to Gilbert Presbyterian by going to <https://www.azgpc.org/giving-options.html>. Thank you for your support.

REMINDER – Please silence all phones/electronic devices. Thank you.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – We meet in Room 7 at 11:00 am each Sunday. All are welcome!

VIDEO SUNDAY SCHOOL- The Video Sunday School Class meets in the Chapel in the Palmer Center at 11:00 am each Sunday. Join us for great discussions and fellowship following a video lesson.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Join us each Thursday for our Mid-week Bible Study. We are studying the book, **Revelation** by NT Wright. This book can be purchased on **Amazon**. We meet in Room 7 in the Palmer Center at 4:00pm. Everyone is welcome!

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME? - If you're thinking about joining Gilbert Presbyterian Church, PC(USA), or would like a refresher course on what being a Presbyterian Christian means, please call the church office at 480-892-6753 to let us know of your interest.

NURSERY CARE - Nursery care is available in the Palmer Center for Nursery/Toddler care thru 5 years old with our Nursery Attendant Britney Blackburn.

FELLOWSHIP TIME - We invite everyone to join us following our worship service this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the Palmer Center.

THIS WEEK AT GPC

Sunday, April 28, 2024

9:30 am – Online & In Person Worship Service

10:30 am – Coffee Time in the Palmer Center

11:00 am – Video Sunday School

11:00 am - Adult Sunday School meets in person and via Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/4808926753?pwd=K3J3bk9CNDFsdll2ZCtuOGxCL2FzZz09>

11:00 am – Revival Presbyterian Church Bible Study

1:00 pm – Revival Presbyterian Church Service

Tuesday, April 30

8:00 am – Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, May 1

7:00 pm – Worship Cmt. Meeting

Thursday, May 2

4:00 pm – Mid Week Bible Study

7:00 pm - National Day of Prayer Service

7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, May 4

**4:00 pm – Susan Martinez Spring
Piano Concert**

Sunday, May 5

9:30 am – Online & In Person Worship Service

10:30 am – Coffee Time in the Palmer Center

11:00 am – Video Sunday School

11:00 am - Adult Sunday School meets in person and via Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/4808926753?pwd=K3J3bk9CNDFsdll2ZCtuOGxCL2FzZz09>

11:00 am – Revival Presbyterian Church Bible Study

1:00 pm – Revival Presbyterian Church Service

HYMN INSERTS

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here 483

1 Dear - est Je - sus, we are here, glad - ly your com -
 2 Your com - mand is clear and plain, and we would o -
 3 This is why we come to you, in our arms this
 4 Gra - cious Head, your mem - ber own; Shep - herd, take your

mand o - bey - ing. With this child we now draw near
 bey it du - ly: "You must all be born a - gain,
 in - fant bear - ing. Tru - ly, here your grace we view.
 lamb and feed it; Prince of Peace, make here your throne;

in re - sponse to your own say - ing that to you it
 heart and life re - new - ing tru - ly, born of wa - ter
 Let this child, your mer - cy shar - ing, in your arms be
 Way of life, to heav - en lead it; pre - cious Vine, let

shall be giv - en as a child and heir of heav - en.
 and the Spir - it, and my king - dom thus in - her - it."
 shield - ed ev - er, yours on earth and yours for - ev - er.
 noth - ing sev - er from your side this branch for - ev - er.

As the similarity of their opening lines suggests (they are identical in German), this text for the baptism of a child was written in imitation of the sermon hymn "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" (no. 395), which is the text usually associated with the tune they share.

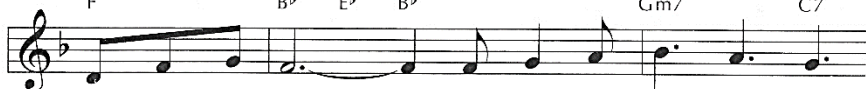
Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
 B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
 2 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
 F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
 C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
 World with - out end, ♪ with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

606

Praise God, from Whom
All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures

here be-low; praise *him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

**Or "God"*

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDRETH
LM

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers 231



1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,
2 Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;
3 Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-lenge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.
Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.
all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.



Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;
Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud-dled in an up - stairs room.
Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been:



let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris-en, God is here!
He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.
ev - i - dence of trans - for - ma - tion in which God is known and seen.



Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means "lullaby."

Scripture Readings – April 28, 2024

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Lisa Gurney

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus,

and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.