

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA PC(USA)

Order of Worship  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
April 12<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 a.m.

- ☐ **Everyone is welcome here. God loves you, and so will we. God's grace is for all.**
- ☐ We welcome children of all ages in worship! We believe that all children are gifts from God and wiggles and giggles are part of that. Restrooms are equipped with changing tables. If parents prefer, our nursery is open for ages 0-4 in the Preschool's Cricket Room (north end of the main building). All staff are background checked, as are our volunteers.
- ☐ In the Narthex is a liturgical library with items to help worshipers of all ages engage with the service. Select which items you would like to use, place them in a small black bag from the left side if you wish, and please return your bag with the items to the basket beneath the display at the end of worship.
- ☐ If you or your family find attending worship in the Sanctuary causes sensory overload, we have two sensory spaces available for neurodivergent individuals to utilize while enjoying a livestream of the worship service. The first sensory room, geared toward children and those with higher support needs, is located next to the restrooms down the south first-floor hallway. The second sensory room, geared toward teens, adults, and those with lower support needs, is located in the Worship Center.
- ☐ Throughout the service, at the \*\*, each person is invited to stand in body or in spirit.

## Gathering Around the Word

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Prayer of the Day

O Great Laughing God,  
we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised.  
We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight.  
These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us  
and for all the earth.  
May we find that in giving up to laughter  
there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing.  
Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit  
to renew our worship and our living. Amen.

### Call to Worship\*\*

Joy is loose,  
**In the wiggles of the children,**  
The whispers of the youth,  
**The smiles of the adults.**  
We praise God for this glorious day,  
**Let the praise break forth**  
**in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.**  
Joy and praise fills our hearts and in our songs  
**Let the laughter be deep,**  
**for we are God's people.**

## Hymn Of Praise

Go Tell It on The Mountain

Chorus:

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus is alive.*

While soldiers watched the gravesite  
that quiet Sunday dawn  
there came a big commotion  
and then the storm was gone.

The women found no body  
their spices to anoint;  
instead they found an angel,  
God's message to appoint.

Go from where He isn't  
to where He said He'd be.  
An Easter-time reunion:  
the hills of Galilee.

## Prayer of Confession\*\*

*in unison*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another:

**You know us better than we do, Amused God,  
What important people we believe we are.  
Believing we have to be serious all the time,  
we miss out on the joy of your creation.  
Choosing to feast on the pain of the world,  
we skip the picnic offered in paradise.  
Clinging to the despair which is our best friend,  
we ignore Jesus. who can bring us home to your heart.  
Forgive us, Heart of Joy,  
and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways  
in which you work. Fill us with Easter's laughter;  
fill us with your healing joy;  
fill us with the love poured into us  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

## Kyrie

551

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
*(repeat)*

## Response of Praise\*\*

581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, amen.**

## Passing the Peace\*\*

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Proclaiming and Sharing the Word**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Laughing God,  
you who scattered stars like confetti  
and thought up the platypus,  
open our hearts today to the absurd grace of Easter.  
We confess we have made our faith  
too heavy, too certain, too solemn,  
forgetting that an empty tomb  
is the greatest punchline ever told,  
the joke death didn't see coming.  
By your Spirit, loosen us.  
Let scripture land today not only as truth  
but as delight.  
Remind us that joy is not the enemy of depth,  
that laughter can be a form of praise,  
and that the resurrection itself  
is a divine refusal to let the last word belong to despair.  
Illuminate our minds,  
lighten our spirits,  
and make us, for a moment,  
wise enough to be fools for Christ.  
Amen.

### **Scripture Reading**

### **1 Peter 1: 3-9; (NT, pg. 218)**

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 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice,[a] even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 7 so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Although you have not seen[b] him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## Scripture Reading

## John 20:19-31 (NT 108-109)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe. A week later his disciples were again in the house and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**(pause)** I now invite our younger worshipers forward for the Time with Children

## Time with Children

*Jesus Loves Me, GTG 188*

*Children and Worship, a worship experience for ages 3 years – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, meets in the Westminster Room, to the left as you exit the Sanctuary.*

## Sermon

### Responding to the Word

#### Affirmation of Faith\*\*

One: We believe with the Bible

**People: That there is a time to weep and a time to laugh**

One: We believe with Chrysostom

**People: That laughter has been implanted in our souls**

One: We believe with Aquinas

**People: That there is a time for playful deeds and jokes**

One: We believe with Luther

**People: That you have as much laughter as you have faith**

One: We believe with John Calvin

**People: That we are nowhere forbidden to laugh**

One: We believe with Chesterton

**People: That a good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation**

One: We believe with Charles Schulz

**People: That humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless!**

### Hymn of Faith 515\*\*

God bless you merry people,  
take heart and have no fear;  
Remember Christ our Savior  
is always drawing near.  
He lived and died and rose again  
for us and neighbors here.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy,  
peace and joy.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.  
In Jerusalem at Calvary,  
on that uncertain day,  
amid the storm and silence,  
New hope was on its way.  
With arms wide open, love broke through,

God Bless You Merry people  
(Tune: God Bless Ye Merry Gentlemen)  
to light our path and stay.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy,  
peace and joy.  
Oh, tidings of Easter peace and joy.  
So sing a loud hosanna,  
for love has made us new,  
and lift your voice in gladness,  
for grace sees us all through.  
Believe in hope, like humans do  
For we are multitudes.  
We share tidings of Easter peace and joy,  
peace and joy.  
Yes, tidings of Easter peace and joy.

### Invitation to Discipleship and Call for the Offering

Scripture reminds us to be stewards, caring for all God has entrusted to us.  
"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)  
And while the Lord loves a cheerful giver..... God also accepts from the grouch.



### Choir Anthem

The Lord of the Dance by John Ferguson

### Doxology\*\*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**To God the Father, God the Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in one,  
may every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise.  
Amen.**

### Prayer of Dedication (from lectern)

Wildly generous God —  
Here it is. Our offering. Offered somewhat cheerfully, occasionally reluctantly, always hopefully.  
Take it and do the thing you do — the loaves-and-fishes, make-it-enough, somehow-there's-more-than-we-thought thing.  
Feed someone. Shelter someone. Help someone somewhere feel a little less alone in the universe.  
And remind us that giving is just practice for what you've been doing for us all along.  
Amen

# Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Hymn 80\*\*

*You Shall Go Out with Joy* -The Trees of the Field

## Charge and Benediction\*\*

May the God of surprises  
bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.  
May the God of love  
be seen in all we do and say.  
Go forth rejoicing,  
to carry the joy of life and love to the world.

## Postlude

**Liturgy from Presbyterian Outlook and Teri McDowell and used with permission.**

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**Join us for our Church Yard Workday on Saturday, April 25 at 9:00 AM! Volunteers are needed for pruning, weeding, and mulching around the property. Please bring gloves and wear clothes that can get dirty. Rain date: May 2. Contact Terry Shreve with questions**

**The Communion table flowers are given to the glory of God by Kay Stewart in celebration of the birthday of Rev. Gordon Edwards Birthday.**

# You Shall Go Out with Joy 80

## The Trees of the Field

Em B7 Em B7 Em

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;

G C G D

the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -

B N.C. Em B7 Em

fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the

B7 Em B7 Em B7 Em

trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

D7 N.C. G C G D

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;

D7 G D7 G

the trees of the field will clap their hands;

C G D

the trees of the field will clap their hands

B7 Em B7 Em

while you go out with joy.

\*Clap hands.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 55:12, which is generally understood to describe a "second exodus," this time from Babylon rather than from Egypt. This release of God's people and their return to their own land gives rise to a joyful celebration involving all creation.

## Assisting in Worship Today

**Preacher:** Rev. Joel Wood  
**Liturgist:** Pastor Peter Olson  
**Organist:** Lucia Unrau  
**Interim Choir Director:** Ryan Downing  
**Counters:** Andrea Arquitt & Tim Schlais

### THE DEACONS' PRAYER LIST

Health/Personal	Health/Personal
Dorothy Akin	
Betty Bays	Larry Redburn
Blake & April (D. Baker)	Heather Rine (Seals)
Rita Breuninger	Michelle Scheible (Hearn)
Norma Burk	Carol Schmitt (Arquitt)
J.T. Cotter (J. Holland)	Danielle Shreve
Connie Dixon (Yost)	Roger Stevens (Garoffolo)
The Edwards Family	Connie Stiegler
Mary Emmet	Bill Tearney
Vickie Foust & Family	Lynda Williams
Bennett Frohock	Valerie Zayat-Bloodgood (Houston)
Tom Gent (Shreve)	
Mona Haney (Chermack)	Military
Denise Houston (Houston)	Felicity Bruner
Edwin Koeppe & Family	Casey Campbell
Tami Krehbeil's Mom	Justin Fowler
Roger Lantz (Garoffolo)	Matt Krehbiel
Doug Legler (N. Beckstrom)	Miles Smith
Nancy Martz	Dan Brooks
Nathan Moore (Stangl)	Jordan Bigelow

Names in parentheses indicate connection to FPC.

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**Pastor Peter Olson**, Transition Pastor/ Head of Staff: [pastor.peter@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:pastor.peter@stillwaterfpc.org)  
**Kristyn Yerger**, Church Administrator: [kristyn.yerger@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:kristyn.yerger@stillwaterfpc.org)  
**Manny Quiles**, Finance Administrator: [manny.q@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:manny.q@stillwaterfpc.org)

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

9:45 a.m. Coffee Hour - HA  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday school for all ages  
 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship – SAN

### Monday April 13<sup>th</sup>

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga – FH  
 6:00 p.m. Pack 3842 – FH  
 7:00 p.m. Scouting American Troop 820 - Scout  
 7:00 p.m. Scouting America Troop 888 – WR

### Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup>

1:00 p.m. Finance Meeting  
 6:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Committee Meeting

### Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. Second Mile Sewing  
 11:00 a.m. Adult & Fellowship Meeting  
 11:30 a.m. Hideaway Men – Hideaway Pizza  
 12:00 p.m. ROMEOs - HA  
 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>

12:00 p.m. Chair Yoga – FH  
 5:00 p.m. Seasoned Adults

### Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>

### Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. 7<sup>th</sup> day Adventist Worship – WC  
 11:00 a.m. Community Brunch - NFH

### Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>

9:45 a.m. Sunday school for all ages  
 11:00 a.m. Worship – SAN  
 5:00 p.m. PYG - YS

FPC Room Abbreviation Key  
 FH = Fellowship Hall HA= Hospitality Area  
 LIB = Library (201) MPR = Multipurpose Rm  
 SAN = Sanctuary WC = Worship Center  
 WR = Westminster Room YS = Youth Suite  
 SR = Sensory Room  
 PYG = Presbyterian Youth Group (6th-12th graders)

**Elijah Ankrom**, *Coordinator of Children's & Youth Ministry*: [elijah.ankrom@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:elijah.ankrom@stillwaterfpc.org)

**Mallory Kizer**, *Digital Communications Assistant*: [mallory.kizer@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:mallory.kizer@stillwaterfpc.org)

**The Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards**, *Pastor Emeritus*

**Rebecca Te Velde**, *Organist/Director of Music Emerita*