10:45 Traditional Service October 26, 2025



Current Series: KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Are you new to First Pres? We'd love to get to know you. Connect Cards are available in the pews. Please place your completed card in the offering plate.

Come early each week and join us downstairs at 10:00 for Fellowship Hour: donuts, coffee & conversation.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Open & Mark your Bibles: Luke 24:1-8 (p. 1060), Acts 1:6-11 (p. 1090), Ephesians 1:18-23, p. 1173 Hymnal: No. 858; No. 217; No. 555

GOD'S PEOPLE OF HOPE GATHER

Prelude: "Day by Day" (Courtney)
Wayne Whitten, organist

Welcome

Pastor Clint Tolbert

Sung Call to Worship: "Since You Are Risen from the Dead" (von Kampen)
Chancel Choir

*Hymn of Exhortation, No. 858: "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

WE APPROACH OUR HOLY GOD

*Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.

All: Forgive us, Lord. By the power of Christ's resurrection, raise us from sin to new life, that we may serve You in joy and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your name. It's in his Christ's holy and powerful name that we pray.

(Silence for personal confession.)

*Assurance of Pardon & Passing of the Peace

*Response, No. 331: "Gloria Patri"

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-8 (p. 1060); Acts 1:6-11 (p. 1090) Lynda Fox

Sermon: "Rose Again, Ascended, and Reigns" (Ephesians 1:18-23, p. 1173)
Pastor Clint Tolbert

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE LORD

Additional information about prayer and offering is located under Worship Notes.

Hymn of Response, No. 217: "All Glory Be to Christ"

Offering & Your Giving at Work

Offertory: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" (arr. Berry)

*Response, No. 384: "Doxology"

Prayers for God's People & the Lord's Prayer

(Visit "First Pres in Prayer" in the FYI for greater detail of prayers requested.)

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.

GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD'S OWN CHILDREN

*Charge and Blessing

*Postlude: Postlude in D (Fischer)

* Please rise, in body or in spirit.

WORSHIP NOTES

PRAYER

If you have a joy or concern that you would like to share with us, so that others can be in prayer with you, please fill out one of our prayer cards (found in the pews or the prayer room) and bring your completed card to one of our prayer team members in the prayer room. To learn and pray in greater detail for those who are named in the service, please visit "First Pres in Prayer" in the FYI Newsletter.

^{*}Hymn of Proclamation, No. 555: "Jesus Shall Reign"

OFFERING

The Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. One of the ways we respond to Christ's call to discipleship is by returning some of the financial provision that God has provided to us. Please make your tithes and offerings for the work of the church by giving as the plates are passed, mailing a check to the church office, or by using the "give" button at the top right-hand corner of the church website. A QR code is also available on the giving card in the pews.

POSTLUDE

We recognize that the postlude marks the end of the service, summing up the theme of the service (usually celebratory) through music, and we acknowledge that we can respond to the postlude in different ways. The postlude is a piece of sending music, music that encourages as we go and are sent into the world to shine Jesus' light and make disciples. Some in our congregation may choose to go at this time. For others, the postlude is an opportunity to sit and reflect on the service and what was heard that day.

Whether you choose to listen as you go or listen as you remain in the Sanctuary, we ask that you are conscious of those around you, offering grace to each other as we all seek to follow the Spirit's leading as our service concludes.

FLOWERS

This morning's flowers are given to the glory of God, in honor of Rose Wulff, by her daughters Diane, Debbie, and Denise.

Nicene Creed Memorization

As we reflect on the scriptures behind the statements of the Nicene Creed this fall, we're encouraging our congregation to memorize the creed.

This week, here is the portion to focus on:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Sermon Notes: October 26, 2025

Ephesians 1:18-23 (Luke 24:1-8; Acts 1:6-11) "Rose Again, Ascended, and Reigns"

Main Points

- Even as Jesus reigns, he allows evil to exist for a time so that people might come to acknowledge Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- While he waits, Jesus exercises his powerful reign through his Church.
- We, the Church, have "resurrection power" available to us, but must choose to use it by faith.

Other Scripture Referenced

- Romans 5:12 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
- he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 1 Corinthians 15:3-7
- The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Helpful Quotes and References

 "Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed."
 John Stott

Application

Each morning this week, say: 'Jesus is risen. Jesus reigns. Jesus is with me.'

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