
WORSHIP SERVICE – EASTER SUNDAY

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Easter Celebration

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* Stewart Landon

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP – *Easter Sunday*

based on Galatians 2, 2 Samuel 22:2-3, 32, 47, 50

Pastor: The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation.

All: He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior.

Pastor: For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God?

All: The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Savior! Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name.”

Pastor: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *Christ Has Arisen!* Daniel Mattix
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #357** *Christ Arose*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed (Unison)

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.

*GLORIA PATRI

ANTHEM *An Easter Chant* Gordon Young
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (debt/debtors)

OFFERTORY *Wings of Grace* Edward Broughton

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O resurrected Christ, we celebrate this day, the promise for all time of Your unending love! Accept these gifts of celebration - make them be celebrations for others in the world. We praise Your Holy name! Amen.

***HYMN #358** *Because He Lives*

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:1-27; 46-48

MESSAGE *We Had Hoped* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***HYMN #368** *He Lives*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE** *Hallelujah, Amen* Lowell Mason
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *Day of Triumph* Donald Lee Moore

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #505465757

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayer Focus

- Pray for those who serve in the military and their families.
- Pray for First Responders and Healthcare Workers. Pray for our church as we seek to be a flourishing church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for Lisa Alfonsi, Eric Stone family, and Chasen and Katie Brokaw, missionaries we support in Peru, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.
- Pray for Crossroads, the mission for foster boys in Punta Gorda.
- Pray for Jesus Loves You Ministry for the homeless in Charlotte County.
- Pray for Misión Peniel, the mission that we support in Immokalee.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Those with Special Needs

Rachel Pfaender Phyllis Ehrhardt Rick Berner
Lynn Lang Ron Sixt Dave Sifferd

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown - Life Care, Punta Gorda

NOTES

ROSE - The rose on the organ is in celebration of the birth of Mark Marion Haun, the 13th great-grandbaby of Marjorie Haun. Mark was born March 21st to Erich and Kelsey Haun of Rutland, VT.

FLOWERS – The flowers are given by Denny and Minty Ausman in memory of their parents and Denny's brothers - Allan and Gary Ausman. Flowers are also given by William and Sonja Dosse, celebrating the wedding of their granddaughter Christina on March 30, 2024.

CELL PHONES – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.

APRIL NEWSLETTER – Available in the church foyer and on our website.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES – Available in the church office.

FLOWERS – May be sponsored for **\$37.50**. To make a donation, sign up in the church foyer, listing the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone.

BULLETIN BOARD – Check out notes and messages of interest on the Bulletin Board in the church foyer.

PRAYER EMAIL LIST – If you would like to be on Pastor Barksdale's prayer email list, email Pastor Barksdale at bmpullen3@fpcpunta.org.

OUR DAILY BREAD – This booklet of daily devotionals is on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

STREAMING MINISTRY – Live stream our services on our website homepage (fpcpunta.org) by clicking the logo **YouTube**.

FELLOWSHIP TIME – Following the Worship Service, join us in Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and refreshments. You may bring cookies / treats to share!

Comparative Financial Operations / Performance

	February 2024	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$24,914.42	\$49,460.58
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$23,088.12</u>	<u>\$48,358.80</u>
Net	\$1,826.30	\$1,101.78

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

GATHER FOR PRAYER – A prayer meeting is held Sundays at 6pm online. Please submit any prayer requests to first@fpcpunta.org.

SANCTUARY CROSS – The Colors of the Cross are a symbolic depiction of the Easter season. For the beginning of the Lenten Season the cross is draped in purple. The purple cloth remains on the cross from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday representing royalty – the King of kings has come. The black cloth remains on the cross from Good Friday through Saturday – representing His death. **The white cloth is placed on the cross Easter Sunday representing His resurrection – His victory over sin, death and Satan.**

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - During Workday a couple of weeks ago, the team ran across many items that were saved from the church pre-Hurricane Charley. If you would like to be on a committee to help decide what will happen to these items - use in church, save, donation, etc. - contact Gene McPherson.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – *Tuesday, April 2nd at 10:00am* – “**Choosing at the Crossroads**” – *Esther 4:9-17*. Join us for our study of “Esther”, based on “*Becoming a Woman of Beauty & Strength*” by Elizabeth George. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month in Fellowship Hall. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information. **All women are invited for study, fellowship, and refreshments.**

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – *Wednesday, April 3rd at 10:00am.* We are studying the book of Daniel which tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is—his character, his purposes, his way of working in the world for the good of his people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is often assumed (and taught!), *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God! All are welcome!*

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – *Wednesday, April 3rd at 5:00pm.* Barksdale and Bo host get-together dinners at their home for groups of eight. You can sign up in the church foyer, or call/email the church office to reserve a night. There is no agenda, lesson, or study; just a time to get together for fellowship and to learn more about one another.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, April 5th, 12:00pm* – Please sign up and join us for lunch at Riviera in Punta Gorda. **All ladies are invited!**

CONCERT SERIES – *NEXT Sunday, April 7th, 3:00pm* – Stephanie Smith, our former organist, will present the last concert of our 2023-2024 Concert Series. Stephanie will share some of her favorite hymn-based compositions. Free will offering.

DINNER & A MOVIE - Join us *Wednesday, April 10th* for the first episode of Season 4 of The Chosen. We will have dinner at 5:00pm, followed by Season 4 of The Chosen, Episode 1. (We will meet the 2nd & 4th Wednesday from April thru July for The Chosen.) Sign up in the church foyer.

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is *Friday, April 26th* – we will help at the Mission in the morning. Please meet at the church at 9:15am, leaving at 9:30am. *We need 5-6 people to go*, so please sign up in the church foyer.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST – *Sunday, May 12th* – Mark your calendars now!

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT – A reminder that our trusted partners at World Renew are ECO’s go-to resource for long-term disaster relief.

<https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services-us/disaster-response-services>

JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY SPECIAL NEEDS – Shower Ministry (Wednesday mornings in our parking lot) – Please place “shower” items in the donation box in Fellowship Hall.

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2024 in our church budget, please make checks payable to FPC and on the memo line write the name of the mission.

Antioch Partners – Stone Family (Guatemala) or Lisa Alfonsi (Peru)

Crossroads Hope Academy (Punta Gorda)

Jesus Loves You Ministry (Port Charlotte) Misión Peniel (Immokalee)

Missionary Ventures (Chasen & Katie Brokaw – Nicaragua)

STAND IN THE GAP FUND – The purpose of this fund is to assist supported missionaries and ministries of our church, when they face unexpected financial burdens. To donate to this fund, please mark your gift as SITG.

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

March 31st to April 7th

Sunday, March 31	Easter Sunday
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time
Monday, April 1	Office Closed
Tuesday, April 2	
10:00am	Women’s Bible Study
1:00pm	Fellowship Team
Wednesday, April 3	
10:00am	Donuts & Doctrine
10:00am	Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry
5:00pm	Pullen Up a Chair
Thursday, April 4	
10:00am	Game Fellowship
3:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 5	
12:00pm	Ladies Lunch Bunch
Sunday, April 7	Communion Sunday
10:30am	Worship Service (Also Online)
11:30am	Fellowship Time
3:00pm	Concert Series – Stephanie Smith
6:00pm	Prayer Meeting-FB

First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda
25250 Airport Road Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-1959 (phone) 941-637-3763 (fax)
Email: first@fpcpunta.org Website: fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

SERMON NOTES

Luke 24:1-27; 46-48

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself...⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.



Loving...Growing...Going...in Jesus!

This morning as we join in worship, our hope is that each of us will find renewed life, health and strength in God.

We are glad to welcome each guest and friend, and that you have chosen to hear God’s call with this congregation.

March 31, 2024

10:30am

PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN
LITURGIST
USHERS

Dr. Barksdale Pullen
Joan Byron
Denny Ausman
Debbie Rostad
Kathy Belville
Roy Belville, Bev Brady, Susie Lorenz, Linda Wagar