

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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4th Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

**This service is being livestreamed Prelude through Postlude, and is available for public viewing.*

Meditation

“God, like a mother, shapes the soul in the womb and gives it form and life.”

~ Macrina the Younger

PRELUDE

Ben Marti

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric Garner

CHORAL INTROIT

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Isaiah 66:10-14

Pastor Eric Garner

Rejoice with God’s people and be glad! All you who know God’s love, rejoice greatly!

Be like a child who is nursed and is satisfied by a comforting breast; drink deeply and delight in overflowing abundance.

Lord, extend your peace to us like a river, with the world’s abundance like a flooding stream.

Like a child, may we be cared for, nursed in your arms and dandled on your knees.

As a mother comforts her child, we will be comforted by you.

When we see this, our hearts will rejoice and we will flourish, for the Lord’s hand will be made known to us.

HYMN

For Everyone Born

GTG 769

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Eric Garner

Giver of life,

Our existence begins in you.

You are the parent of all the people of the world,

Compassionately holding us in your love.

Forgive us in our choices to break free from you

And to separate ourselves from your children.

Help us to find our way back home to you

When we run away from your presence.

May we taste your mercy anew each day;

May we delight in your grace for us

And for all the world.

Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Eric Garner

Jesus comes to give life and life to full. Trust in his gift of compassion and be brought back home to God.

In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

GLORIA*Gloria*

GTG 581

Musical score for Gloria, GTG 581. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men." The score includes a piano (p) dynamic marking and a fermata over the final Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Eric Garner

CHILDREN'S TIME

Lizz Kendall

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GTG 288

Musical score for Sung Prayer for Illumination, GTG 288. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me." The score includes a piano (p) dynamic marking and a fermata over the final Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 49:5-15

5 And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—**6** he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." **7** Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you." **8** Thus says the Lord: In a time of favor I have answered you; on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, **9** saying to the prisoners, "Come out," to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves." They

shall feed along the ways; on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; **10** they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them and by springs of water will guide them. **11** And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. **12** Look, some shall come from far away, some from the north and from the west, and some from the land of Syene. **13** Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his suffering ones. **14** But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." **15** Can a woman forget her nursing child or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these might forget, yet I will not forget you.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 23:37

Pastor Eric Garner

37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Life-Giver

Pastor Eric Garner

HYMN

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

GTG 35

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Eric Garner

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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, Our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead; on the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be low; praise
 God, a-bove ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric Garner

POSTLUDE

Ben Marti



Thank you, FPC Deacons, for sponsoring this Sunday's worship flowers!

If you are interested in sponsoring the Sunday worship flowers, please sign up on the FPC website, or call the church office and we'd be glad to help get you signed up!

CALENDAR

- Sunday, May 11:** 10:20 a.m.
Kidz Zone
FPC Children's Room
- Sunday, May 11:** 11:00 a.m.
WiredWord
FPC Library
- Tuesday, May 13:** 6:00 p.m.
All Committees Meeting
FPC
- Thursday, May 15:** 6:00 p.m.
Theology on Tap!
Jake's Stadium Pizza
- Sunday, May 18:** 12:00 p.m.
Families Connect!
Sibley Park, Mankato