

*First Presbyterian Church of Inverness*  
*April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter*



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**INTROIT**

**“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”**

**EMILY REISDORF,  
CLARINET**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to God, our holy shepherd, as we come to a green meadow.

**God prepares a place for us, and we give glory in God’s presence.**

How excellent is this dwelling place under the eyes of God’s care.

**We turn to God in joy. Our good shepherd provides for all our needs.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Providing God, in our journey of faithfulness, we graze in the pastures you lead us to each day. As we move along, our steps may seem aimless, yet you keep watch and never leave.**

**When we are tired, you prepare for us a table. When we are thirsty, your cup of goodness and mercy overflows. When we are lost, you seek us out. And oh, how our hearts leap when you call to us, for we know your voice and feel your love. Dearest God, we are so grateful that your staff of righteousness leads us home. Amen.**

\*HYMN #39

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

1 \*Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.  
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.  
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

\*CONFESSION AND PARDON

**O God, you have called us to love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. You have laid down your life for us and commanded us to lay down our lives for one another. Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers when the world needs our hands and our feet. Still, O Lord, we fail to share our lives with the world, hiding behind a myth of independence. Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness, raise us to new life in you.**  
(silent confession) Let all God's children say, **AMEN.**

\*SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

\*GLORIA PATRI #583

GLORY TO GOD

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

**ANTHEM**

**"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"**

**EMILY REISDORF,  
CLARINET**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**PSALM OF THE DAY**

**PSALM 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> **He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**  
<sup>3</sup> **he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**

<sup>4</sup> **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head  
with oil; my cup overflows.**

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**JOHN 10:11–18**

**EPISTLE LESSON**

**1 JOHN 3:16–24**

**SERMON**

**PASTOR LOU ELLEN HARTLEY**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**FROM THE BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve... With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world— giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.**



\*HYMN # 187

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.  
Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a - stray.  
You have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines. The piece concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE

### **Church Staff and Contact Information**

**Church Office 352-637-0770, [fpcinvooffice@gmail.com](mailto:fpcinvooffice@gmail.com)**

Lou Ellen Hartley, Pastor – [revhartley1000@gmail.com](mailto:revhartley1000@gmail.com)

Lori Wolford, Dir. of Outreach & Christian Education, [dcelori.fpc@gmail.com](mailto:dcelori.fpc@gmail.com)

Lesa Shelton, Music Director

Marina Veiler, Organist

Danny Birstler, Sound Booth Coordinator

Vicki Oorbeck, Child Care Attendant

Laura Morrow, Office Administrator

Bruce Cook, Prayer Warrior

Danny Sullivan, Facilities Manager

Gary Oorbeck, Grounds |Maintenance |Security

Treasurer – [fpcinvFinance@gmail.com](mailto:fpcinvFinance@gmail.com)

### **Church Office Hours**

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Closed on Friday

### **Our Elders**

Class of 2024: Caryl Birstler (clerk), Alicia Downing, George Schumacher, Carolyn Smith

Class of 2025: Barbara Dee Cawley, Linda Cridland, Jerry Reynolds, Leah Robinson

Class of 2026: Barbara Caudill, Bruce Cook, Lesa Shelton, John Morrison

### **Our Deacons**

Class of 2024: Wilma Abel, Sandy Boyett, Ron Shafer, Mary Beth Smith

Class of 2025: Toni Scott, Phoebe Schumacher, Amanda Morrison

Class of 2026: Ray Birstler, Donna Dublo, Nancy Harris, Adele Wardrup

### **WORSHIP FLOWERS**

Worship flowers are given today by one of our Deacons: Oh magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together!

Worship Flowers are also given by Brett and Lou Ellen Hartley in loving memory and in honor of Kirk Burdick.

### **Nursery and Sunday School for All Ages**

**Infants and Pre-K**

CE Hall Room 2

Ms. Vicki

**Elementary (K-5)**

CE Hall Room 4

Ms. Mary Beth

**Secondary (6-12)**

CE Hall, Room 5

Ms. Phoebe and Mr. Ron

**Men's Bible Study**

Parlor

Rev. Dr. Mark Scott

**Adults**

Conference Room

Pastor Hartley

## FELLOWSHIP TIME

The Congregational Life Committee invites enthusiastic participants to join us! We plan dinners, events, and activities for our church family, at least once a month. Many hands make light work, and we need more hands! If you have a passion for cooking, baking, or washing up (including pots and pans!), consider joining the Congregational Life Team.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ACTIVITIES

The Congregational Life Committee has set the schedule for the coming months – grab your calendar and save the dates! There will be *no* WOW dinner in April.

On **May 22nd**, we are having Taco Night. There will be a sign-up sheet, so be sure to write down what you can bring. On **June 9th, July 7th, and August 4th**, we are replacing the WOW dinners by having pot-luck dinners in the Fellowship Hall, immediately after the worship service.

## CHAIR YOGA

**Beginning Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**, Chair Yoga will be offered as a free class every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Plan to bring a bottle of water and a towel/stretch band for class. For more information, see Phoebe Schumacher.

## BOY SCOUT YARD SALE NEXT SATURDAY

The Boy Scouts are preparing for a yard sale, down near The Gathering Place, on **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** If you have donations for the sale, for drop-off or pick-up, please contact Scoutmaster **Steve Epple, at 352-212-1895**. Our Scouts are raising money to attend summer camp, so stop and shop! Bring a neighbor or two!





## **“THANK YOU” FROM CASA**

“On behalf of the Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association (CASA) and the many families and individuals we serve, I would like to thank you for your generous in-kind donations for our participants. Your support is truly appreciated and ensures we are able to continue providing shelter, safety, and intervention to those fleeing domestic violence, and to educate the community for lasting social change. With appreciation, Rane A. Herzek, Chief Executive Officer”

## **SINGLES EATING TOGETHER**

Singles Eating Together *will not meet in May*. Join us on **June 5<sup>th</sup>**.

## **TOYS FOR BOYS**

As is our custom, from February through August, we collect items for our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Mission Project. The items are stored until September when our annual “packing party” kicks off this worldwide mission to children. Each month, we emphasize a different item and the month of April is Toys For Boys. We always seem to have “frilly” girl things, but not many boys’ toys. So, if you find a good buy on anything for boys, such as a slinky, a yo-yo, a small Frisbee, a sack of marbles, small cars and trucks, baseballs, a baseball cap, etc., etc., let’s remember the boys. No play guns or military soldiers – some of these children are exposed to war. Our shoeboxes are meant to bring joy and the love of Jesus! Bring your items to Heidi’s “cubbyhole” bin near the church office. Samaritan’s Purse Ministries delivers the shoeboxes to over 130 countries with the message of God’s love – a beacon of hope to hurting children world-wide.

## **WORSHIP FLOWERS**

We have dates available if you would like to purchase flowers for the sanctuary! You may honor a loved one, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or praise God for the beauty that He has given us. Place your order at the Ask-Me-Desk and then drop a check for \$37.00 into the offering plate. Please write “Worship Flowers” on the memo line of your check. Your order includes two arrangements, which you may take home after the service, or leave at the church so a Deacon may deliver the arrangements to one of our homebound members.

## **WITHLACOOCHEE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Wednesday, May 1, is the last day** to apply for one of four \$500 scholarships to WTC. Complete an application, located at the Sign-up Station in the narthex and submit it to the church office.

## **MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

Our next Men’s Fellowship Breakfast is on **Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m.** All men are invited.

**THIS WEEK AT FPC**

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

9:00 Sunday School

9:00 Men's Bible Discussion – Parlor

10:00 Worship

6:00 Anchored – Youth Room

**Monday, April 22, 2024**

**Passover Begins at Sundown**

No Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

10:00 Prayer Gathering – Parlor

11:00 Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

\*8:30 Blessings

9:00 Staff Meeting

10:00 Rock of Agers Game Day –  
Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, April 25, 2024**

\*8:30 Blessings

10:00 Bible Study – Fellowship Hall

**Friday, April 26, 2024**

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

7:30 – 2:00 Boy Scout Yard Sale

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

9:00 Sunday School

9:00 Men's Bible Discussion – Parlor

10:00 Worship

6:00 Anchored – Youth Room

\*Outside Groups

A SPECIAL

# Thank You

TO THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ushers

*Frank & Donna Dublo*

Ask Me Desk

*Ben & Nancy Harris*

