

**First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street
Barre, Vermont**

Welcomes You to Worship



"Christ Is Risen!"

April 5, 2026

**Sunday Worship
Year A, Easter Sunday**

Welcome!

***Join us as we experience our spiritual journey through Christian community
and by living God's love in word and deed.***

GATHERING

Today's hymns are from the purple "Glory to God" hymnal. This service is being recorded for viewing on Facebook and on our website. Please guard your privacy as best you see fit.

Gathering on Abenaki Lands and Welcome

Prelude "Give Me Jesus" Traditional Spiritual arranged by David Haas

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day

Congregation: angels bring light into our shadows,
and gardeners harvest good news.

Leader: This is the day the Lord

Congregation: awakens us with unexpected grace,
and the sun breaks out in song.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

Congregation: The day when life triumphs over death,
when love pushes aside fear, when hope walks with us in
every moment.

★ **Opening Hymn No. 232** Jesus Christ is Risen Today

- 1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**
- 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!!**

3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

PRAYING for RECONCILIATION and FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

We think this story is so old, Imaginative God, that we cannot hear the astonishing news of triumph over death. We are so afraid of our own shadows, that we cannot see the Light of life which is streaming all around us. Convinced that there is nothing beyond these days we call life, we cannot sense your resurrection hope which is calling to us by our names.

On this day of new wonders and everlasting grace, God of our lives, may we be glad that you have not forgotten us. May we rejoice in the ancient promises which are proclaimed afresh this morning. May we turn with our questions, our doubts, our hearts towards Jesus, the Gardener of grace, who call us by name and pours resurrection love into us.

Silent confession of individual sins

Leader: Amen

**Communion Liturgy
Resurrection of Jesus Christ Sunday**

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May resurrection's God be with you!
And also with you!

This is the day to offer yourselves to God.
We open our hearts to the One who fills them with grace.

Join in the glad songs of all creation this day.
Our voices praise the One who opens wide the gates of life.

When only emptiness stretched out,
you spoke at that time, Joyous God,
and goodness and beauty sprang forth: swallows darting in the skies,
young rabbits scampering in the grass, hippos splashing in rivers.
All this wonder and joy was your gift
to your children created in your image,
but we ran to play with death,
when sin opened the gates of seduction.

Time after time after time, you sent the prophets to remind us
of your never-ending love, but
we chose to remain in sin's tomb,
the stone of our rebellion locking us away. So you sent your Hopeful heart, your
grace made flesh so we might not be given over to death.

With those who see and believe,
with those who stand and question,
we lift our Easter songs to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who has made this day!
All creation celebrates your constant love.**

Hosanna in the highest!

When he could have clung to your glory,
God who alone is holy,
Jesus chose to become human at that time,
so we might be filled with your grace.

When we stood against the wall
wondering if anyone noticed us,
he came to take us by the hand
to teach us new dance steps.

When our lives crumble around us
and we lie scattered on the ground,
he gathers us up, reshaping us
into your beloved community.

When we were unable to break
the power of evil over us,
he allowed sin to toss him
aside like a pebble in a shoe,
until he was raised from the tomb
because you refuse to give us
over to death.

As we stand before the empty tomb,
celebrating the great news of this day,
we would have that faith which is a mystery:

**Christ died, so sin could not hold on to us;
Christ was raised, so death could not hold on to him;
Christ will come, to hold us in steadfast love and hope.**

Words of Institution

At this time, in this place,
pour out your Spirit upon your people
and on the gifts of the feast of the resurrection.
May the bread which is broken open like the tomb,
strengthen us so we may go
to rebuild shattered hopes,
to bind up the hurts of the world.

May the cup which is filled
with the fruits of your steadfast love,
nourish us to leave the shadows
of our fears and doubts
to stand with the lonely and forgotten,
to listen to the cries of the world.

And in that time to come,
when we will be gathered
with all our siblings
of every place and of every moment,
we will sing your praises,
God in Community, Holy in One,
as you hold on to us forever. Amen.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

RESPONDING

★ **Hymn No. 240**

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

***Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.***

- 1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. *Refrain***
- 2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.
*Refrain***
- 3. We have been crucified with Christ, Now we shall live forever. *Refrain***
- 4. Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior. *Refrain***

Call for the Offering (stewardship reminder)

(you may place your offering in the box just behind the last pew of the sanctuary or give online at fpcbarre.org. Click the green "Donate" button on the front page. You may also mail in your offering. Thank you for your generosity!)

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

As we to you, God of this morning, may we rejoice in our communities, even as we pray you would use our gifts to bring healing and new hope to them. May we delight in those around us, even as we pray you would fill them with the grace, the peace, the life for which they are longing. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother, 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours in the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

★Closing Hymn No. 246 Christ is Alive!

- 1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**
- 2. Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.**
- 3. In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has**

died.

4. Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

SENDING

Benediction

Leader: We could just return to our homes and go back to life,

Congregation: but we will go to rebuild neighbors, and share the light we have received.

Leader: We could just stand around and wonder where Jesus has gone,

Congregation: but we will turn and, as he calls us by name, follow to bring hope and healing to our world.

Leader: We could just keep quiet and not whisper a word to anyone,

Congregation: but we will go to tell others of the Good News that Jesus is alive and in our midst.

Postlude

★Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.

Thanks to Diane Nichols-Fleming who is leading us in worship

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE #734910-A

Prayers - Each week we pray for a different person or family in our church. This week please keep Phyllis & Thomas Wiggins in your prayers. Gracious Lord, we give thanks for them. Hold them in the palm of your hand let them feel your love. Give them the wisdom and strength to do your will and the faith and courage to face what challenges may arise.

As part of being the connectional Presbyterian Church, we keep in our prayers other ministries usually within the PNNE. This week our prayers are for the First Presbyterian Church (Old South), Newburyport, MA. and Rev. Laurel Cockrill.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

April 5th - Jordan Blondin

6th - Peggy Hood

8th - Leslie Broun

8th - Debbie Nichols

NO UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

Online Security - If you change your screen name, please email Josh, jman.laflower@gmail.com so he can admit you to the service.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Session, 2nd Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

Deacons, 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Outreach, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Book Group, 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Meditation Group, Thursdays, 10 a.m.

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We are a Matthew 25 church in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) This means we have three areas of focus to our ministries: **building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.**

First Presbyterian Church, Barre is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are members of the Presbytery of Northern New England.



Easter 2026

**Plants are given this year to the glory of God,
in loving memory of, and in appreciation of the following:**

In loving memory of Louis, Priscilla, & Mark Taft

In loving memory of the Milne Family

In loving memory of the Simpson Family

In loving memory of my nephew Stephen Lynch

In loving memory of my parents

In loving memory of Doris Portalupi

In loving memory of loved ones

In loving memory of loved ones

In loving memory of loved ones

In loving memory of Grant & Taylor

In loving memory of John Paterson

In loving memory of Rev. Anne Fuhrmeister

In loving memory of Rev. Anne Fuhrmeister

In loving memory of Marge Kilian

In loving memory of Burke Lokey

In loving memory of our loved ones

In loving memory of Raymond & Irma Coxon
& Nelson & Lela Mitton

In honor of Cynthia & John Hooker

In loving memory of Florence Perrin

In loving memory of Diane Paulger

In honor of Sandy Batchelder

In honor of Cathie Ely

In honor of Shaun Cheever

In loving memory of James H. Ricks

In loving memory of Hilda D Ricks

In loving memory of Selwyn Bowen

Pam & Roland Cyr

Jennifer Milne

Jennifer Milne

Cathy Jamieson

Winnie McCormick

Winnie McCormick

Jim & Diane Nichols Fleming

Jim & Diane Nichols Fleming

Jim & Diane Nichols Fleming

Allan & Polly Taylor

Katherine Paterson

Chris & Janet Fuhrmeister

Chris & Janet Fuhrmeister

Barb & Joh Kilian

Barb & Joh Kilian

Sandy Batchelder & Cathie Ely

Sylvia & Bruce Mitton

Sylvia & Bruce Mitton

Peggy Hood

Dotty Ricks

Dotty Ricks

Dotty Ricks

Dotty Ricks

Dotty Ricks

Dotty Ricks

Mary Bowen

In loving memory of Helen & John Paterson

In loving memory of James P. & Jane Deuso

In loving memory of John & Helen Paterson

In loving memory of James Paterson, Jane Deuso
& Rick McEnany

In loving memory of Stuart & Ruby McEnany

Mary Bowen

Mary Bowen

Richard & Kathy Paterson

Richard & Kathy Paterson

Richard & Kathy Paterson