

First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street, Barre, Vermont
Welcomes You to Worship
5th Sunday of Easter Year A



We are glad you are here. You are a beloved child of God. Join us as we experience our spiritual journey through Christian community and by living God's love in word and deed.

This service is being recorded for viewing on Facebook and on our website. Please guard your privacy as best you see fit.

GATHERING

Prelude

Gathering on Abenaki Lands and Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world,
and those who live in it. Praise the Lord!

People: The LORD's name be praised.

★Opening Hymn No. 234 **Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain**
Glory to God Hymnal

1. **Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness, loosed
from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters; led
them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.**
2. **"Tis the queen of souls today: Christ has burst his prison, and
from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen. All the
winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying from the Light, to
whom we give laud and praise undying.**
3. **Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render; comes
to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection welcomes in
unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!**

4. Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal, nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal: but today, among your own you appear bestowing your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.

PRAYING FOR RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS

Remembering our Baptism

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of endless renewal, God who calls us to lives restored, God who rescues the lost and saves the afflicted, there are times when our way grows confused. We struggle to know what to do. Or worse, we know what needs to be done and find it easier to stay on the wrong path. Forgive us for failing to heed opportunities to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand more ready to forgive than we are to confess those aspects of our lives that stand in need of your grace. And thus forgiven, help us to lean into what you would teach us about how we are to be.

Silent confession of individual sins

Leader: Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Christ conquered death to restore us to life. Believe this good news. Live this resurrection.

People: Hope in God's promise because we are forgiven in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eternal God, holy and mighty, it is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, and to worship you in every place where your glory abides.

You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They shall perish, but you shall endure. You are always the same and your years will never end. You made us in your image and called us to be your people, but we turned from you, leaving sin and death to reign. Still you loved us and sought us. In Christ your grace defeated death and opened the way to eternal life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells, to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, Jesus taught those who would hear him, healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him and lifted the burden of their sin.

We glorify you for your great power and love at work in Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people by water and the Spirit.

Words of Institution

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of Faith

People: **Christ has died.**
 Christ has risen.
 Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Help us, O God, to love as Christ loved. Knowing our own weakness, may we stand with all who stumble. Sharing in his suffering, may we remember all who suffer. Held in his love, may we embrace all whom the world denies. Rejoicing in his forgiveness, may we forgive all who sin against us. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

★Hymn No.526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Glory to God Hymnal

- 1. Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

*(Refrain) Jesus lives again; earth can
breathe again; pass the
Word around: loaves abound!*

2. **Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and indeed express. (Refrain)**

3. **Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! (Refrain)**

Call for the Offering (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.)

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

God of grace, you provide for all our needs. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing, and the destitute. Amen.

Announcements, Joys, and Concerns

Prayers - Each week we pray for a different person or family in our church. This week please keep the Adams family Kathy, Nathan, Ned and Nicholas 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 Camp Wilmot and their Board of Directors.

Prayers of the People (*Finishing with the Lord's Prayer. We invite you to use the words which are closest to your heart.*)

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; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Children's Sermon

★ **Closing Hymn No.729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian**

Glory to God Hymnal

1. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, ,I want to be a Christian in my heart.
2. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, ,I want to be more loving in my heart.
3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord,
I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, ,I want to be more holy in my heart.
4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord,
I want to be like Jesus, in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus, in my heart.

Benediction

Postlude

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

Thanks to Cathy Jamieson for helping lead us in worship this morning.

Postlude

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Session, 3rd Sunday, after Church

On Zoom:

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

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

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

Worship: 1st Wednesday 5:00p.m.

Building (in person at church-see page 6 for dates)

WEEKLY MEETING:

Meditation group, Thursdays, 10 a.m.

(Zoom Meditation Link at fpcbarre.org)

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

May 4th - Robert Loso, Jr.

May 8th - Bruce Mitton

May 9th - Nathan Adams

TO CONTACT REV. DWIGHT McCORMICK:

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As a Matthew 25 church in the PC(USA), 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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Green Up Day was May 2nd. We will be observing ours at church on May 3 (12:30-2) to clean up around the outside of the church and the surrounding areas. We need your help. We will celebrate with an ice cream social when we finish. We will meet at 12:30PM. This will give time for you to go home, change, have lunch, and grab any materials you want to use in the cleanup. Our ice cream social will start at 2:00. Come join the fun!

Worship Committee Meeting Dates 2026 (generally the 1st Wednesday of the month at 5pm) An exception in May when we will meet May 14th - 7PM Zoom meditation link.

Building Committee Meeting Dates for next six months - meetings held at church downstairs.

Wednesday May 13, 1:15pm

Wednesday June 10, 9:30am

Sunday July 12, 11am (at Lee Aura Bonamico's house)

No August meeting

Wednesday September 9, 9:30am

Wednesday October 14, 9:30am

Reminder: Rev. McCormick will NEVER solicit help buying gift cards or a private meeting via email. Check the email address. If not fpcbarrepastor@gmail.com, it is not from the pastor. Delete the email and you will be safe.

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