

ANTHEM *Easter Carol* Patti J. Drennan
Chancel Choir
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Pastor Jim Rowell
SCRIPTURE John 20:1-9
One: The Word of the Lord!
All: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE *It Was Still Dark*
RESPONDING IN FAITH

OFFERING Elder Bruce C Hurley
Tithes & offerings may be placed in the boxes with crosses at the main exit of the Narthex or given via www.sopc.net.
Today, we will collect our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Please see the insert in this bulletin and give as you are able and feel led. There are special OGHs envelopes in the narthex. Or, you can designate an online gift to OGHs.
One: May these gifts, given in gratitude and love...
All: **Change us and the world to serve your purpose.**

ANTHEM *Crown Him Lord of All* Jack Shrader
Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER Elder Bruce C Hurley
...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.

MUSICAL SELECTION *Hallelujah Chorus* George Frideric Handel
Organ
Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah!
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ.
And He shall reign forever and ever, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*
One: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?
All: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
All: **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
All: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

*CHARGE AND BEDICTION Pastor Jim Rowell

*POSTLUDE *Toccata from Symphony V* Charles Marie Widor

*Please stand in body or in spirit. **When items are in bold, you are invited to join aloud.**

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Welcome to Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church on this glorious Easter morning, April 20, 2025! We are glad that you chose to worship with us today and pray that you experience the joy & hope of the Risen Savior.

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder Bruce C Hurley

WE GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE *Christ Arose* Lowry / arr. Larry Shackley

*GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS Elder Bruce C Hurley
One: This morning we shout with joy, "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!"
All: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
One: Christ is risen!
All: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*OPENING HYMN #232 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

*CALL TO CONFESSION Elder Bruce C Hurley

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Lord, you are our strength and our might; you have become our salvation. Alleluia! We praise you, living God. We who were dead have been raised with Christ, and we seek the things that are above, where Christ is. We do so imperfectly, Lord—bearing wounds of our own, hindered by doubt and fear, unsure where to look for you, still tempted to sin. The prophets testify that everyone who believes in you receives forgiveness of sins through your name.
This day, we rejoice in the pardon and hope you give us. Dry our tears, O God. Speak to us a word that reveals your presence. Open to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them, giving thanks and praise to you. Amen.

*MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON
One: By God's grace, we are forgiven of sin and saved.
All: **We are grateful! We will receive God's grace and let it change us.**

*GLORIA PATRI
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Elder Bruce C Hurley
We invite children ages 4k - 4th grade to sit in the Children's Corner after the Children's Message. A designated adult will be sitting with the children, and age appropriate activities will be provided that go along with worship. Parents will pick up their children after the service.



Christ Arose is a setting of Robert Lowry's great resurrection hymn. The refrain captures the essence of the Easter story: "Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain, and He lives forever, with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!" The anthem *Crown Him Lord of All* traces the life of Jesus from His birth through His glorious resurrection and reign in glory. Each verse asks the question, "Who is He?", and the repeating refrain proclaims, "'Tis the Lord...the King of glory!"

Worship Assistants

Sunday, April 20th: Easter Sunday

Liturgist: Bruce C Hurley
 Counters: Jim & Elizabeth Taylor
 Usher: John Carter
 Greeters: Robert & Kitsie Miller
 Children's Message: Bruce C Hurley
 Children's Corner: Mary Dempster

Sunday, April 27th:

Liturgist: Bruce C Hurley
 Counters: Sharon Watkins, Jim Wilhide
 Ushers: Robert & Kitsie Miller
 Greeters: Jeanne LeBoeuf, Mary Dempster
 Children's Message: Bruce C Hurley
 Children's Corner: Sue Kesterson

Church Staff

Interim Minister: Pastor Jim Rowell;
 jim@sopc.net
Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Lloyd Pilkington
Office Administrator: Mrs. Annah G. Hiers;
 sopc@sopc.net
Accompanist: Elder Sharon Watkins
Building Superintendent: Mr. Karl Thompson
Volunteer Financial Administrator:
 Elder Sharon Staton; sharon@sopc.net
Nursery Coordinator: Mrs. Amy Schwartz



OFFICE HOURS: M-Th; 10 am - 2 pm



Sunday, April 20: Office Closed; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday

9:00 am - 9:45 am - Easter Fellowship Breakfast
 9:45 am - Sunday School for All Ages
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - The Well Church
 10:30 am - Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 am - Flowering the Cross
 11:00 am - Worship
 11:00 am - 4:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.
 3:00 pm - Clothing Closet Opens Prior to Love Revolution
 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm - Love Revolution

Monday, April 21: Office Closed - Easter Monday

8:00 am - 4:00 pm - Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
 12:00 pm - Ladies Luncheon
 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Troop 91 Court of Honor
 6:30 pm - Session Meeting
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA
 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.

Tuesday, April 22: Earth Day / Care for God's Creation Day

8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
 11:00 am - Staff Meeting
 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Elder Training
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA
 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.

Wednesday, April 23:

8:00 am - 4:00 pm - Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA

Thursday, April 24:

8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
 10:30 am - 1 John Bible Study
 1:30 pm - SOPC Book Group
 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Live Oak Counseling

Friday, April 25: Office Closed

6:45 am - 7:45 am - Men's Lanterns Prayer Group
 8:00 am - 4:00 pm - Peaceful Gatherings Nature School
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm - Mary Kay
 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.

Saturday, April 26: Office Closed

9:00 am - 4:00 pm - Mary Kay

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 1: Parenting in Today's World workshop at McGregor PC; National Day of Prayer

May 11: Mothers' Day Offering for PCSC

May 13: PW Birthday Dinner

May 18: PW Honorary Life Member Presentation

June 8: Pentecost

June 15: Fathers' Day Offering for Migrant Ministry

November 18: SOPC will host the meeting of Trinity Presbytery...volunteers needed!

A nursery is available in Building A during Sunday school & worship for children ages 0 - 4. If you have any questions, please see an usher for help.



Parents of Young Children: Please grab a "Wiggle Bag" from the Narthex / lobby before worship starts and remember that the little ones go to the Children's Corner after the Children's Message during the service. Thanks!



Guests are invited to stop by the welcome table in the narthex/lobby. Please take a goody bag with you as a reminder of the gift of God's love. Also, please leave your information for us on the yellow card and place it in the offering baskets. Thank you for worshipping with us today.

SESSION (*indicates chair)

Clerk of Session: Polly Robinson

Class of 2025:

John Carter - Buildings & Grounds*
 Ed Keelen - Good News*
 Sharon Staton - Missions*
 Sharon Watkins - Worship*

Class of 2026:

Liz Harris - Fellowship
 Kathy Keane - Christian Ed*
 Banks Robinson - Fellowship*

Class of 2027:

Bruce Hurley - Disciple Care*
 Jeanne LeBoeuf - Missions
 Kitsie Miller - Fellowship
 Elizabeth Taylor - Administration*

Trustees:

Frank Sheppard - Administration*, Carol Griffith - Fellowship

Treasurer: Kathy Locklair

Presbyterian Women Moderator (SOPW):

Julie Bussells*

In Our Prayers:

God's Direction for SOPC
 Carolyn Gillis
 Tara Whitfield's Mother, Beneva
 Bruce Hurley
 Jimmy Revell & Annie Moffatt
 Mary Dempster
 Janet Jordan
 Melanie Mason & Family
 Ed Keelen
 Donna Moore
 Aletha Robinson
 Sandra Johnson & family
 John Carter
 Brenda Turner
 Alene & Vern Rogers
 Jane Blackwell
 Al & Margaret Charles
 Fran & Jeffrey Brannon
 Kynslee Davis
 SOPC's Homebound Members
 The People of Ukraine
 Aleksey & Liidia Bazan
 Iglesia Presbiteriana de Nueva Paz, Cuba

Daniel and Elizabeth Turk
 (Missionaries)
 Those Less Fortunate

Those in Retirement Communities, Assisted Living, & Nursing Facilities:

Nancy Taber
 Dave, Rich & Sam Allen
 Edith Blanchett
 Kathie Cashion
 Barbara Fowler
 Bobby Sellars
 Patricia Williams
 Barry Shatzer
 Mae Leviner
 Charlene Pilkington
 Virginia Martinez
 Nancy Humphreys
 Jim Wilhide
 Ira Leon

Announcements:

• Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

- **PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be closed tomorrow** in observance of Easter Monday.
- Please join us for **Love Revolution** in the Pavilion today from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm and help serve food to our neighbors in need! **Our Clothing Closet** will open 30 minutes prior.
- We will have **Elder Training** THIS Tuesday, April 22nd, AND NEXT Tuesday, April 29th, from 5-7 pm in the Session Room.
- **The Missions ministry needs you!** Each year, we partner with **Migrant Ministries to help provide a meal for migrant workers** in the Ridge Spring area. One Tuesday in the summer, we prepare a supper, take it to the camp, and serve it to the workers. **We need volunteers willing to assist with meal preparation, delivery, set up, and serving.** Possible dates for us to choose from are: July 1, July 8, July 22, and August 5. **If you are available and willing, please contact Jim Taylor at 803-960-2956. We need to commit to a date as soon as possible.** Thank you!
- **Our 1 John Bible study, led by Pastor Jim, will resume THIS Thursday, April 24th** at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Classroom.
- **You are invited to the youth room to view the Easter story mural banner** that our youth created. Way to worship through Scripture and creativity, young ones!!
- **Our Youth will not meet tonight** so that our young people can spend time with their families during this holy season. Please feel free to contact Julie Bussells for more information about our active youth ministry: 803-622-9509.
- **Our next Ladies Luncheon** will be THIS Monday, April 21st, at noon at Tupelo Honey, 2138 Pickens Street, Columbia. If attending, please notify Margaret Royals at 803-608-1434, 803-957-0430 or mroyals052@gmail.com. Thanks.
- **Our Fellowship & Roads To Faith Adult Sunday School classes**, (who are currently meeting together,) are studying the Gospel of John. All adults of the church--and friends--are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Classroom on Sunday mornings at 9:45!
- **Our SOPC BOOK GROUP** is reading *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi in April and meeting to discuss it THIS Thursday, April 24th at 1:30 pm at Snow's Ice Cream. The group would love to greet new faces! Contact Kitsie Miller, 803-463-6958, if you plan to attend or would like more information.
- Our SOPW will host the ladies from other local Presbyterian churches and from Presbyterian Communities on **Tuesday, May 13th at 6 pm for the annual PW Birthday Dinner--Come Join the Garden Party, Ladies!**
- If you would like to **volunteer in the sanctuary's sound booth** occasionally, please contact the church office. Training provided!
- If you are at the store and are able and feel led to pick up **individual sized bottles of water**, they would be greatly appreciated by those who come to our food pantry as the weather warms up.
- We are still collecting **discarded crayons & can's pop tops** in the church office for charity.
- McGregor PC has invited us to join them for a **Parenting in Today's World workshop** at 6pm on Thursday, May 1st. Contact the church office for more information.