



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA, FL.

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023 | 8:30 & 11:00am



Doubting Thomas (from an Armenian Hymnal)

Welcome to First Church

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us this morning! This Methodist congregation was founded in 1821. We are the oldest Protestant church in the area and the mother church of Methodism in Florida. We've been here for over 200 years, and we're looking forward to 200 more! It's an historic church that preserves the past and embraces the future, and there's a place here for you.

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter. The Season of Easter (also called Eastertide or the Great 50 Days) began last week on Resurrection Sunday and lasts until the coming of the fiftieth day, Pentecost Sunday (May 28). Easter is full of stories: brave stories of disciples witnessing to their new faith in the risen Jesus; mysterious, wondrous, and challenging stories of an empty tomb and Jesus alive, bringing joy and courage to friends who had denied him, who were fearful and disheartened. In today's story, Jesus appears to his disciples who are hiding in fear and says, "Peace be with you" (John 20:18-19). Thomas cannot believe unless he sees and touches the marks of the nails and the wound in Jesus' side. A week later Jesus stands among them and invites Thomas to reach out and touch. "My Lord and my God!" Thomas responds (John 20:24-29). Fear and guilt in their lives have been replaced by peace and a new faith. Join with us throughout this Easter Season as we hear the stories of Easter and celebrate that the Lord is risen indeed!

Today is also Confirmation Sunday. United Methodists use the term "confirmation" to mark the first time a baptized Christian publicly "confirms" their intention to live the vows of the baptismal and membership covenant and so becomes a professing member of the local congregation and The United Methodist Church. Today we will renew our baptism vows and profess our faith together with the 6th grade Confirmation class of 2023. Let us worship in spirit and in truth.

OUR WORSHIP OF GOD

Second Sunday of Easter | 8:30 and 11:00am

Entrance

GATHERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Improvisation-Toccata on 'The Strife Is O'er'" *Alfred V. Fedak*

TRINITY CHIME *

CALL TO WORSHIP *

8:30, Rev. Brandon Bures

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Our hearts are glad and our spirits rejoice;

Our bodies will also dwell secure,

For the Lord has shown us the path of life;

In God's presence there is fullness of joy.

Alleluia! [*PSALM 16*]

OPENING HYMN *

"Christ Is Alive" **no. 318**

COLLECT *

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

HYMN *

“Up from the Grave He Arose” **no. 322**

WELCOME & REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE

Please register your attendance on the registration pads. If you are visiting with us, we're glad you're here! Please include your address, phone number, and email so that we may welcome you in a more personal way.

ANTHEM

8:30, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” *Beethoven/Bonam* Heidi Branch, *flute*;
Brian Brown, *violin*

11:00, “Fanfare of Praise” *Joseph M. Martin* Sanctuary Choir

Proclamation and Response

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(stz. 1) **no. 332**

Children are invited to come down to the front as we sing.

**Spirit of faith, come down, reveal the things of God,
and make to us the Godhead known, and witness with the blood.
'Tis thine the blood to apply and give us eyes to see,
who did for every sinner die hath surely died for me.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON

8:30, Tyler Kercher

1 Peter 1:3-9

11:00, Morgan Gleason

the new birth Christians have received through baptism which brings them a living hope through Jesus' resurrection and an imperishable inheritance.

GOSPEL LESSON *

John 20:19-31

two appearances of the risen Lord to his disciples

SERMON

Dr. Geoffrey Lentz

“Happy Quasimodo”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION, CONFESSION & PARDON

no. 12

OFFERTORY

8:30, “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” *arr. Joel Raney* Rick and Heidi Branch

11:00, “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” *arr. Joel Raney* Sanctuary Choir

DOXOLOGY *

no. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise him above, ye heav’nly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Thanksgiving and Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

no. 13

THE LORD’S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward to the altar to receive the elements of Holy Communion.

Gluten-free wafers are available at each communion station for those who need them. After you take the elements, feel free to kneel and pray at the rail as long as you like. Any offerings given during communion will go to the pastor's discretionary fund.

“I Come with Joy” **no. 617**

11:00, CONFIRMATION & REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

no. 33

Those being confirmed:

Edith Grace Brown

Molly Payton Fitzgerald

Adelaide Mae Gleason

Sending Forth

CLOSING HYMN *

“We Know that Christ Is Raised” **no. 610**

BENEDICTION & GOING FORTH *

POSTLUDE

“EASTER HYMN” *arr. Janet Linker*

* *Stand as you are able*

TODAY'S LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

The First Reading—Acts 2:14a, 22-32—Peter preaches the fundamental message of the resurrection.

The Psalter—Psalm 16—Contentment, refuge, and joy are found in the presence of the Lord, and God's faithful servant will not be abandoned at death.

The Epistle—1 Peter 1:3-9—the new birth Christians have received through baptism which brings them a living hope through Jesus' resurrection and an imperishable inheritance.

The Gospel—John 20:19-31—two appearances of the risen Lord to his disciples

NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S BULLETINS

Nursery is available this morning for children up to five years old. If you need help locating the nursery, please see an usher or greeter for assistance. Also, children's worship bulletins and crayons are available at the entrances.

VISITORS

If you are visiting with us at First Church, we are so glad you're here! We invite you to leave us your information in our registration pads so we can contact you in a more personal way. We hope that you enjoy your visit and we hope that you will consider becoming a member of our church family. Join us in the Great 50 Day Challenge!

THE GREAT 50 DAY CHALLENGE

During the season of Easter, First Church has answered the call and taken the challenge to welcome 50 new members in 50 days, and we are off to a great start. Last week, on Easter Sunday, we welcomed 31 new people into the life of our church! If you would like more information about joining during The Great 50 Days, contact Lacey Adair (LAdair@FUMCPensacola.com) or call the Church Office (850-432-1434). You can also visit FUMCPensacola.com/Membership.

HOLY COMMUNION

All are invited to receive communion in the United Methodist Church. The method for receiving communion is intinction; it is the ancient Eucharistic practice of receiving the consecrated bread into your open hands and then dipping it into the consecrated grape juice before consuming. If you need communion brought to you, please let an usher know and communion will be served to you in your seat. Gluten free wafers are available at the each station for those that need them. After you receive communion please feel free to kneel and pray at the rail as long as you like. Any offerings given during communion will go to the pastor's discretionary fund.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Main Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Virginia Williams by Jennifer Flemming.

TAKE ONE DAY TO DO JUSTICE & JOIN US AT THE NEHEMIAH ACTION 2023

Monday, April 24 | 6:00pm | First Baptist Church of Warrington

Show your support of J.U.S.T. Pensacola's actionable *Civil Citations* and *Affordable Rental Housing* policy initiatives as we engage our local politicians. Your presence gives us power. Tickets to the Nehemiah Action are available in the Church Office during normal office hours and they'll be available at the entrance to the Main Sanctuary and Wesley Abbey next Sunday morning. If you would like a ride or wish to carpool to the Nehemiah Action on Monday, April 24, we will meet here at the church by 5:00pm and travel as a group to First Baptist of Warrington. If you would like to be picked up from your home, email Peggy Groves at peggygroves1941@gmail.com. You can also register online at www.justpensacola.org and check the "I need a ride" box. You can bring justice to our community just by showing up!

Visit justpensacola.org for more information on this great event and for details on the issues. Together we can make Pensacola a more just city.

DAILY READINGS - 2 EASTER

Make a commitment this Easter season to read scripture each day. It's a good practice. If you don't already have a daily devotion, the scriptures below are designed to expand the range of biblical reading in worship and personal devotion. You can find them in the bulletin each week. The Daily Readings are taken from "The Daily Office Lectionary" in *The Book of Common Prayer*. Read the Bible each week. It will be a blessing.

	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Old Test.</i>	<i>New Test.</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
MONDAY	1, 2, 3	Dan. 1:1-21	1 John 1:1-10	John 17:1-11
TUESDAY	5, 6	Dan. 2:1-16	1 John 2:1-11	John 17:12-19
WEDNESDAY	119:1-24	Dan. 2:17-30	1 John 2:12-17	John 17:20-26
THURSDAY	18:1-20	Dan. 2:31-49	1 John 2:18-29	Luke 3:1-14
FRIDAY	16, 17	Dan. 3:1-18	1 John 3:1-10	Luke 3:15-22
SATURDAY	20, 21:1-7	Dan. 3:19-30	1 John 3:11-18	Luke 4:1-13

NEXT WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Join us next week here at First Church as we come together to worship God on the Third Sunday of Easter. The Rev. Emily Kincaid will preach in the 8:30 and 11:00am worship services here in the Main Sanctuary. The Rev. Brandon Bures will preach in the ICON worship service at 11:00am in Wesley Abbey. The Sanctuary Choir will sing at 8:30am. Next Sunday's scriptures: *Acts 2:14a, 36-41* • *Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)* • *1 Peter 1:17-23* • *Luke 24:13-35*



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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For pastoral emergencies, contact the Church Office or Ginger Raines at 850.259.3177