

*Welcome to*  
**PALMA CEIA**  
Presbyterian Church



*Traditional Service*

Sunday, April 27, 2025 | 8:30 & 11:00 AM

*Second Sunday of Easter*  
*Creation Care Sunday*

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# GATHERING

**Preparation for Worship:** We are grateful God has called you to worship with us this morning. Today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Easter, a season of seven Sundays lifting up the themes of Christ's Resurrection. The lectionary brings us from John's Gospel the resurrected Jesus' appearance twice in a room with his disciples. It is also Creation Care Sunday, the Sunday closest to Earth Day. Many churches on this Sunday lift up a focus on the stewardship and care of God's creation

**Prelude:** "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

Bach

## Chiming of the Hour and Welcome

**Call to Worship:** (Based on Psalm 24, Psalm 150:1, 6)

L: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and all who dwell therein,

**P: For he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.**

L: Praise the LORD!

**P: Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!**

L: Praise the LORD!

## Invocation

**Hymn #473:** "For the Beauty of the Earth"

**Prayer of Confession** (In unison)

Creator, we remember how, in the beginning, you created the heavens and the earth. In your mercy and generosity, you created the earth and all that is within it. Now we remember that you created us in your image, and invited us to partner with you in caring for the earth. But we confess that too often we have neglected caring for your beautiful world, and sometimes we have ignored it, misused it, and even abused it. In your mercy forgive us Lord. (silent confession). Through your grace teach us how we can be responsible, and live into your call for us to love one another and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Good Shepherd, lead us This day, into caring well for the piece of the world you have entrusted to us, using it rightly for your purposes and glory. We pray remembering how Jesus said, "Consider the birds of the air and the lilies of the field." Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon

## Greeting One Another In The Peace of Christ

**Act of Praise:** "The Strife is O'er" (verse 1)

*The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won; the song of triumph has begun.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

# THE WORD

## Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture Reading:** Revelation 1:4-8

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

## Children's Message

The congregation welcomes the children to come forward today by singing "Alleluia, Alleluia." Verse 1 as the children come forward, verse 2 as the children depart.

*Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, give praise to His name.*

*vs. 1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.*

*vs. 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.*

Following the Children's Message, children Pre-K3-1<sup>st</sup> grade may be accompanied by a parent/guardian to the Godly Play room. Children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older are invited to remain in the sanctuary. There is also a staffed nursery on the first floor of Eastminster.

## Mission Celebration: Creation Care

### Prayer of Dedication and Offering

**Offertory Solo:** "Eternal Life"

Duncan

Nash McCutchen, Mezzo Soprano

Text: St. Francis of Assisi

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;*

*Where there is hatred, let me so love.*

*Where there is injury, pardon.*

*Where there is doubt, faith.*

*Where there is despair, hope.*

*Where there is darkness, light.*

*Where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,*

*To be understood as to understand,*

*To be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive;*

*It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;*

*It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

### Scripture: John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

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.

**Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**SENDING**

**Hymn #122:** "Thine Is The Glory"

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** "Festival Alleluia"

Bach

*The flowers in the Chancel are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in remembrance of  
what would have been the 19th Wedding Anniversary of Laura & Steve Barber, April 22.*

**We welcome to the pulpit today** the Reverend Claudia Henderson. Claudia went to seminary and entered the ministry from PCPC where she has many friends. A graduate of Louisville Theological Seminary, she most recently was the Pastor of the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church and Bayshore Presbyterian Church, and still continues to reside here in Tampa post-retirement.

**Leading in Worship Today:** Reverends Claudia Henderson, John DeBevoise, John Reiter; Nancy Callahan, Music Director; Nash McCutchen, Mezzo Soprano; Allison Kelly & Anna Shuford, Children's Ministry; Susan Peacock, Chief Usher; Bert Chamorro, Beadle; Beth DeBevoise and Scott Wilson, Livestreamers.

