THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

11:00 a.m. April 21, 2024

Welcome and Opportunities of the Church
Striking of the Hour
Prelude*: Hyfrydol*.....arr. Willan
Call to Worship ..... Psalm 135:1-3

Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD, who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God! Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

***** Hymn of Praise: *Call Jehovah Thy Salvation*.....HB No. 123

* Prayer of Adoration, Confession, and 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.

* Assurance of Pardon.....Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

* Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

Q. What is true faith?
A. True faith is a sure knowledge whereby I accept as true all that God has revealed to us in His Word. At the same time it is a firm confidence that not only to others but also to me, God has granted forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation, out of mere grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits. This faith the Holy Spirit works in my heart by the gospel.

Anthem: *Look at the World*.....John Rutter

****** Children's Message.....Connie Kiser

* First Reading .....Mark 4:1-9, 14-20

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings
Offertory: *Hyfrydol*.....arr. Held

***** Doxology.....HB No. 544

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***** Prayer of Dedication

***** Hymn: *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*.....HB No. 215

* Sermon Text.....Acts 8:9-25

Sermon.....*Simon's "Conversion"*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition

***** Hymn of Dedication: *Be Thou My Vision*.....HB No. 303

***** Benediction

***** Gloria Patri.....HB No. 546

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.

Postlude: *Langham*.....Shaw

** Those who are able, please stand.*
***Children 4k— 2nd grade are dismissed to Children's Church.*

Inspired by the love of Christ, and enabled by the Holy Spirit, we serve God through worship, education and fellowship that we may proclaim His grace and share His love in the world.

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship here today.
Visitors are invited view our website **www.firstarp.org** *for more information.*

****If you would like to receive the regular church-wide communications via email and/or mail, please contact the church office with your information.****

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, April 21
- 8:30 a.m. ..... Prayer Time, parlor
- 9:00 a.m. ..... Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. ..... Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. ..... Called Meeting of the Session
- 11:00 a.m. ..... Worship Service
- 5:30 p.m. ..... Youth Group

TUESDAY, April 23
- 10:00 a.m. ..... Women's Ministries Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, April 24
- 5:30 p.m. ..... Foundations for the Faith
- 7:00 p.m. ..... Community Night Service @ Mt. Prospect
- 7:15 p.m. ..... Adult Choir Practice

THURSDAY, April 25
- 6:30 p.m. ..... Just Joy Worship Service
- 7:00 p.m. ..... Vision Team

FRIDAY, April 26
- 7:00 p.m. ..... Youth Hangout @ Ebenezer ARP

SUNDAY, April 28
- 8:30 a.m. ..... Prayer Time, parlor
- 9:00 a.m. ..... Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. ..... Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. ..... Worship Service
- 5:30 p.m. ..... Youth Group

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and to give thanks in honor of the First ARP Church Staff and church family.

Looking Ahead

- **Blessing Box Stockup** During the month of April, we are collecting items for the blessing boxes out front. Items can be dropped at the church office or place directly in the boxes.
- **Mt. Prospect Community Night** this Wednesday, April 24 at 7 pm at Mt. Prospect Baptist Church.
- **Good Little Sam** Wednesday, May 1 the preschool and elementary children will share a musical retelling of the Good Samaritan. Program will be in the sanctuary at 6:30 following dinner.
- **Vacation Bible School: High Seas Adventure** June 24-27, registration is open for rising 4K-6th grade.
- **Music Conference** July 7-12 at Bonclarken for 2nd-8th graders. Sign-up by April 21. *scholarships available from WM upon request*
- **Preschool Summer Camps** First ARP Preschool will host 4 weeks of summer camp this year. Registration deadline is May 17. See newsletter and/or weekly email for details.
- **Camp Bonclarken** July 21-26 & July 28-August 2 for 2nd-8th graders. *scholarships available from WM upon request*

FOR MORE DETAILS on these events and many others:

- Check out our *Newsletter* or *Weekly Update*
- Call or email the church office:

803-327-2009 or lross@firstarp.org

From the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible

First Reading // Mark 4:1-9

Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. [2] And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: [3] "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. [4] And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. [5] Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. [6] And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. [7] Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. [8] And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." [9] And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

v 14-20

The sower sows the word. [15] And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. [16] And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. [17] And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. [18] And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, [19] but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. [20] But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

Sermon Text // Acts 8:9-25

But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. [10] They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." [11] And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. [12] But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. [13] Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.
[14] Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, [15] who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, [16] for he had

not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [17] Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. [18] Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, [19] saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” [20] But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! [21] You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. [22] Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. [23] For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” [24] And Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.” [25] Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Usher Captains.....Terri Looper & Sarah Marion

Counters for today.....Kay McKinney & Howard Kellett

Greeting ..... Barry Adickes & Jeff Lyon

Worship Assistance.....Tim Marshall

Safety ..... Bill Altman

Anthem

Look At The World

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Look at the world, everything all around us
Look at the world and marvel every day.
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,
So many miracles along our way

Praise to thee, O Lord for all creation.
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,
All things come of thee.

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower,
Look at the sky the sunshine and the rain.
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,
Valley and flowing river, field and plain.

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer
Bringing the harvest before winter’s cold.
Everything grows, everything has a season,
till it is gathered to the Father's fold:

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish.
Comes from the Lord in token of his love
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty
His is the earth and his the heavens above

General Fund 2024	February 2024	Jan-Dec 2024
Receipts	$75,989	$147,172
Expenses	$99,026	$165,977
Surplus (Deficit)	($23,037)	($18,805)
Budgeted Monthly	$87,798	—