THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP

11:00 a.m. April 28, 2024

Welcome and Opportunities of the Church
Striking of the Hour
Prelude*: O God Beyond All Praising*……..arr. Willan
Call to Worship ..... Psalm 92:1-4

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

***** Hymn of Praise: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*……..HB No. 407

* 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……..2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

* Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of Gods, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Anthem: *God of Grace and God of Laughter*……..K. Lee Scott

****** Children's Message……..Jon Oliphant

* First Reading ..... Isaiah 53:1-9

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory: *Adagio* .....Brahms

***** 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: *Open My Eyes, that I May See*……HB No. 390

* Sermon Text……..……Acts 8:26-40

Sermon……*Saving Unlikely People*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition

***** Hymn of Dedication: *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*.....HB No. 130

***** 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: *When In Our Music God is Glorified*……..Arr. Page

** 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 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

TUESDAY, April 30
- 10:00 a.m. ..... Women's Ministries Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, May 1
- 5:30 p.m. ..... Foundations for the Faith
- 6:30 p.m. ..... Good Little Sam
- 7:15 p.m. ..... Adult Choir Practice

THURSDAY, May 2
- 8:30 a.m. ..... First Thursday Prayer Team
- 10:00 a.m. ..... Deborah Circle
- 4:00 p.m. ..... Early Service Singers Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. ..... Esther Circle

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

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jon, Aimee, Bo, and Zeke Oliphant by George & Margaret Coxhead, Melanie Donahue, and Ann Grace Donahue.

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.
- **Last Foundations** Our final Wednesday night will be this Wednesday, May 1.
- **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.
- **Horizon & Quest** registration is open until May 10th. See the Elijah Hoyer or the weekly email for links and more details.
- **Vacation Bible School: High Seas Adventure** June 24-27, registration is open for rising 4K-6th grade.
- **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 // Isaiah 53:1-9

Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
9 And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Sermon Text // Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of

all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship [28] and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. [29] And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” [30] So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” [31] And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. [32] Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.
[33] In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

[34] And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” [35] Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. [36] And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” [38] And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. [39] And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. [40] But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Usher Captains.....Alex Simpson & Michael Neece

Counters for today..... Kay McKinney & John Pearson

Greeting ..... Warren Norman & Tim Templeton

Worship Assistance.....Jeffery Rutland

Safety .....

Anthem

God of Grace and God of Laughter

Words by Carl P. Daw, Jr. -- Tune and setting by K. Lee Scott
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God of grace and God of laughter, singing worlds from nought to be
Sun and stars and all thereafter joined in cosmic harmony
Give us songs of joy and wonder, music-making hearts rejoice;
Let our praises swell like thunder, echoing our Maker’s voice.

When our lives are torn by sadness, heal our wounds with tuneful balm;
When all seems discordant madness, help us find a measured calm.
Steady us with music’s anchor when the storms of life increase:
In the midst of hurt and rancor, make us instruments of peace.

Turn our sighing into singing, music born of hope restored:
Set our souls and voices ringing, tune our hearts in true accord:
Till we form a mighty chorus joining angel choirs above,
With all those who went before us in eternal hymns of love.

General Fund 2024	**March 2024**	**Jan-Dec 2024**
Receipts	$106,769	$253,961
Expenses	$87,203	$256,911
Surplus (Deficit)	$19,566	($2,950)
Budgeted Monthly	$87,798	—