

Dial- 669 900 9128

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Meeting Times

Sunday at 10:30 Worship

We are glad that you are worshipping online with us this morning and pray that your experience here is a blessing to you. If you are a visitor and want to know more about the church, please visit our website for more information and to contact us: www.aptospresbyterianchurch.org

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

O Great Laughing God, we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised.

We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight.

These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for all the earth.

May we find that in giving up to laughter there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing.

Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living. Amen.

*Hymn 245

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!"

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia! All creation, join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!

Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia! Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world. Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Grace

Christ is raised from the dead! Love wins!

Hallelujah!

Christ lives and reigns for us!

Hallelujah!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Response

"Glory Be To The Father"

Special Music

Prayers of the People

"Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.
Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.

Refrain

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

Refrain

We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever.

Refrain

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior.

Refrain

Prayer for Illumination

***Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

First Lesson: Genesis 18:1-2, 9-15, 21:1-7

¹⁸ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ¹⁰ Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

²¹ The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. ² Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” ⁷ And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Second Lesson: Luke 6:21, 15:22-24

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

Affirmation

*We believe in God, who made us in His image.
We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.*

*We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.
He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.
Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!*

Offering

Doxology

Offering Prayer

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn

“Give To Us Laughter” (tune Slane) — hymn text copyright © 1974 Walter Farquharson.

Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife!
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings us healing relief!
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joy of your promise among us increase.

Dismissal

Go in laughter; go in grace.
Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Benediction