

Worship in the Home

Sunday after Easter



“Come...Be a Part of Peace!”

2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034

904.261.6306 www.poplcweb.org

April 11, 2021

In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.

Prelude

Announcements

Please stand as able



Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel or be seated for confession.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

We stand

THE RESURRECTION PROCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Devotional Music

You might now sing or read "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

<https://youtu.be/Wt5HmvHLUsY>

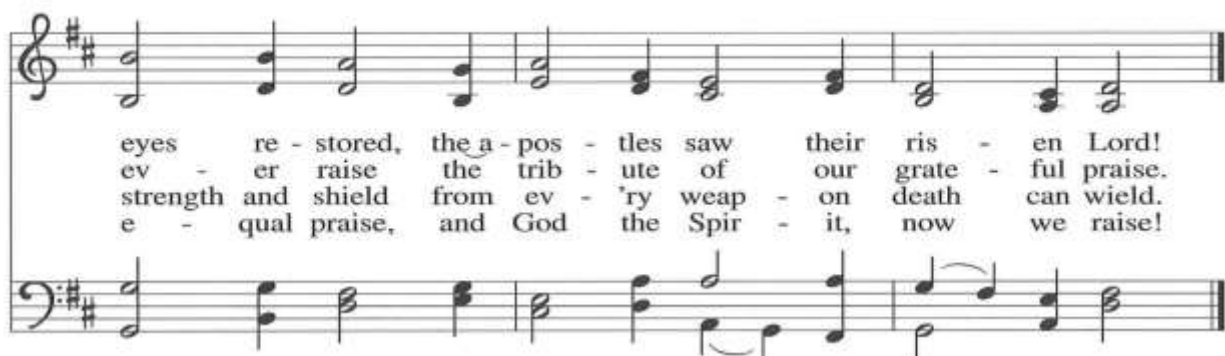
384 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
2 O Je - sus, king of the gen - tle - ness, with
3 O Christ, you are the Lord, of all in
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Kyrie

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
And for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.*

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.*

The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.



Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Then the first reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 133

To be read in responsively.



¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

**²It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up on the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron,
flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing:

life forevermore.

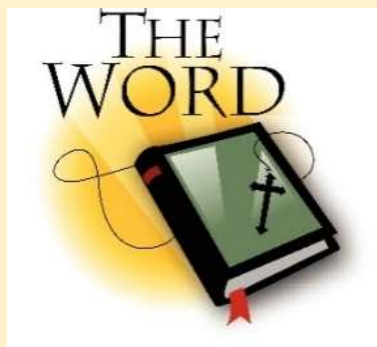
SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1—2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Please stand

Then the gospel reading may be read, as follows.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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." ²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON—Rev. Pat Harris

Alleluia, Christ is risen
Christ is risen indeed, alleluia.

Last Sunday, we heard the Good News. Christ is risen

And we heard the Alleluias for the first time
Since Lent began back on February 17.

But what does it mean for you, today, that Christ is risen?

Is this just an event that happened 2000 years ago,
Which was recorded in Four Gospels,
Or does it have a real time impact in your life today?

You happily say Alleluia, or the Lord be praised, but is that rote?
Does “Christ is risen” have a particular meaning for your life?

Last week, we heard from Mark’s Gospel
How the women were told that Jesus was risen,
But they were too afraid to tell anyone.

The women certainly weren’t shouting Alleluia
To Jesus’ disciples or anyone else.
They were too amazed or too fearful
To talk about what they had seen.
They were afraid that no one would believe them.

Last week, the excitement of Easter day
Carried us through the incredulousness of the message,
And left little time or thought for questioning the message about
resurrection.

The remainder of these Sundays in the Easter season
Give us the opportunity to ponder the resurrection message,
And to observe the evidence of the signs
That Jesus did following his resurrection.

These Easter weeks give us the opportunity
To wonder about the significance of resurrection
In our own lives and in the life of the church today.

This morning, two phrases in our lessons jumped out at me
As evidence of how Jesus' resurrection changes everything.

One from the beginning of the reading from John's Gospel
And another from the beginning of the Acts reading.

John tells us: "It was evening on the First Day of the week,
And the doors of the house,
Where the disciples had met, were locked for fear."

Pre-2020, most of us, would not have been able to resonate
With being locked in our houses in fear.

Now, we have all, to one extent or another,
Experienced what it means to be confined to our houses,
Fearful of an invisible virus that we may encounter outside,
And the havoc it could wreak on our lives.

In the case of the disciples,
They were fearful, that they would encounter people in authority.

They were afraid that they would meet the same fate as Jesus,
That they, too, would be rounded up,
And held for trial and execution by crucifixion.

In that locked room, only ten were present.
The traitor Judas was no longer part of their gang,
And Thomas was likely out running errands,
Rather than gathering with them.

By this time, rumors of Jesus' disappearance from the tomb
And possible resurrection had most likely reached them.

But the rumors were not sufficient
To dispel their fears.
They were still huddled in the house,
Locking the doors, and likely staying away from any windows.

The scaredy disciples were certainly
In no position to carry out the work
That Jesus needed them to do.

Although these disciples had been told by Jesus,
That they were to be his apostles,
A word which means 'those who are sent',
The message didn't quite stick.
After Jesus' death these erstwhile apostles
Are still trembling behind closed, locked doors,
Rather than being out, demonstrating their "sentness".

The risen Jesus knew just what this fearful group needed:
His presence and his reassurance.

The resurrected Jesus comes to this scared, questioning group,
Stands right in the middle of them
Offering them peace,
Giving them the Holy Spirit,
And one more time, sending them out,
As he himself had been sent, by God.

Jesus did not promise his disciples/apostles
That their work was going to be a piece of cake,
But he promised them a sense of peace or well-being
And the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit.

But what does this long past event
Featuring the resurrected Jesus mean for your life?

Do you remember those weeks and months
Where you were essentially locked in your house?
Or maybe you are still sticking very close to home,
Worried about a contagion that has been lurking in our cities and towns.

Can you access the feeling of terror
As you watched the news,
Clicked on your newsfeed,
Or read the newspaper?

Can you feel the loneliness
As visits with families and friends
Were limited or restricted?

Even in your pandemic isolation or fright,
Jesus has not left you alone,
During these difficult months.

As Jesus said to his disciples
On the night before his crucifixion,
I will not leave you orphaned.

Even if you were not able to be present in church,
Jesus' presence in the Word has been livestreamed to your home.
If technology is a limiting factor for you,
You have been receiving worship at home materials,
Including the preached word and hand-written notes,
Bringing Jesus' presence to you.

The resurrected Jesus has given the gift of the Holy Spirit
To all of his disciples, including you.

As Paul has told us, even in our despair or loneliness,
When we don't know how to pray as we ought,
That very Spirit intercedes for us
With sighs too deep for words.

The Holy Spirit, given by the resurrected Jesus
Has accompanied you during these past months,
Interceding for you,
Even during those months when you were in lockdown.

Jesus' original scaredy disciples,
Sequestered behind closed doors,
Comforted by the resurrected Jesus,
Eventually morphed into Apostles,
Who were sent by the Holy Spirit to begin the mission
Of spreading throughout the world,
The word about Jesus' resurrection,
And his death for the forgiveness of sin.

The Book of the Acts of the Apostles
From which we have readings during the Easter season,
Chronicles the work of these Apostles,
And the growth of the church.

One sentence from today's reading from Acts
Really highlighted for me,
The impact of the resurrected Christ.

In speaking of the church, Luke who wrote Acts, says:
"Now the whole group of those who believed
Were of one heart and soul."

Those of us who are part of the 21st century church
May find this picture of unity
Very distant from our own experience of the church.

The church in the world today gives the appearance
Of being very divided.
We have hundreds of denominations,
And even within denominations there have been splits
Because of different opinions and theological interpretations.

We differ on things as diverse
As whether we baptize infants,
When we celebrate Easter,
And whether we recognize the Biblical validity of gay marriage.

In addition, the divisive political environment in this country
Has tended to conform the church to its ways,
Rather than the church leading toward unity.

However, looking closely at Luke's words,
He writes that the believers are of one heart and soul,
Not that they are one mind.

These new believers were so shaped
By the reality of the resurrected Jesus,
That their hearts and souls had been conformed to Jesus.

In the church today,
We certainly have people who are of very different minds.

If you look at our church as a microcosm,
I imagine that we have people at all points of the political spectrum.
I'm sure that we have voted for different people in civic elections,
That we listen to different new stations,
And that we get our news in different ways.

Yes, we do hold differing opinions on flash point issues.

Yet we come together,
Because we share a common belief in the resurrected Christ,
The teachings of Christ and Christ's presence in our lives.

Our hearts and minds have been shaped
By the cross and the presence of the risen Christ.

In some ways, the church is one of the few places in today's society
Where people holding radically different viewpoints,
Can come together.

Our unity is found at the foot of the cross,
Where we share a common commitment to Jesus' command
To love God, and to love and serve our neighbor.

Even though we may have different understandings
Of the severity of this pandemic,
We wear masks in church to protect our neighbor.

We get vaccines not just to protect ourselves,
But to minimize the chance
That we will spread the virus to our neighbor,
And to minimize the opportunity for the virus
To develop even more dangerous variants.

What does the Word of Jesus' resurrection mean for us today?
What is the significance for us of the disciples' gathering,
And the new believers being of one heart and soul?

Those gatherings on the First Day of the Week,
Still occur two millennia after the original disciples locked themselves in,
And our gatherings continue to be the forum
Where you hear the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection,
For the forgiveness of your sins.

Despite doubts, questions and differences of opinion,
We still come together,
Loving God and neighbor,
And Jesus, along with the Holy Spirit,
Still shows up, right in middle of our gatherings,
Saying "Peace be with you".

We come together on the First Day of the Week,
And you hear the words of the Risen Christ for you:

"Blessed are those who have not seen
And yet have come to believe,"

"Blessed are you who have life in his name."

Amen

Hymn of The Day

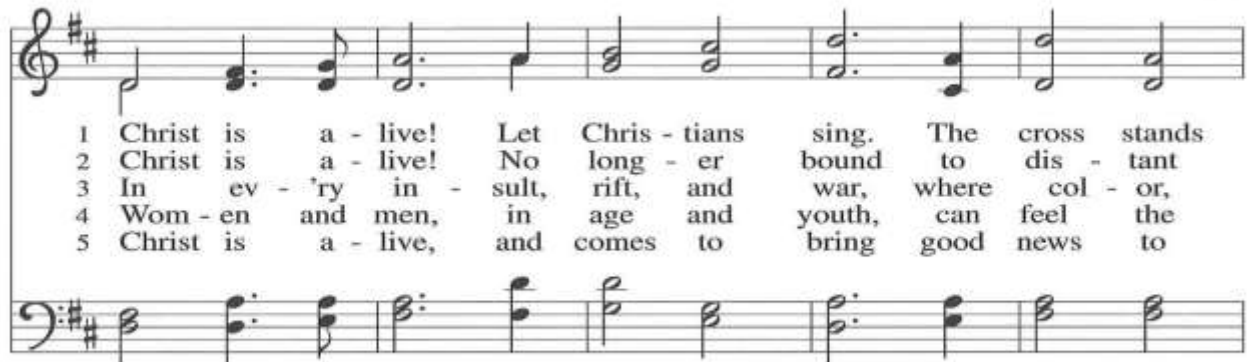
You might now sing or read "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

<https://youtu.be/GRQoeitN5nA>

389

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

You may remain standing, kneel or be seated

Then read the prayers of intercession, as follows.



Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You direct the nations, O God, Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their people in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting and suffering, or afraid. We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud: Ann West, Alexandra Williams, Roger Brinkman, Dennis Brown, Don Weiss, Zoia Foster, Donna Cormier, Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, Lloyd Cotner, Tammy & Greg Olive, all those who serve in the military, the family of Freida McClure at her death, any dealing with the Covid-19,

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another, and our joy may be complete.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Praise to you for your joy of new life in the resurrection. Be with Alice Hansberry and Clay Chaffee as they celebrate their birthdays this week, along with Mike & Rosemary Mandrick on their anniversary.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live-in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy.

Amen

Let us pray as Jesus taught us,



Lords 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Then speak the Blessing:

The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage.

Amen.



Sending Hymn

"Thine Is the Glory"

Click the following link for audio presentation that includes the verses to sing

<https://youtu.be/pmetr66LrWQ>

Thine Is the Glory

376

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain
where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

DISMISSAL

Jesus said, You will be my witnesses
to the ends of the earth

I chose you and appointed you
to bear fruit that will last.

Remember, I will be with you always,
to the end of time.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Readings of the Week:

Second Sunday of Easter Acts 4: 32-35, 1 John 1: 1—2:2, John 20: 19-31

Third Sunday of Easter Acts 3: 12-19, 1 John 3: 1-7, Luke 24: 36b-48

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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IN NEED OF PRAYER

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Osprey Village

Jane Cotner - Room 3106
Katherine Holmberg- Room 101

Savannah Grand

Jo Krueer - Room 332
Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit

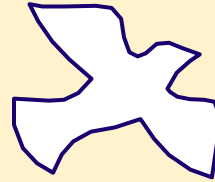
Brooks Rehab

Lloyd Cotner

At Home

Emmy Lou Sorum / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee / Dorothy Schwager/ Lloyd Cotner /
Orv Lind / Lucy Creel / Gertie Schreffler / Blake Carter / Ann West / Alexandra Williams

Family of Freida McClure at her death.



Luke Ellison, Army National Guard, Syria (nephew of Mark & Susan Foutz)
Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer)
Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA
Lt. Col. Laura Laskowski, Air Force Intelligence, stationed in Maryland at Ft. Meade
(daughter of Sue Whitman)

Components of an Effective Prayer

<u>"A"</u>	ADORATION	Worship of God, First for who He is, Second for all His benefits
<u>"C"</u>	CONFESSION	If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness
<u>"T"</u>	THANKSGIVING	Gratitude to GOD for His blessings
<u>"S"</u>	SUPPLICATION	Expressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...

*Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list.
We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.*