

ANTHEM "Celebrate the Empty Tomb" Patricia Mock  
Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Dr. Michael Bragan

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 4: 32-35 Bruce C Hurley  
John 20: 19-31 Rev. Dr. Michael Bragan

MESSAGE "Our Brother, Thomas"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostles' Creed" Bruce C Hurley  
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.

OFFERING Offerings may be placed in the large wooden boxes with crosses at the main exit of the lobby.  
To give online, text Sevenoaks to 73256 or use the SOPC website with this link:  
<https://onrealm.org/SevenOaksPresby/-/give/now>.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Rev. Dr. Michael Bragan / Bruce C Hurley  
\*You are invited to the Lord's table to receive the elements.  
Please see instructions in the Welcome section of the bulletin.

One: Lift up your hearts!  
**All: We lift them up to the Lord!**  
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!**  
One: Let us pray to the Lord.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Bruce C Hurley  
**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.**

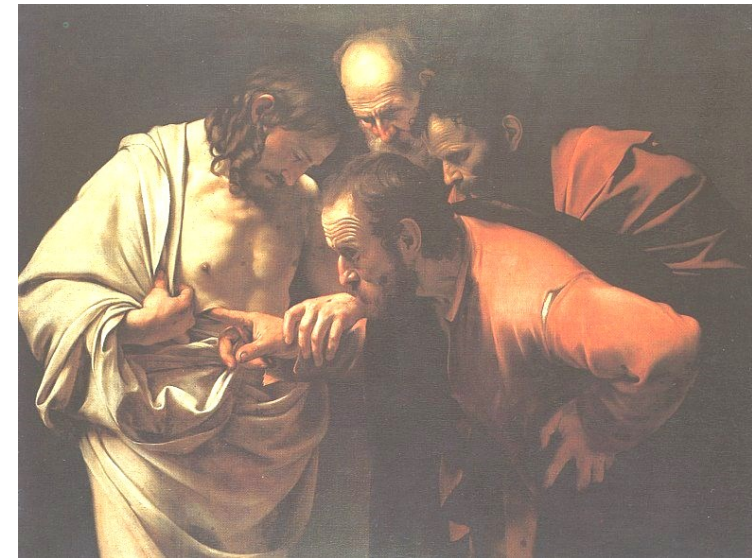
\*HYMN # 246 "Christ Is Alive!"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Michael Bragan

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

POSTLUDE "Grand Triumphal Chorus" Alexander Guilmant

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**SEVEN OAKS  
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**April 7, 2024  
Second Sunday of Easter**

**WELCOME!** We pray that you will truly experience the presence of the Holy Spirit, the majesty of the Risen Lord, and God's gracious love as you worship with us today!

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Bruce C Hurley

PRELUDE "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Eleanor Whitsett

\*GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS Bruce C Hurley  
One: How good it is for us to come together as kindred spirits.  
**All: Our doubts are answered, and we feel the presence of Christ.**  
One: The risen Christ speaks to us and gives us peace.  
**All: Hallelujah! Let our worship be the sign of our belief!**

\*HYMN # 248 "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

\*CALL TO CONFESSION Bruce C Hurley

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
**Holy and risen One, we are in awe of the power of resurrection, and we give you glory with our hallelujahs, but we carry lingering doubts about your saving power in our lives. We ask why you do not answer our prayers quickly enough. We demand signs to prove the reality of your promises. Sometimes we wonder when you will show up to ease our pain. We pray now that you will help us in our impatience and unbelief. Forgive us and free us to recognize your presence before us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Belonging to God Catechism – Q.3-5*)  
One: What makes you a child of God?  
**All: Grace – God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.**  
One: Don't you have to be good for God to love you?  
**All: No – God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.**  
One: How do you thank God for this gift of love?  
**All: I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.**  
One: Go in Peace. Our Sin is forgiven!  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Elder Sue Kesterson  
We invite children ages 4k - 4th grade to sit in the "Children's Corner" after the "Children's Message." One Adult will be sitting with the children, and age appropriate activities will be provided for children that go along with worship. Parents will pick up their children after the service.

\*Please stand in body or in spirit. **When items are in bold, you are invited to join aloud.**

# Worship Assistants



## Sunday, April 7th:

Counters: Frank Sheppard, Hal Bowman  
 Usher: Mary Johnson  
 Greeters: Janice Reiser, Sharon Staton  
 Acolyte: No Acolyte - Communion  
 Children's Message: Sue Kesterson  
 Children's Corner: Kathy Keane  
 Communion Preparation: Kitsie & Robert Miller  
 Communion Servers: Liz Harris, Hal Bowman, Fred Holbrook  
 Youth Group Adult Helper: Beth Sellars

## Sunday, April 14th:

Counters Elizabeth & Jim Taylor  
 Usher: Ron Kesterson  
 Greeters: Elizabeth & Jim Taylor  
 Acolyte: Abby Dempster  
 Children's Message: Mark Johnson  
 Children's Corner: Marion Wishart  
 Youth Group Adult Helper: Mary Dempster

### STAFF OF SOPC

**Interim Pastor:** We are praying for the candidate whom God is calling & equipping.  
**Director of Music Ministry:** Dr. Lloyd Pilkington  
**Office Administrator:** Mrs. Annah G. Hiers  
 sopc@sopc.net  
**Accompanist:** Elder Sharon Watkins  
**Building Superintendent:** Mr. Karl Thompson  
**Volunteer Financial Administrator:** Elder Sharon Staton  
 sharon@sopc.net  
**Nursery Coordinator:** Mrs. Amy Schwartz

### SESSION MEMBERS (\* indicates chair)

**Clerk of Session:** Polly Robinson  
**Class of 2024:** Hal Bowman - Administration, John Carter - Buildings & Grounds\*  
**Class of 2025:** Fred Holbrook - Administration\*, Ed Keelen - Good News\*, Sharon Staton - Missions\*, Sharon Watkins - Worship\*  
**Class of 2026:** Liz Harris - Fellowship  
 Kathy Keane - Christian Ed\*  
 Banks Robinson - Fellowship\*  
**Trustees:** Sue Kesterson, Frank Sheppard, Carol Griffith  
**Treasurer:** Hal Bowman  
**Presbyterian Women Moderator (SOPW):** Mary Johnson



## OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

### Sunday, April 7:

9:00 am - 11:00 am The Well Church  
 9:30 am - Choir Rehearsal  
 9:45 am - 10:45 am - Sunday School for all ages  
 11:00 am - Worship with Congregational Meeting  
 11:00 am - 3:00 pm - Liberty Church  
 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.  
 3:00 pm - Clothing Closet opens prior to Love Revolution  
 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm - Love Revolution  
 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm - Confirmation Class  
 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Youth Group here at SOPC  
 6:30 pm - Program at Cornerstone PC

### Monday, April 8:

8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Peaceful Gathering Nature School  
 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Troop 91  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA  
 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.

### Tuesday, April 9:

8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Peaceful Gathering Nature School  
 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Rachel Circle  
 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Yoga  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA  
 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.

### Wednesday, April 10:

8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Peaceful Gathering Nature School  
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Staff Meeting  
 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Kairos  
 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Live Oak Counseling  
 5:45 pm - 7:45 pm - NAMI  
 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - NANA

### Thursday, April 11:

7:00 am - 9:00 pm - Kairos  
 8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Peaceful Gathering Nature School  
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Hannah Circle  
 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Liberty Church

### Friday, April 12: OFFICE CLOSED

6:45 am - 7:45 am - Men's Lanterns Prayer Group  
 8:00 am - 4:00 pm - Kairos  
 8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Peaceful Gathering Nature School  
 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.

### Saturday, April 13:

The Well Church  
 9:30 am - 2:00 pm - The Upper Room Church  
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Earth Day Celebration at McGregor PC  
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Mision Cristiana Elim Int'l.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 15: Ladies' Luncheon  
 April 21: SOPC Fellowship Supper  
 April 25: Book Group  
 April 26: Night of Promise Gala  
 May 3: Church Women United Friendship Day  
 July 15-18: Joint VBS with Liberty Church: Scuba--Diving Into Friendship with God!

### 4 WAYS TO GIVE!



Offering Baskets | 530 St. Andrews Rd. Columbia, SC 29210 | sopc.net | Text 73256 to SEVENOAKS

Thank you for leading our worship, sharing the Word, blessing our Communion elements, and moderating our Congregational Meeting today, **Rev. Dr. Michael Bragan!**

A nursery is available in Building A during worship and Sunday School for ages 0 - 4. If you have any questions, please see an usher for help.



Parents can pick up **worship bags** in the Children's Corner, (in the Sanctuary near the restrooms,) before the worship service, for ages 4 years old- 5th grade.

The children will then take the bags to the Children's Corner after the Children's Message.

**Guests are invited to stop by the welcome table** in the narthex/lobby. Please take a goody bag with you as a reminder of God's love. Also, please leave your information for us on the yellow card and place it in the offering baskets. Thank you for worshipping with us today.



**Holy Communion:** If you are able, please walk down the center aisle, following the line that is closest to your seat. A tray of gluten-free bread will be in the center, so that it can be accessed by congregants in either line. Please partake of your elements as soon as you are served and before walking back to your seat. If you are not comfortable walking to the front, please raise your hand after others are back in their seats, and a server will come to you.

If you would like to order **fresh flowers for the sanctuary**, please call the church office at 803-772-1761.



### In our prayers...

Bruce C Hurley  
 Jane Blackwell  
 Al Charles  
 Fran & Jeffrey Brannon  
 Ira Leon  
 Myrna Gause  
 Kirk Wirth  
 Barry Shatzer  
 Tara and John Whitfield  
 Kynslee Davis (Friend of the Dempsters)  
 Our Ukraine Family  
 Iglesia Presbiteriana de Nueva Paz in Cuba  
 Daniel and Elizabeth Turk (Missionaries)

### Long Term Care -

Dave, Rich & Sam Allen  
 Edith Blanchett  
 Kathie Cashion  
 Barbara Fowler  
 Bobby Sellars (Father of John Paul Sellars)  
 Patricia Williams



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will have a **Congregational Meeting TODAY immediately worship, to elect new elders and a trustee.**

It is important to **ensure that the Narthex doors are completely closed when the Sanctuary is in use.** Sometimes the doors don't fully catch. The trick is pressing the handle down all the way. Thank you!

Please join us for **Love Revolution** in the Pavilion today from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm and help us serve food to our neighbors in need! **Our Clothing Closet will open at 3 pm** each Sunday prior to the meal.

We will have a church-wide **Fellowship Supper on Sunday, April 21st at 6 pm.** The Bussells and Mark Dillard will provide music, and the menu is corned beef and cabbage, etc.

**Confirmation Class** will meet here today at 4:30 pm and learn about PRAYER!

**Youth group** will meet here at tonight from 5:30 - 7pm. We will discuss a name for our group, discuss "Life After Lent," talk about upcoming mission projects, and of course, eat and play games!

Our siblings in faith at McGregor Presbyterian Church have invited us to join them for an **Earth Day Celebration** Saturday, April 13th from 10 am until 2 pm. Flyers are available in the church office.

We will continue tying **prayer ribbons** for the foreseeable future onto the rails outside the sanctuary.

If you would like to share a table at **Family Promise's Night of Promise Gala** on April 26th, please contact Polly Robinson at 803-240-1853. See <https://familypromisemidlands.org> for more information.

**Cornerstone Presbyterian Church** has invited us to join them for a special guest speaker this evening at 6:30 pm: Dr. Thomas Kidd will present on, "A Christian America? Popular Myths & Historical Realities."

The April 15th **Ladies' Luncheon** will be held at Chapala Restaurant, 7001 St. Andrews Road. Please contact Margaret Royals at 903-957-0430 or mroyals052@gmail.com if you plan to attend or have any questions.

If you would like to donate individually wrapped, single serving size, **cookies or salty snacks to Kairos Prison Ministry**, please bring them to the church office by Wednesday, April 10th.

Ladies of SOPC are invited to the **Church Women United May Friendship Day @ SOPC on Friday, May 3, 2024 @ 10:30 am.** Come to the fellowship hall to enjoy coffee, juice, snacks & fellowship before the 11 am worship service. The offering will go towards the different missions that CWU supports. No sign up is required. Contact Shelagh Wirth if you have questions.

Our **SOPC Book Club** will meet Thursday, April 25th, at 1:30 pm at Snow's Ice Cream by Steve's Hamburgers. Contact Kitsie Miller for this month's book title and author.

**The Shepherd's Center** of St. Andrews will have their Spring Session of classes and fellowship for anyone 50+ April 16 - June 6. For more information, visit [shepherdscenterofstandrews.org](http://shepherdscenterofstandrews.org).