

# The Parish Caller April 30, 2021

## A Message from Pastor Jay

This Sunday is Orthodox Easter. "The Great Schism" of 1054 C.E. divided the eastern and western churches, and also produced two different ways of determining when Easter Sunday would occur each year (a rather involved explanation beyond our scope here). So, we will give a nod to our Orthodox brothers and sisters by using some of their liturgy in both services. The 8:30am service will include recorded Greek and Russian Orthodox music. Organist Brian will perform some of the Orthodox musical liturgy at the 10:30am service. John 15:1-8 is the text. JJ gives me a lesson on what "abiding" means.

**We are now open to the public! Two services are providing plenty of social distancing opportunities. Let's all get vaccinated!**

**In-Person Worship 8:30 am & 10:30 am  
CDC Guidelines Followed**

nursery and Sunday school coming soon

**ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10:00 AM**

**ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM**

**Let us know if you want to be added to these Zoom invitations**

## BULLETIN

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
ORTHODOX EASTER**

May 2, 2021

10:30 a.m.

**GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD**

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Prelude: "O God Beyond All Praising" from "The Planets" by Gustav Holst

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

“Entrance Hymn for Pascha” (Greek Orthodox Liturgy)

*In the congregations bless God, the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, who rose from the dead; To You we sing Alleluia.*

#### THE GREAT LITANY

Priest: In peace let us pray to the Lord. People: Lord, have mercy. For the peace of God and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **People: Lord, have mercy.** Priest: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **People: Lord, have mercy.** Priest: For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord. **People: Lord, have mercy.** Priest: For our country, the president, and all those in public service, let us pray to the Lord. **People: Lord, have mercy.** Priest: For this parish and city, for every city and town, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **People: Lord, have mercy.** Priest: Lord, our God, whose power is beyond compare, and glory is beyond understanding; whose mercy is boundless, and love for us is ineffable: look upon us and upon this holy house in Your compassion. Grant to us and to those who pray with us Your abundant mercy. For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. **People: Amen.**

#### PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

A Time for Children Of All Ages - JJ

“Pascal Troparion” (Carpatho-Rusian) from St. Vladimir’s Seminary

Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tomb bestowing life.

Priest: Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be with all. **People: And with your spirit.** Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John. Let us be attentive. **People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.** (\*The Priest reads the designated pericope of the holy Gospel.) John 15:1-8 **People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.**

“The Kontakion” (Carpatho-Russian) from St. Vladimir’s Seminary

*Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal. Thou didst destroy the pow’r of death.*

*In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming “rejoice” to the myrrh-bearing women, granting peace to Thine apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.*

Sermon: "Abiding in Christ / Learning from the Orthodox"

Pastor Jay

#### RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

Song: “We Have Been Told” by David Haas

Morning Prayer - Priest

Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered all sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and

doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we give glory together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your all holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Remember all who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection unto eternal life. And grant them rest, our God, where the light of Your countenance shines. We also offer to You this spiritual worship for the whole world, for the holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. And for all those in public service; permit them, Lord, to serve and govern in peace that through the faithful conduct of their duties we may live peaceful and serene lives in all piety and holiness. Remember also, Lord, those whom each of us calls to mind and all your people. Remember, Lord, the city in which we live, every city and country, and the faithful who dwell in them. Remember, Lord, the travelers, the sick, the suffering, and the captives, granting them protection and salvation. Remember, Lord, those who do charitable work, who serve in Your holy churches, and who care for the poor. And send Your mercy upon us all. And grant that with one voice and one heart we may glorify and praise Your most honored and majestic name, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Hear us as we share the Lord's Prayer...

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Jay

Song "Christ is Risen" (Greek Orthodox Hymn)

*Christ is risen, Christ is risen, Christ is risen from the dead. By death He trampled death, by death He trampled death and to those in the graves and to those in the graves, bestowing, bestowing, bestowing life.*

#### THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Let us go forth in peace. Let us pray to the Lord. **People: Lord, have mercy.** Priest: Lord, bless those who praise You and sanctify those who trust in You. Save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Protect the whole body of Your Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house. Glorify them in return by Your divine power, and do not forsake us who hope in You. Grant peace to Your world, to Your churches, to the clergy, to those in public service, to the armed forces, and to all Your people. For every good and perfect gift is from above, coming from You, the Father of lights. To You we give glory, thanksgiving, and worship, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. **People: Amen.**

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

(from Carpatho-Rusyn Chant)

The Eucharist (open to all)

Communion is self-serve. Tom will direct each pew to come forward for communion. After receiving the elements, please exit to Perkins Hall to view our historical items, or out the Gurley Street door for continued fellowship.

Postlude: "Ave Verum Corpus" by W. A. Mozart

#### Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet

Serving as Priest Tom Macy

Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates

Organist Brian Moore  
Co-Moderators Melissa Gates & Bill Bryant  
Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson  
Facilities Coordinator Tom Macy  
Video Technician James Logsdon  
Facility & Grounds Manager David Tyrrell

**First Congregational Church of Prescott**

**United Church of Christ**

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Prescott, AZ 86301

[www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org)

[www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott](https://www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott)

928-445-4555

**Founded September 26, 1880**

## MAY MISSION NEWS

Each month we highlight a different mission outreach project. This month's mission emphasis project is Frontera de Cristo (FdC). This ecumenical border ministry in Aqua Prieta, Mexico (across from Douglas, AZ), is in partnership with several Aqua Prieta churches and local social service organizations to help meet the needs of migrants arriving at the border. Remembering Jesus' words in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers", The Rev. Mark Adams, FdC pastor/director, wrote this: "We are called to be a presence of peace. A presence of peace for those seeking asylum. A presence of peace for those threatened by kidnapping, extortion, rape, beatings by organized crime gangs and drug cartels. A presence of peace for those who locked in poverty." Services include: [1] assistance in completing legal immigration documents, [2] Health aid, [3] Shelter, food and clothing [4] Mental health counseling (many migrants manifest symptoms of PTSD) [5] Job training/placement for those choosing to remain in Aqua Prieta and [6] Christian education and worship opportunities. Donations can be made by making your check payable to the church, with the memo FdC. Mission donations which do not specify a particular project, will be disbursed as determined by our FC/UCC mission team. [Becky and Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty and Gary Gard] Thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12:2]

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are officially open to the public! CDC guidelines are still followed – masks, social distancing, no congregational singing, etc. At this point some have been fully vaccinated and some not, so please continue to follow CDC guidelines another few more months until all are vaccinated, A good number of our faithful and involved members moved during the last year to be near family in other states, so we hope to have our own resurrection this year – your gifts and talents are welcome here – we need you! - musical gifts, volunteers for the office, new study and fellowship opportunities, after worship refreshments, etc. Let us know of your gifts and availability. We will continue with 8:30 and 10:30 am worship each week for spacing needs until the virus is under control. We will see whether we want to continue the two services. So much is unknown at this point – we journey forward by faith!

**Zoom Opportunities: Bible Study Sat. 10am / After Church Fellowship Sunday 2pm** The Church office remains officially closed. Phone messages and emails are checked regularly.

Our new tenant at the restaurant will be “Red, White, and Brew” (There is a location in Mesa already). After renovations, a tentative opening late summer is planned. The lease is for ten years with possible extensions. Our thanks to the Church Foundation members and attorney Tom Lloyd for all their work!

## **APRIL - MAY WORSHIP**

**In-Person Worship Sundays 8:30 & 10:30 AM**

**May 2 Abiding in Christ  
Orthodox Easter John 15:1-8**

**May 9 Mothers Day - John 15: 9-17**

**May 16 Sabbath Rest - Psalm 1**

**May 23 Pentecost - Acts 2:1-21  
Remembrance of George Floyd Lynching**

**May 30 - Trinity Sunday (Rev. Gard preaching)  
100th anniversary of Tulsa Black Wall Street Massacre**

# TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer's Report for **March 31, 2021**  
Presented to Cabinet 4/29/2021

## **Income vs Expense:**

Income as of March 31 is \$34,314  
\$29,819 from pledges and other contributions  
\$575 from facility use  
\$3,920 other income  
Total expenses as of March 31 are \$34,837.  
Total expenses exceed income by \$523.

***Budget vs Actual:*** 25% of budget year  
Income as of the end of March 31 is at 28% of the income budget of \$122,450. Year-to-date expenses are at 24% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

## SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

As we transition to meeting in-person while continuing to gather online with Zoom and recorded worship, we need to consider that most likely we are not on a path to “back to the way things were,” but rather we are learning to embrace new ways to be church in a big world of technology and tradition. Currently the COVID-19 numbers have improved enough to allow for limited gatherings, with continued safety precautions. But the rate of added cases in Arizona, and Yavapai in particular, does not allow us to forget the protocols we’ve adopted since the beginning of the pandemic. In this past year, many people have felt lost and left out. They need that social interaction and face-to-face contact with others in worship, song, education, and service. Others have found a new freedom with the possibilities presented by technology. Some people have benefitted in unexpected ways by the use of technology for worship, fellowship, education, and outreach. The theme of the recent Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference was “Both / And” which invites a new way of thinking about how to gather for worship by adopting a hybrid model of both in-person and online worship. Over the 3-day Zoom gathering, April 23-25, we heard some success stories (and some failures) of how

other congregations are managing technology for worship and moving toward in-person gathering. Here are some ideas that were shared: Always keep in mind who we are as a church and why we do what we do. Are we as welcoming online as we have been in person? Designated greeters can welcome new visitors to Zoom worship and fellowship in small Zoom break-out sessions. Telephone conference calls can connect those without computer access—this is done through one person who is also connected through Zoom. In pre-recorded or Zoom worship the liturgy and hymn lyrics can be posted for all to read along. One church provides a 3-minute video on Thursday to introduce the scripture and lesson for the week for contemplation and preparation for Sunday's worship message. In this time of transition, we're "practicing" how to gather again. Don't try to be everything to everybody. There's no right way, and no wrong way. But it all takes practice.

**Julie McCurdy, delegate to 2021 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference.**

## COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CABINET

**We are offering 8:30 & 10:30 AM In- Person Worship services for spacing requirements. Masks required. No congregational singing yet. COVID-19 spread and cases will be monitored and adjustments made as needed.**

## SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org) and look for the tab on the front page
- You can set up regular, ongoing giving or one-time giving.
- Use your credit card and get some points!
- Your bank may have free online bill pay. You find the tab on your online account, fill in the details of the check as you would a regular check, and the bank mail will mail it for you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled

check amount.

- Make a check out to the church and mail it to: 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

The church office is closed going forward, However, someone will pick up the mail on a daily basis to place checks into the safe.

[Visit our website](#)

[Watch Services Here](#)