



Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Service for the Worship of God

4th Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026 | 11:00 AM

Moyers, Mike. *Be Thou My Vision*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57145 Original source: Mike Moyers, mikemoyersfineart.com/.

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision

Music: Irish ballad, arr. Bryan Holten, 2021

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Rev. Dr. Shelly Wood

Introit

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Words: Bernard Kyamanywa, 1966; trans. Howard S. Olson, 1969

Music: Tanzanian melody

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.

For our redeemer burst from the tomb, even from death, dispelling its gloom.

(Refrain:) Let us sing praise to him with endless joy. Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be.

Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly King. (Refrain)

▲ Call to Worship *(Please rise in body or spirit)*

Leader: Glory be to you,

All: God, our strength and our redeemer.

Leader: The vacant cross and the empty tomb vindicate your claim

All: that the love which suffers is the love that saves.

Leader: So fill your people with joy and your church with celebration,

All: that by our praise and our actions the world may know that your Son Jesus is not a dead hero we commemorate, but the living Lord we worship.

▲ Hymn 246

Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

Verses 1-3: Choir and Congregation

Verse 4: Choir Only

Verse 5: Choir and Congregation

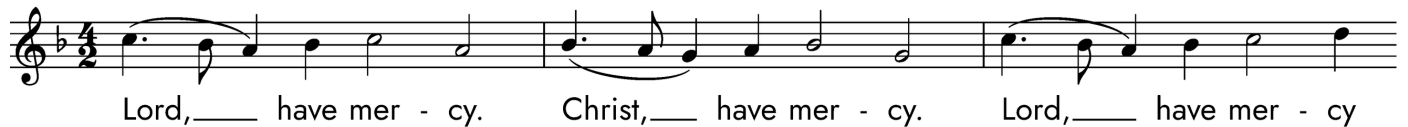
▲ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

God of forgiveness, we pray for new life as we confess our old ways. We hear your promise that the old life passes away and that you make all things new, but we hear it amid our self-doubt. We confess our desire for guarantees when what you offer us is even greater: hope. When you call us to obedience, we set conditions. When you call us to follow, we ask "Where?" Forgive our reluctance to leave our false comforts in order to walk in your newness of life. Amen.

Please join in silent prayer.

▲ Congregational Response

KYRIE ELEISON (ORTHODOX)



Words: Traditional liturgical text
Music: Russian Orthodox chant

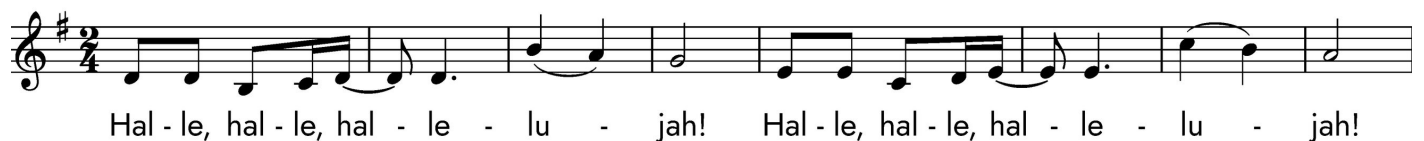
▲ Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

▲ Act of Praise *(sung)*

HALLE, HALLE



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▲ Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Sacred Solo

The Lord Is My Light

Words: Psalm 27

Music: Frances Allitsen

James Huchla, voice and Bryan Holten, piano

Time With Children

Mrs. Noelle Castin

Following children's time, children age 4 through 3rd grade are invited to attend Bridges to Worship on the top floor of the Education Building.

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah: 51:1-6

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13–35

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Down the Road

Rev. Dr. Shelly Wood

Responding to the Word

▲ Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

▲ Affirmation of Faith *(unison)*

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation to Discipleship

Moment for Mission

Planned Giving

Sandy Davis

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

On Easter Day Our Lord Arose
Words: John Bertalot
Music: Suffolk melody, arr. John Bertalot
Meeting House Choir and Bryan Holten, *organ*

On Easter Day our Lord arose triumphantly from the grave;
for on the cross he gave his life for all he came to save.

He first appeared to Magdalene, then to his disciples too;
and in the upper room he said, "My peace I give to you."

O Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth, your praises now we sing;
for you have conquered death and hell, our saviour and our king.

All glory to our risen Lord, who came to set us free;
with Father, Spirit, ever One, the blessed Trinity.

▲ **Doxology 609** *(sung)*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.

▲ **Prayer of Dedication**

Great God, we celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, your interest in us. This day we pray that by your power and by these gifts we offer, you would bring new life where we are worn and tired; new love where we have turned hard-hearted; forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded; and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are the prisoners of ourselves. Amen.

Sending the Word into the World

▲ Hymn 157

I Danced in the Morning

LORD OF THE DANCE

▲ Benediction

▲ Choral Response

Alleluia No. 2 from *Easter Rounds*
Music: Paul Ayres

▲ Postlude

Toccata on "Lasst Uns Erfreuen"
Music: Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne (1623), arr. Bryan Holten (2020)

Composed in the early months of the pandemic, this arrangement explores new ways to "sing" a beloved hymn tune on behalf of a congregation forced to meet without gathering. At the opening of the piece, an exuberant fanfare quickly gives way to the tune presented clearly against a staccato accompaniment. The opening motive is then developed through a series of key changes. This gives way to a final recapitulation of the melody, where we hear long notes in the pedal appearing in canon with the left hand.

▲ Please stand as you are able

Today

Worship Elder is Lynne Boyle and the **Worship Deacon** is Swapna Elias.

Today's flowers are dedicated in celebration of the marriage yesterday of Lauren Mearns and Elias Howard.

Please join us following worship outside on the sidewalk for Fellowship Time.

Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 -10:30 AM

How the Crowd Became a Community: Bible Study on the Book of Acts Through - May 3 , 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Facilitators: Linda Lanam and Rev. Dr. Shelly Wood

Location: Elliot House Church Library

Join Linda and Shelly for a four week course on the Book of Acts and the story of how the crowd of followers became a community of believers. Written by the author of the Gospel of Luke, the Acts of the Apostles continues the story of Jesus' followers. Acts begins by describing the events, confusion, and challenges followers of Jesus experienced immediately following his death. In the opening verses of each book, the writer states his objective: to write "about all that Jesus did and taught" (Acts 1:1) "so that you may know the truth" (Luke 1:4). The arrival of the Holy Spirit in the midst of these folks is remembered in the Christian church as Pentecost.

Saul (Paul) and his conversion are described as the story continues. It becomes clear that Jesus' message is meant for both Israelites and gentiles. The work done by these first followers of Jesus resulted in the spread of Jesus' teachings across the world and through the centuries. Understanding these roots helps us today to connect to our own understanding of this message.

Reformed Critique of Nationalist Theologies

April 26, 9:30-10:30 AM

Facilitator: Kent Myers

Location: Elliot House, Heritage Hall

We invite you to join us for a thoughtful and timely conversation led by Meeting House member Kent Myers. Drawing on the Reformed Institute's 2026 Convocation, titled "Reformed Critique of Nationalist Theologies," Kent will guide a discussion centered on the insights and reflections of Dr. Vince Bacote.

Welcome

Welcome to Old Presbyterian Meeting House. We are glad you are worshipping with us today and hope you will explore the many opportunities of learning, serving and community building at the Meeting House. We are a caring community committed to living the greatest commandment of loving God and loving our neighbors. If you are new in town and/or looking for a church home, please accept this welcome as an open invitation to come with us as we worship and serve Jesus Christ!

Children and Nursery Care

Worship is for the whole family of God, and we welcome all children. Children's worship bags, as well as a basket of books, are available in the church entrance.

Nursery care for infants and children ages 3 and under is available in the Education Building (past the burial ground behind the sanctuary, in the building on the left). A restroom and changing station are available downstairs in the Sanctuary.

Guests

If you'd like to stay connected, please fill out a Guest card from the pew and place it in the offering plate or scan the QR code here. We also have a Welcome Table outside on the sidewalk after worship. Stop by for a gift and join us for fellowship in front of the Sanctuary following worship.



An usher can help with assistive listening devices and large print hymnals.

Our choir rehearses on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45 AM. Please refrain from talking in the sanctuary during their rehearsal time.



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Ways to Give

1. Place your offering in the offering plates.
2. Give online at opmh.org/give or snap the QR code at right.
3. Text *opmh* to 73256
4. Mail a check to 323 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314.



Ongoing

Worship at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM in person and online at 11:00 AM.

Childcare for infants and toddlers

8:15 AM-12:15 PM, Room 14 – Education Building

Children's Sunday School

9:30-10:45 AM, Education Building

Meeting House Youth, Grades 6 to 12

Sunday Morning Gathering, 9:30 AM, Flounder 1B

Youth Group Sunday evenings: Middle School 4:30 - 6:30

PM; High School 6:00-8:00 PM

Adult Education, Elliot House

9:30-10:30 AM, see website for details

Leadership

Rev. Dr. Shelly Wood, Pastor, swood@opmh.org

Rev. Dr. Katherine Stanford, Associate Pastor, kstanford@opmh.org

Rev. Ann Herlin, Associate Pastor, aherlin@opmh.org

Dr. Bryan Holten, Dir. of Music and Organist, bholten@opmh.org

Mrs. Noelle Castin, Dir. of Christian Education, ncastin@opmh.org

Mrs. Mary Pratt Perry, Dir. of Youth Ministry, mpratt@opmh.org

Mr. Aaron Siirila, Business Administrator, asiirila@opmh.org

Mrs. Ellen Haas, Administrative Specialist, ehaas@opmh.org

Mrs. Vicki Stones, Communications/Office Mgr., vstones@opmh.org

Mr. David Heiby, Presbyterian Cemetery, cemetery@opmh.org

Mrs. Tania Ryan, Meeting House Cooperative Preschool Dir.

taniaryan@aol.com

Mr. Paul Browne, Clerk of Session, clerk@opmh.org

Contact the Church Office: 703.549.6670, admin@opmh.org

opmh.org for more info

Upcoming Events

Submit your Graduate's Info



We want to recognize our graduates on May 17. Please send your name, school and degree by May 10 to Vicki, vstones@opmh.org

Volunteers Needed!



Summer Camp is just around the corner, and we'd love for you to be part of it! We're looking for volunteers to help any or all days throughout the week. Join us for a morning, an afternoon, a full day, or a mix and match based on your availability!

Come be part of a joyful week filled with fun, learning, and fellowship as we explore what all living things need, using Psalm 104 as our grounding text. Your time and presence will make a meaningful difference in creating a memorable experience for all involved. If interested, please contact Noelle: ncastin@opmh.org.

Join our Book Group

The Women's Fellowship Book Group will meet to discuss *The Correspondent* on **Tuesday, April 28**. Choose your time and place:
2:30 PM Elliot House Parlor
4:30 PM Old Town Café du Soleil
6:00 PM 1823 Café at VTS

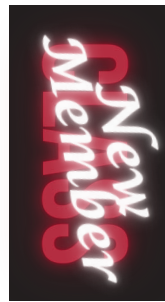
We all read and discuss the same book, just different times and places to meet. Vicki, vstones@opmh.org



Music Sunday

On May 17, both the 8:30 and 11:00 AM worship services will feature the Meeting House Choir, soloists, and organ in a performance of Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*. At once delightfully enigmatic and deeply religious, the work focuses on the joy of creation singing its praises to God. We will also present a few favorites from the past season. Join us for this fitting celebration of Eastertide!

Today! Want to Learn More?



If you are interested in learning more about the Meeting House or are considering membership, the first step is to attend our New Member Class. This class offers an overview of Presbyterian thought, and the particular mission and ministry of the Meeting House. During this class you will have an opportunity to get to know a few of our members, our pastors and learn about what it means to be Presbyterian.

Our next class will meet today, **April 19 from 12:15-1:30 PM** and includes lunch. Please join us!

Five Times You Should Revisit Your Will

Life changes—and so should your will. Join us for a free luncheon and informative conversation with Christopher Wright, a founding partner at Shannon & Wright LLP in Alexandria. Whether you've recently experienced a major life change or it's simply been a while since you last reviewed your plans, this session will offer practical guidance and peace of mind. This luncheon is sponsored by the Planned Giving ministry. **Sunday, April 26, at 12:15 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Alexandria History Tour

Join our Dismantling Racism Team for a tour led by Dave Heiby, historian, on **Sunday, April 26, at 2:00 PM**: "From Enslavement to Justice: How African Americans Forced Change in Alexandria." This tour examines how African Americans—both enslaved and free—forced legal, social, and moral change in Alexandria, from slavery and segregation to emancipation, military service, burial rights, and the long struggle for justice and recognition. Using burial grounds as primary historical sources, the tour highlights resistance, resilience, and reform across generations.

Meet at the corner of Wilkes Street and Hamilton Avenue. Wear good walking shoes for about a 90 minute one mile walk. Rain or shine except for extreme weather. RSVP at opmh.org/events for more details and cancellation information.

For more info about events, opmh.org/events

Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Looking Toward the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in July 2026 Alexandria as Home Front During the War – Part Two

The major military campaigns of the Revolutionary War took place well to the north and south of Alexandria. But, in late 1775, before the Continental Congress would declare independence from Britain on behalf of the United States of America, the Virginia's Royal Governor Dunmore planned to give Alexandria instantaneous fame as the revolution's initial pivotal battleground. Fortunately for Alexandria, Lord Dunmore's plans were scotched prior to implementation.

The story briefly: Royal Governor Dunmore was governing from a squadron of ships in the Chesapeake Bay after dissolving the House of Burgesses and having retreated from Williamsburg and destroying Norfolk, the colony's largest town. The fleet, which included more than one hundred vessels – some from the Royal Navy, others requisitioned from Virginians – sailed around the Chesapeake Bay marauding and seeking to recruit runaway slaves. Word in the taverns and coffee shops of Alexandria was that the expedition included “four thousand men to destroy the town [i.e., Alexandria and locals responded by beginning] to remove their most valuable effects out of the town”.

Dunmore's expedition was to sail up the Potomac River, destroying plantations along the way – most importantly those of George Washington and George Mason – and, capture Alexandria. Dunmore's forces would join together with a force of British and Native Americans being assembled by Dr. John Connolly in the Ohio Country. If successful, this operation, which was undertaken with the approval of General Thomas Gage, commander-in-chief of British land forces in North America, would divide the American colonies into two separate geographic domains that would be unable to support each other. The command headquarters for the well-fortified line dividing the colonies was to be Alexandria.

In December 1775, the anxieties raised by this contemplated operation, which would have placed Alexandria at the very center of the nascent conflict, were expressed in a letter sent by the local Committee of Correspondence to the fourth Virginia Convention. It read, in part – “[is] this part of the country [i.e., Virginia] to be left unguarded? It appears, not only from public papers, but Lord Dunmore's assignation with Dr. John Connolly that Alexandria is to be their place of rendezvous in the month of April next, a place well-known to the officers who were out on Gen. [Edward] Braddock's Expedition [during the Seven Years' War], as a safe harbor for ships of war and commanding a most material part of the Colony.” Note: Congregation members – John Carlyle, John Dalton, William Ramsay, and John Muir were among the seven members of this committee.

Fortunately for Alexandrians, plans for John Connolly's western portion of the operation were discovered in November 1775 while he was near Hagerstown, Maryland – the land-based portion of the operation had been foiled. British ships that had entered the Potomac River engaged in raids from St. Mary's County, Maryland, as far north as Quantico, Virginia, about twenty-five miles south of Alexandria, before returning to the open waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Anxieties in Alexandria continued into the new year. James Kirk, a loyalist, reported in a letter at the end of January 1776 – “that Lord Dunmore was coming up the [Potomac] River as soon as the ice would permit him and desiring us to send him all the wagons that we can get.”

Members of Alexandria's Committee of Safety wrote to their counterparts at Annapolis shortly thereafter – “We have been frequently alarmed with Dunmore and his banditti, and when he lately made his appearance in our river, it was presumed his intention was to make this place an object of his attention ... Should you be attacked, and our assistance necessary, we would cheerfully obey the summons of liberty, humanity, and neighbourly affection, and fly to your assistance; we should be wanting in duty if we did not, because we are not bound up by any ordinance, nor command, but are at full liberty to exert ourselves in behalf of ourselves and in that of a sister colony [*italics added as this is an activity that had been explicitly prohibited during the colonial period.*” Alexandrians would equip their own small squadron of ships but would live with the anxiety that they remained vulnerable to naval attack by the British throughout the war.

If you would like to take a tour and hear more about our history, please contact the church office,
703.549.6670 or our Historian, Dr. Don Dahmann, ddahmann@yahoo.com

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