

*First Presbyterian Church
418 West Coolidge
Borger, TX 79007
~April 2017~*

First Presbyterian Church
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Secretary- Silvia Rivera
Pastor: Rev. Janell Blair
Pianist: Marilyn Pearce

Sometimes I feel drained of energy. What comfort then to hear God say to me, as to that ancient valley of dry bones: “I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live” (Ezekiel 37:5, ESV).

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

April

Borger, Texas

2017

“Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life.”

(Romans 6:4)

I drive to and from Borger on Highway 136. Since early March a swath of this highway has been scarred black by one of the wildfires that burned through our area. Driving along this road the day after the wildfire, the pastures on either side still had little plumes of smoke rising. A week after the fires I noticed an antelope grazing on charred ground. I had not seen any antelopes on my drive for well over a year and now there was one nibbling on burnt weeds? What did the antelope know that I did not?

Each trip to Borger in these succeeding weeks, I have noted a rapid return of green all along the charred pastureland. It appears that Spring has returned far more quickly to the burned fields than to those untouched by the disaster. The last Sunday of March, speeding up the hills on Highway 136, I saw a small herd of antelope in the new green. Two young antelope were playfully locking horns as the others grazed.

The human residents of the Panhandle have been understandably caught up in the grief and recovery work that our recent wildfires have wrought. Meanwhile, all around us, the natural world has gone about the annual tasks of moving from winter dormancy into glorious new life. Trees and flowers have been blooming profusely, grass is greening up even in the wake of devastating fire, and young antelope are at play.

Sometimes we need the reminder that nature offers. We get locked into cycles of bad news, worry, despair, and go about our days waiting for more of it. And yet, as Christians, we are an Easter People. Those who follow Jesus Christ are well acquainted with grief and darkness, but we are not allowed to dwell there. Paul reminds us of our calling to “walk in the newness of life” a new life that only Christ can give.

This month we walk through the end of the holy season of Lent, through Holy Week and into the glory and triumph that is Easter, the “Day of Resurrection”! Our lectionary passages this month will help guide our walk: we will follow Christ and his disciples from the raising of Lazarus through all the passages that lead us from Christ’s “triumphal entry into Jerusalem” through the Passion of Christ, and then we will follow from the cross to the empty tomb and

join the disciples in struggling with the meaning of the Resurrection in the “upper room” and along the road to Emmaus.

We have a lot of spiritual territory to cover this month! As we make this journey together during our worship, may we also make this journey in our hearts and our daily lives that we may know well the joy of new life in Christ. Let us walk gratefully in the newness of life that Christ’s resurrection brings!

With joy,
Janell



April Birthdays:

3 – Dara Garlington

14 – Casey Winegar

15 – Malnor Arthur

19 – Carroll Pace

25 – Janie Lambert

Anniversaries

No Anniversaries this month

Special dates

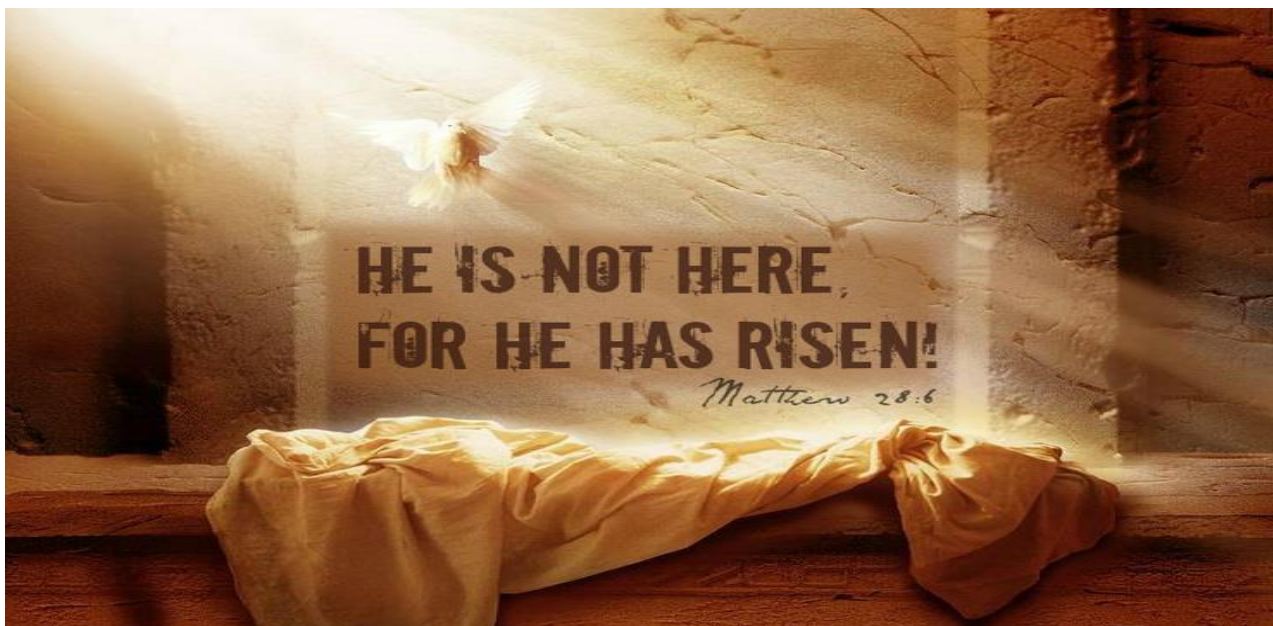
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, *April 2, 2017*
 - Palm/Passion Sunday, *April 9, 2017*
 - Holy Week, *April 9-15, 2017*
 - Maundy Thursday, *April 13, 2017*
 - Good Friday, *April 14, 2017*
 - Holy Saturday, *April 15, 2017*
 - Easter Sunday, *April 16, 2017*
 - Administrative Professionals Day, *April 26, 2017*
-

Easter lifts the fog

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose, the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen.

Is it not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life.

—George Mecklenberg



Easter's dawn



On the third day, the friends of Christ coming at daybreak ... found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn.

—G.K. Chesterton

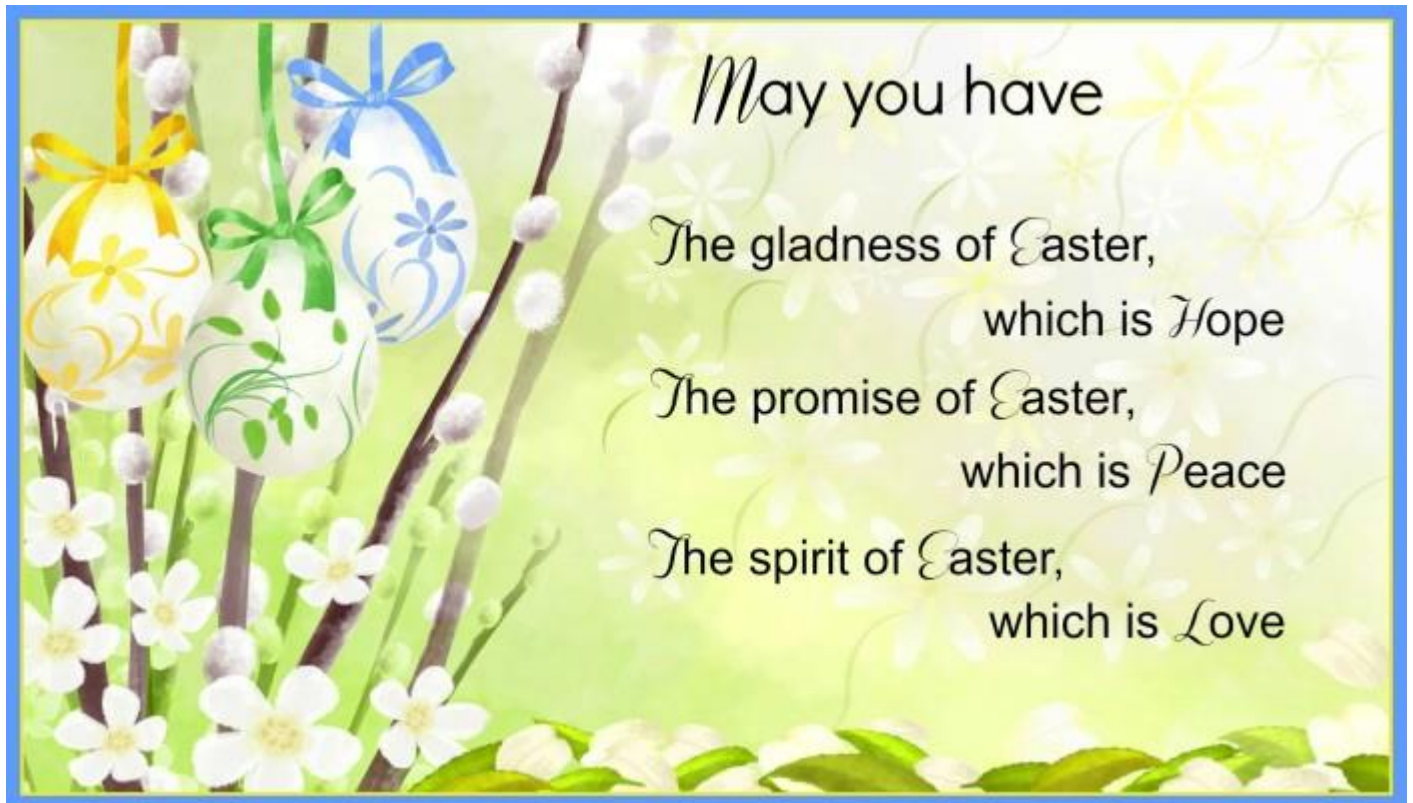
When we can't find Easter

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's *wrong* with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. *You're* okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us — if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too.

—Heidi Mann



The Treasurer reported the following figures for January, 2017:

Total Income	\$	8,522.99
Total Expenses	\$	<u>5,981.58</u>
Total	\$	2,541.41

Year to Date

Total Income	\$	8,522.99
Total Expenses	\$	<u>5,981.58</u>
Total	\$	2,541.41



“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.” Proverbs 11:24



Care of Members and Friends

Malnor Arthur

Teddy Buckland

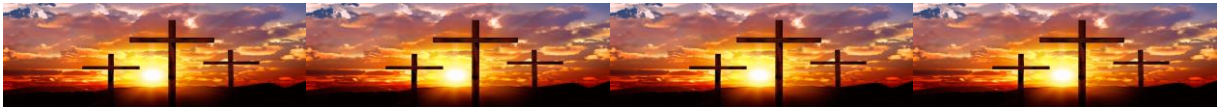
First Presbyterian Church of
Dumas, our prayer partner.

DUTY ELDER FOR APRIL

MARGARET EDGINGTON

SESSION MEETING

April 23, 2017



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of John and Mary Lewis. The Lewis's were very active in our Church and will be remembered fondly.

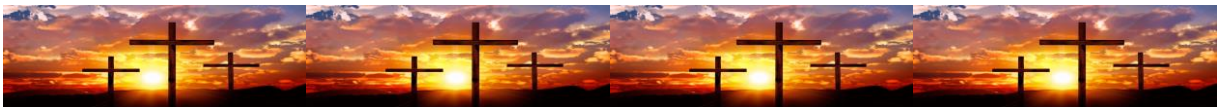
John and Mary Lewis (1923 - 2016)

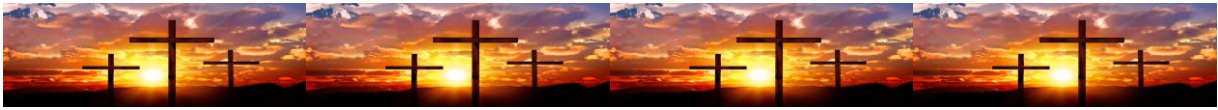


ODESSA - John Oliver Lewis (8/8/1923-12/29/2016), Odessa, TX

John was born to Hazel Franklin and Charles Lewis in Danville, IL, where he grew up a lifelong Cubs and Illini fan. He met the love of his life, Mary Virginia Dodd, and they married when he returned from service in WWII. John graduated from the University of Illinois with a civil engineering degree. From there, he went to work for Phillips Petroleum Co. and spent his entire career with them, going from Bartlesville, OK, to plants in Phillips & Borger, TX; Toledo, OH; London & Teesside, UK; Woods Park, UT; and finishing out his career back in Borger, TX. He spent a good part of his career as a plant manager in many of those places until he retired after 38 years when he and Virginia moved to Albuquerque & Angel Fire, NM; and then to Odessa, TX, to be closer to family.

John was active in the Presbyterian Church, being a Deacon, Elder, Clerk of the Session, and a lay representative of the National Council of Churches.





Mary Virginia (Dodd) Lewis(1924 - 2016)

Mary Virginia Lewis (7/15/1924-3/14/2016), Odessa, TX

ODESSA Mrs. (Mary) Virginia Dodd Lewis, of Odessa, TX, passed away on Monday, March 14, 2016, at the age of 91.

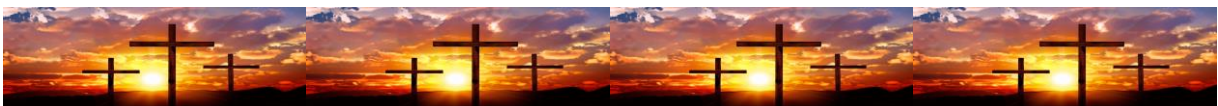
Virginia was born to parents, Arleigh Francis Dodd and Lucy May Edwards Dodd, on July 15, 1924. She was an only child. She grew up in Danville, IL, where she met and eventually married John Oliver Lewis in 1946. They would have been married 70 years in April. They had three daughters and raised them in Oklahoma, Texas, and Ohio.

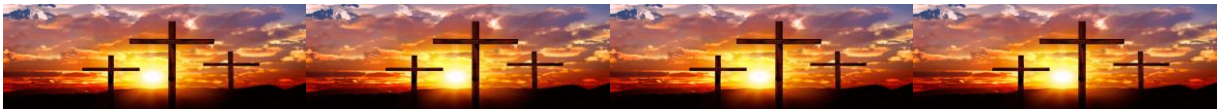
Virginia was a devoted wife and mother. She was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Odessa, and through the years served the Presbyterian Church as an Elder, Clerk of the Session, Sunday School teacher, Moderator for the Women's Association, as well as serving on various Presbytery committees. She loved to cook, do needlepoint, knit, work crossword puzzles, play Scrabble, and was very well read. She was an intelligent woman, kind, caring and loving, yet strong and protective of those she loved. She enjoyed life in Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas, Ohio, England, and Utah before returning back to Texas and later retiring in New Mexico. While in Texas and Ohio she studied Library Science and was a member of Kappa Delta Pi (National Education Society); in England she took art classes in needlework. In New Mexico, she was a member of the Assistance League of Albuquerque and the American Needlepoint Guild.

Virginia is survived by her husband, John; her three daughters, Susan Ptacek, Lincoln, NE, Cindy Fouche (Phil), Odessa, TX, and Nancy Lewis-Means, Abilene, TX; five grandchildren: Genevieve Larson, Emily Sheets (Jeff), Jody Harvey, Nathan Hopkins (Kim) and Johnny Hopkins (Jena); and seven great-grandchildren: Samantha Larson, Peyton Harvey, Parker Harvey, Camden Hopkins, Noelle Hopkins, Kate Hopkins and Addison Hopkins. She was preceded in death by her parents, Arleigh and Lucy Dodd.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date in Abilene, TX, at First Central Presbyterian Church. The family is most grateful for the loving care provided by her doctors, Dr. Anjaiah Kodityal and Dr. Meera Kodityal, Dr. Abdul Kadir and Dr. Sudhir Amaram, as well as the outstanding love and care she received from the staff at Brookdale Assisted Living of Odessa. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society .

Arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home. To send family condolences please sign the guest registry at www.sunsetodessa.com.





Gary Charles Voigt escaped his worldly bonds to join the heavenly orchestra on March 13, 2017 at the age of 83. He was born on August 2, 1932 in New Braunfels, Texas to H.H. (Chili) and Wanda (nee Albrecht) Voigt.

Born during the Depression, the third of 3 children, Gary made friends quickly with his natural ability to make people laugh. He was part of a tight knit group of musician friends, raising their children together to either play or appreciate great music and to think outside the box.

Gary was a gifted drummer. Incredible talent and passion allowed him to play across multiple genres including jazz, military, big band and polka. In New Braunfels High School Band, Gary won numerous awards and rose in leadership to orchestra student conductor. His first "paying gigs" were at age 14, playing dance jobs with the Lee Kohlenberg Orchestra and the Al Schnabel Orchestra. After high school, he attended The University of Texas, while playing with the Allen Pittmann and Van Kirk Orchestras. Although he spent nearly 25 years of Saturday nights playing with the Hi Toppers, and was the requested drummer for Myron Floren for many years, a little jazz trio held a special place in Gary's heart. When not playing music, he was listening to music and had a fantastic record collection.

As if that wasn't enough music, Gary served 15 years in the 36th Division National Guard Band, where the duties included military parades and functions for dignitaries. As part of that band, he also performed with "The T-Patchers" orchestra. There was still room for more music, so he performed and competed with the American Legion Post #179 Band.

In 1954, Gary's best friend & comedic sidekick, introduced him to June Keith. No one had ever made her laugh so hard in her life. They were wed in June 1955. Together they shared 61 years of love, laughter and music while raising their children, Tara, Greta and Todd.

Gary's love of people led him to serve others and the community he grew up in, including New Braunfels Jaycees, over 25 years in the New Braunfels Volunteer Fire Department, New Braunfels Rotary Club, Wurstfest Association Opa, First Protestant Church Sunday School teacher & Council Member, New Braunfels ISD School Board Trustee '73-'75. He was also a proud Texas Ex and diehard Longhorn sports fan.

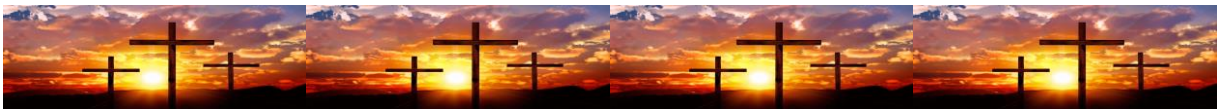
In 1975, Gary and family began a new era, as he and June joined Keith Furniture & Appliance in Borger, Texas. Again his quick wit and comedic charm helped him to build great new friendships.

In Borger, he was a member of the Elks Club and First Presbyterian Church. Gary is preceded in death by his parents; sister & brother-in-law, Gladys & Kermit Greebon; his brother & sister-in-law, Dean & Beth Voigt; his sisters-in law, Dona Pavillard & Jan Summers; brother-in-law Dr. Walter Guyton; nephew Alan Voigt and his very special niece Karen Greebon.

He is survived by his daughters, Tara Kohlenberg (Michael) of New Braunfels and Greta Newsom of Amarillo; son, Todd Voigt (Sandi) of Frisco; grandchildren, Amanda Nelson (John), Kelly Neumann (Shaun), Shannon Campbell (Landry), Kimberly Donnell (Brad), Russell Newsom, Austin Voigt and Mason Voigt; great-grandchildren, Emily, Collin and Rylan. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Glenda Guyton of Tuscaloosa, AL; brothers-in-law, J.D. Pavillard of Amarillo and Darrell Summers of Lubbock, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11am Saturday, March 18 at First Presbyterian Church in Borger. Private internment will be held at later date.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Cerebral Palsy Foundation or First Presbyterian Church, 418 W. Coolidge, Borger, TX.



*The cross means that
the old has passed
away;
the empty tomb
means that all things
have become new.*





Session Connection:

Julia Kasch	Clerk Of Session/Administration/Christian Ed.
Sue Hooten	Fellowship
Don Thompson	Property
Margaret Edgington	Worship



HI-PLAINS HELPING HAND DONATION:

First Presbyterian Church has recently increased its financial donation to the agency and will no longer gather food or hygiene products.



Communion will be celebrated on Easter Sunday.



June Voigt would like to extend her sincerest thanks to First Presbyterian Church family for their love and support during this difficult time of losing Gary. She would like to thank the group that put together the meal and everyone for the memorials in Gary's name. Everyone's generosity of their time, flowers and gifts are greatly appreciated.



First Presbyterian Church will be joining First United Methodist Church and Wesley United Methodist Church in celebrating Lent at noon every Tuesday with a message and brown bag lunch. If you would like to attend contact the office during office hours for a schedule.





**April 2017 Revised Common Lectionary
for Sundays and Festivals
Year A**

Fifth Sunday in Lent—April 2

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6–11

John 11:1–45

Palm/Passion Sunday—April 9

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1–11

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Psalm 31:9–16

Philippians 2:5–11

Matthew 26:14—27:66 *or* Matthew 27:11–54

Monday of Holy Week—April 10

Isaiah 42:1–9

Psalm 36:5–11

Hebrews 9:11–15

John 12:1–11

Tuesday of Holy Week—April 11

Isaiah 49:1–7

Psalm 71:1–14

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

John 12:20–36

Wednesday of Holy Week—April 12

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Psalm 70

Hebrews 12:1–3

John 13:21–32

Maundy Thursday—April 13

Exodus 12:1–4 [5–10] 11–14

Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Good Friday—April 14

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16–25 *or* Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

John 18:1—19:42

Easter Vigil—April 15

A minimum of three Old Testament readings should be chosen.

The reading from Exodus 14 should always be used.

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Psalm 136:1–9, 23–26

Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

Psalm 46

Genesis 22:1–18

Psalm 16

Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21

Exodus 15:1b–13, 17–18

Isaiah 55:1–11

Isaiah 12:2–6

Baruch 3:9–15, 32—4:4 *or* Proverbs 8:1–8, 19–21; 9:4b–6

Psalm 19

Ezekiel 36:24–28

Psalm 42 and 43

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Psalm 143

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Psalm 98

Romans 6:3–11

Psalm 114

Matthew 28:1–10

Resurrection of the Lord—April 16**Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34–43 *or* Jeremiah 31:1–6

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

Colossians 3:1–4 *or* Acts 10:34–43

John 20:1–18 *or* Matthew 28:1–10

Easter Evening

Isaiah 25:6–9

Psalm 114

1 Corinthians 5:6b–8

Luke 24:13–49

Second Sunday of Easter—April 23

Acts 2:14a, 22–32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3–9

John 20:19–31

Third Sunday of Easter—April 30

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19

1 Peter 1:17–23

Luke 24:13–35

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 1



The role of the cross



If the cross is the place where the worst thing that could happen happened, it is also the place where the best thing that could happen happened. Ultimate hatred and ultimate love met on those two crosspieces of wood. Suffering and love were brought into harmony. ...

To be “saved” requires a severance from the former life as clean and sharp as though made by a knife. There must be a wall of separation between the old life and the new, a radical break. That means death — death to the old life, in order for the new to begin. ... This wall of separation, this barrier, is the cross.

—Elisabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering*
