



PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY



WEEKLY PRESBYTERY LETTER - MARCH 31, 2015
Rev. Graham Hart - General Presbyter

Speaking From the Hart - Because Christ Lives...

It is just a song, never heard it before, but after supper, listening to the radio on the way to the gym, it captured my attention. In fact, so much so that before finishing my work out, I had found it on YouTube and listened to it 5 times.

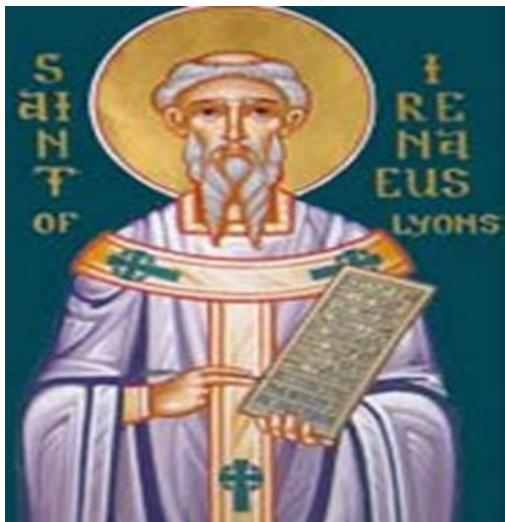
The song is "Because He Lives" by Matt Mayer.

- [Click here for the studio version](#),
- Or [click here for the edited music video version](#) (with ads).

The song has a Christmas carol quality, with a bridge (chorus) that is catchy:

*Amen, Amen
I'm alive, I'm alive
Because He lives
Amen, Amen
Let my song join the one that never ends
Because He lives.*

Saint Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons in the 2nd century, in his monumental work - Against Heresies, wrote: "*The Glory of God is a human being fully alive*", or as it is often translated from Latin: "*Man Fully Alive is the Glory of God.*"



"I am alive because he lives." And, according to Ireneus, the Glory of God is wrapped up in you and me being fully alive.

Questions:

- Are we fully alive?
- Are we as a church fully alive?
- As a presbytery, are we alive? Fully alive?
- What would it look like if we were?
- What doesn't it look like?
- What are some ways we can better appropriate and live into this reality that the angel's words bring us: *He is not here... He is Risen... and he has gone on ahead of you.*

As always, I would love to hear your thoughts as we seek to live in light of the message, hope and God's gift to us at Easter.

*Grateful this Easter that because Christ lives...
we can be fully alive...
to God be the Glory!*

Grateful to God who continues to be the Wind in our Sails and the Rudder to Guide us in the Way,

Graham

Graham Hart

General Presbyter

graham@peacriverpresbytery.org

The articles below may be of interest to you ...

[Across world, Christians observe Palm Sunday](#)

Washington Post: The day marks the beginning of Holy Week.

[Indiana law: Does freedom of religion mean freedom to discriminate?](#)

Christian Science Monitor: Vexing national debate has begun to rage over the extent and legal limits of each side's visions for the nation's common life together -- or how uncommon lives should interact within the public sphere.

The Atlantic: [What makes Indiana's religious-freedom law different?](#)

[Theologians study Seattle for future of 'church'](#)

KING 5 News: Theologians and sociologists are paying close attention to churches in Seattle to get a sense of the church's future.

[How 'one nation' didn't become 'under God' until the '50s religious revival](#)

NPR: New book investigates how the idea of America as a Christian nation was promoted in the 1930s and '40s and then moved to center stage in the '50s under Eisenhower's watch.

[The role of religion](#)

First Things: Holding government and society accountable to norms and principles that transcend the flux of public opinion can be a healthy faith-based approach to life in a pluralistic society, says Richard J. Mouw.

[Television puts more faith in religious-themed projects](#)

Los Angeles Times: Eager to tap into the vast and often overlooked faith-based audience, networks are now embracing spiritually oriented shows.

MISION PENIEL

A Ministry of Peace River Presbytery to the Farmworkers in Immokalee

The Mision Peniel Task Force continues to meet and build the support and structure for continuing this vital ministry. If you want to make a donation to support this recovery effort you may send the check (marked Mision Peniel) to Peace River Presbytery | 5600 Peace River Rd. | North Port, FL. 34287.

- Volunteer Position Opening: Publications Coordinator ([click for information](#))
- Meal Serving Schedule ([click for information](#))
- Collection Centers for Mision Peniel Supplies ([click for information](#))
- Critical Needs List ([click for information](#))

BETH-EL FARMWORKER MINISTRY, INC.

A Ministry to the Farmworkers in Wimauma

[Position Opening: Executive Director](#)

[Winter 2015 Newsletter](#)

[Fall 2014 Newsletter](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following are position openings in PRP churches.

Click on the title for more information.

[Part-Time Choir Director](#) – Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

[Interim Choir Director](#) – Trinity Presbyterian Church, Venice

[Organist / Pianist / Accompanist](#) – Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton

PRAYER NEEDS:

Please continue to pray for:

- Anita Adkison, mother of Rev. Dr. Stephen Adkison, Pastor of Chapel By The Sea – recovery from breast cancer surgery and treatment to follow. Lives in Arkansas.
- Rev. Susan Rice, Associate Pastor of Faith, Cape Coral – health

- Greg Beckwith (son of Jim and Becky Beckwith) – kidney failure – is undergoing dialysis and is on a kidney transplant list. Greg is also diabetic and underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery in June 2013.
- Glenn Beisser (father of Rev. Devon Beisser Ducheneau, Stated Supply Pastor for Wintergarden P.C.) – lung cancer and heart issues
- Hmingi Browne’s (A.P. of Church of the Palms) sister, Nutei – health
- Grandson of Tim and Martha Halverson - suffering from a rare autoimmune disease.
- Beth-El Farmworker Ministry
- Misión Peniel
- Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center
- Dan and Elizabeth Turk, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Madagascar
- Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers in Bangladesh
- Pastors and Educators in transition
- Nations in crisis

CHURCH PRAYER GUIDE: APRIL 2015:

April 5	<u>First Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin email: dino@firstpresbradenton.com
April 12	<u>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Dr. Hope Lee email: hope@kpcbrenton.org
April 19	<u>Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. India Dennis Email: pastorindy@gmail.com
April 26	<u>Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton</u> Pastor: Rev. Rob Swinsburg email: pastorrobwpc@verizon.net

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR: APRIL 2015

You may view the entire calendar on the Presbytery web site: www.peaceriverpresbytery.org

April 3

Good Friday – PRP Office Closed

April 5

Easter

April 9

Nominations / Representation Committee @ St. Paul's Presbyterian, North Port
Finance Team / Board of Trustees

April 14

Committee On Ministry

April 15

Committee On Preparation For Ministry

April 20

Planning Team – Conference Call Meeting

April 23

Mision Peniel Task Force @ Covenant Presbyterian, Ft. Myers

April 26

Installation Service for Rev. Dino Rustin @ First, Bradenton

April 29

Committee On Preparation For Ministry