



Our Mission...

to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.

We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.

Second Sunday of Easter
April 11th, 2021

Bold print indicates a congregational response.

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

WELCOME and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The light of Christ rises in glory,
Overcoming the darkness of sin and death.*

PRELUDE: "Thine is the Glory"

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*~ words by Edmond L. Budry
~ Michael McKay*

This morning, as we approach the risen Christ in worship, we find him waiting for us, as expressed in the words from the great Easter hymn Thine is the Glory: "Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom." Let our spirits, ever doubting, like Thomas (who we shall hear about in today's Gospel lesson) find a voice: "My Lord and my God!"

2 Lo! Jesus meets us. Risen from the tomb,
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let our doubting spirits find a voice to sing:
Christ who died is living; death has lost its sting. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Thine is the glory, Resurrected One!
Endless is the vict'r'y now for us begun!

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Book of Common Order, Church of Scotland)

*Jesus Christ, we greet you!
Your hands still have holes in them,
Your feet are wet from the dew;
And with the memory of our names
undimmed by three days of death,*

You meet us, risen from the grave.
We fail to understand how;
We puzzle at the reason why.
But you have come:
Not to answer our questions but to show us your face.
You are alive,
And the world can rejoice again. Hallelujah! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt,
may we, who have not seen, have faith
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

(Sunday in-person service only)

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Sheron Miller (Thursday & on-line); Melissa Fleury (Sunday)

First Lesson

Acts 4: 32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Epistle

1 John 1: 1 – 2: 2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the

blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

RESPONSE: *This is the word of God.*

Thanks be to God

INTERLUDE: #606 VU – **“In Christ There is No East or West”** ~words by John Oxenham
(Words reproduced & music played with permission under license #A-620529) ~Michael McKay

The readings we have just heard speak of fellowship with God and with one another; they also speak of the community of believers being “of one heart and soul”. This finds expression in the hymn In Christ There Is No East or West: “In Christ, there is no east or west... but one great family of love.”

The Gospel

John 20: 19-31

~Rev. Don Johnson

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

RESPONSE: *The Gospel of Christ.*

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

"That First Easter Evening"

~Rev. Don Johnson (see the attached sermon)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A New Creed

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS

...Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

forever and ever. Amen.

A FINAL PRAYER

You have given yourself to us, Lord.

Now we give ourselves for others.

You have raised us with Christ and made us a new people.

As people of the resurrection, we will serve you with joy.

Your glory has filled our hearts.

Help us to glorify you in all things. Amen

THE BLESSING

May the power of the cross,

the joy of the resurrection,

and the presence of our risen Lord be with you, now and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE: #586 VU – “We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection”

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~Michael McKay

As we leave today, having encountered the risen Christ—like Thomas, let us “go out in hope of resurrection... of all the world united within the vision of new life in Christ.” Let us resolve to be like the early church we heard about today, giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with our transformed lives, making sure there is not a needy person among us.