

## Second Sunday of Easter Worship Service, April 11, 2021

**Greeting** God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

**Question of the Day** What does it mean to “livestream”?

a) live by a stream b) be carried away by water c) to transmit “live” d) ask for trouble

### **Call to Worship**

Life has been revealed to us in this Easter season.

**We testify to life!**

Early believers were of one heart and soul.

**We are called to find common ground in Christ.**

Peace be with you as we celebrate resurrection.

**Christ is with us to renew our faith  
as we testify to God’s grace.**

### **Prayer of Invocation**

**Breathe in us, O Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to open our minds, unlock our hearts, and enliven our faith so that we may welcome the risen one with us. Amen.**

**Hymn** “Here I Am to Worship”

### **John 20:19-31 *New Revised Standard Version***

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.

### **Acts 4:32-35 *New Revised Standard Version***

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.

### **I John 1:1—2:2 *New Revised Standard Version***

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:** *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

**Hymn** “Surely the Presence of the Lord”

### **Time of Prayer**

#### **How Is It With Your Soul?**

#### **Call to Confession**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name. (Time of Silent Prayer)**

#### **Assurance**

We have an advocate with God – Jesus Christ, the righteous one – who offered his life in love to save the world from sin. This is the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. And with Jesus we pray together:

### **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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Answer to the Question of the Day**

**Time of Offering** *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

#### **Offering Prayer**

**Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for light and life and love, and – above all – the presence of the living Lord among us. By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**Sermon** “Ready to Testify?” Rev. Joyce Rich

#### **Commission and Blessing**

You are sent into the world as a sign of God's love.

Go forth, carrying God's peace to all you meet.

**We will listen and speak as God guides us.**

You are commissioned as a bearer of God's forgiveness.

Announce good news, sharing your testimony.

**We will extend the fellowship of light  
and help reconcile others to God.**

The grace of Jesus Christ has been poured out on you.

God ordains a blessing for you: life forevermore.

**Our fears are unlocked; our faith is renewed.**

**We will invite others to share the joy!**

Amen. **And Amen.**

**Hymn** “Blessed Assurance”

### **Announcements**

**Readings For Next Week:** Luke 24:36b-48; I John 3:1-7

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B**, Lavon Bayler © 1996 United Church Press; and **Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume I**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press.*