



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Our hope in this season of COVID-19 is that all who worship virtually feel welcome and a sense of God's love through Jesus Christ.

This Easter text, first in French and later in English, was written to fit the music, a chorus created for Handel's oratorio Joshua and moved to Judas Maccabeus in 1751. It grew widely popular following its use at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

FOR WORSHIP

The gospel lesson on the second Sunday of Easter each year is the story of "Doubting Thomas," Jesus' disciple who refused to believe the other disciples' account of Jesus' resurrection without seeing it for himself. The placement of this story of incredulity immediately following the joy of Easter acknowledges the complexity of belief.

PRELUDE

Alleluias
Variations on "The Strife Is O'er"
Janice Robison, Organist

Robert Lau
Janet Linker

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Robert E. Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!*
P: The whole creation rejoices; the birds sing from every tree.
L: Alleluia! Christ is in our midst!
P: Words cannot express our overflowing hearts.
L: Alleluia! Christ is our light forever!
P: breathing peace on us in these moments; surrounding us with grace and hope.

HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

**1 Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.**

**Refrain:
Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.**

**2 Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting. (Refrain)**

**3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. (Refrain)**

*In the presence of a holy God,
we become aware of the ways
we fall short of God's best
hopes for us, and the ways we
have hurt others. We turn to
God in prayer, asking for
forgiveness.*

*We express gratitude that
through God's grace and
Christ's giving of himself on
the cross we are forgiven and
restored to God and one
another.*

*On behalf of the congregation,
the Pastor expresses the
corporate prayers of the
congregation. These prayers
are for world, local and
personal concerns.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news.

P. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ANTHEM

Footsteps Lyrics, Jonathan Cook/arr. Craig Courtney
AFPC Small Ensemble

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Helen King

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Psalm 133

John 20: 19-31

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Bearing the marks of his wounds

Rev. Robert E. Martin

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

HYMN

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

DUNLAP'S CREEK

1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."

2 We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found.

4 And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Jesus Christ Is Risen"
Janice Robison, Organist

Noel Rawsthorne