

*Our mission is to love God, to love our neighbor as ourselves,
and to nurture and strengthen our Christian faith.*

SUNDAY, April 18, 2021

Presiding – Debbie Stockdale

We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

SEED OF MEDITATION

Faith and doubt both are needed - not as antagonists, but working side by side to take us around the unknown curve.

Lillian Smith

PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

FOCUSING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

In believing and in doubting, we come together this morning to worship,
and God welcomes us.

With peaceful hearts and anxious hearts, we come together this morning to worship,
and God accepts us.

As individuals, as a faith community, we come together this morning to worship,
and God's Word speaks to us.

With rejoicing, with sorrow, we come together this morning to worship,
and the risen Christ is alive among us bringing us hope and light.

OPENING PRAYER:

Risen Christ, yours is the heartbeat of grace deep within us,
the light step beside us on our journeys, the footprints in the sand, revealing how you
carry us when we grow weary.

Yours is the face we glimpse when we perceive one another's holiness. Yours are the
promises: that life conquers death, that goodness is stronger than evil, and that we can
build our lives around your shining light.

Show us where you are today, in this place, and in each of us. Amen.

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HYMN God, We Praise You for the Morning (VU #415)

1. God, we praise you for the morning; hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer and promise, joy in work and in play.

2. God, we praise you for creation, mountains, seas and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing in your bountiful hand.

3. God, we praise you for compassion, all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears and laughter, help your children to grow.

4. God, we praise you for your Spirit, Comforter and daily friend;
restless searcher, gentle teacher, strength and courage you send.

5. God, we praise you for the Saviour, come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising, Christ is Lord of our days.

6. Hallelujah, hallelujah, Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Christ is Lord of our days!

READINGS

A Contemporary Word

Take faith, for example. For many people in our world, the opposite of faith is doubt. The goal, then, within this understanding, is to eliminate doubt. But faith and doubt aren't opposites. Doubt is often a sign that your faith has a pulse, that it's alive and well and exploring and searching. Faith and doubt aren't opposites, they are, it turns out, excellent dance partners.

Rob Bell

Silence ...

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart. And try to love the questions themselves.—

Rainer Maria Rilke

Silence ...

An Ancient Word

John 20:19-31 Behind Locked Doors, *The Scholars Version*

That Sunday evening, the disciples had locked the doors for fear of the Judeans, but Jesus came and stood in front of them and he greets them: "Peace."

Then he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were delighted to see the Master. Jesus greets them again: "Peace," he says. "Just as the Father has sent me, so now I am sending you." And at this he breathed over them and says, "Here's some holy spirit. Take it. If you forgive anyone their sins, they are forgiven them; if you do not release them from their sins, they are not released."

Now Thomas, the one known as 'the Twin', one of the twelve, hadn't been with them when Jesus put in his appearance. So the other disciples tried to tell him, "We've seen the Master." But he responded, "Unless I see the holes the nails made, and put my finger in them, and my hand in his side, I will never believe."

A week later the disciples were again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus comes and stood in front of them, and said, "Peace." Then he says to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; take your hand and put it in my side. Don't be skeptical but be a believer. Thomas responded, "My Master! My God!" "Do you believe because you have seen me?" asks Jesus. "Those who can believe without having to see are the ones to be congratulated."

Although Jesus performed many more miracles for his disciples to see than could be written down in this book, these are written down so you will come to believe that Jesus is the Anointed, God's son - and that by believing this have life in his name.

SPECIAL MUSIC

REFLECTION Finding New Life Behind Closed Doors

HYMN Doubters by Linnea Good - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-zPPmVtW6U>

HONOURING OUR GIFTS

God of abundant life, we offer our gifts with love in response to your great love for us. Fill us with the spirit of the risen Christ and inspire us to live in your way. Amen

LITTLE GIFTS OF NEW LIFE – Darlene Heynen

DEDICATION PRAYER

Today we celebrate the gift of new life in Christ. We pray that our gifts – gifts of time, talents, love and money – will bring new life and resurrection joy to our world. Amen.

A TIME OF PRAYER

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Now we sing together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray: (VU #959):

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING and COMMISSIONING

HYMN We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection (VU #586)

We shall go out with hope of resurrection,
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
Tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,
We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed,
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
Within the vision of new life in Christ.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken,
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed,
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
Expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
Raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story
Including all in circles of our love.

POSTLUDE