



## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 16, 2023

10:00 am

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### GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

\*please stand as you are able, in body or spirit

**Bold** indicates congregational response.

### INTROIT

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*The bonds of death could not hold Jesus.*

**We hid in fear, but now we are dancing in the streets.**

*Jesus is not in the tomb. Jesus is here with us.*

**We were silent in fear,**

**but now we are announcing, "Christ is risen!"**

HYMN\*      *"That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright"*

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**1 That Easter day with joy was bright;  
the sun shone out with fairer light**

**when, to their longing eyes restored,  
the apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**2 He bade them see his hands, his side,  
where yet the glorious wounds abide,  
the tokens true which made it plain  
their Lord indeed was risen again.**

**3 From every weapon death can wield,  
your own redeemed forever shield;  
O Lord of all, with us abide  
in this our joyful Eastertide.**

**PRAYER OF PRAISE\***

**CONFESSION OF SIN (UNISON)**

**God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when  
we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive  
us and help us to find our voice. When we are afraid to  
forgive and to love again, forgive us and give us the  
power to forgive. When we are confined by our hurts,  
touch us with your wounded hands and set us free.  
When we are locked behind our doubts and fears,  
pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and  
give us peace.**

**(silence)**

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.  
Lord have mercy. Kyrie eleison. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON / PASSING OF THE PEACE\***

*The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*[You are invited to exchange signs of peace with one another.]*

RESPONSE TO PARDON\*

251, chorus

**Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!**

THE WORD WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

NEW TESTAMENT – 1 Peter 1:3-9      Sandy Hancock

OFFERING OF MUSIC      Adult Choir

*"O the Boundless Love of God"*

GOSPEL\* – John 20:19-31

SERMON      *"Unless"*      Linda Dickerson

SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE\*

*Jesus is our living Lord. Jesus was dead and buried,*

**But God raised him from the dead.**

*The risen Lord appeared to his followers.*

**They recognized him as their Master who had been crucified.**

*Before Jesus left them, he commissioned them to proclaim to all people*

**The good news of his victory over death, and promised to be with them always.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**1 These things did Thomas count as real:  
the warmth of blood, the chill of steel,  
the grain of wood, the heft of stone,  
the last frail twitch of blood and bone.**

**2 The vision of his skeptic mind  
was keen enough to make him blind  
to any unexpected act  
too large for his small world of fact.**

**3 His reasoned certainties denied  
that one could live when one had died,  
until his fingers read like Braille  
the markings of the spear and nail.**

**4 May we, O God, by grace believe  
and thus the risen Christ receive,  
whose raw imprinted hands reached out  
and beckoned Thomas from his doubt.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION\*

CHORAL RESPONSE\*

Congregation and Choir

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia . . .**

**He is risen, He is risen, Alleluia, Alleluia . . .**

**Alleluia, Alleluia . . .**

POSTLUDE (Please be seated during the Postlude)