

St.Paul's United Church of Christ
April 16,, 2023
Brittany Mailleue

Call to Worship

One: Thomas said,

“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

We are in a liminal space, confused between brokenness and new opportunities.

Many: Dear God, fill us with the power of Resurrection to embrace newness.

One: We are hiding like the disciples behind closed doors with fear and doubts, waiting for your appearance.

Many: Come into our midst now, penetrate our closed hearts bringing your peace.

One: Refresh us, O God, and empower us.

Many: As we worship today, blow into us your gentle spirit.

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. **Amen.**

***Hymn**

Thine is the Glory

#139

***Confession**

Loving God, we confess that many a time, we are more doubters than believers. We doubt your love for us when we see the oppression, sickness, death, violence against nature, wars, and hatred against each other. Help us to recognize these outcomes of our selfishness, greed, and the evil spirit of dominance.

Through the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, help us to understand your sacrificial love for us so that we will love one another. Help us to learn from the courage of Jesus to take up the cross to stand against oppression. Enlighten us as we celebrate resurrection to rise again and again to annihilate injustice and to create peace in this world. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

God shows God's love for us in that while we were, yet sinners Christ died for us.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Assembly: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Welcome and Announcements

Time with the Children

Scripture:

John 20:19-31

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

Sermon

Hymn

Beautiful Savior

#141

Prayers of the People

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 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.

Offering of Our Gifts

Invitation A generous life counters the societal norms that depend on scarcity. Our Loving God creates in abundance so that all may live a full and flourishing life. When we give from our abundance, we proclaim our trust in God's provision and our love of neighbor.

Offertory

*** The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

*** Offering Prayer:**

Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us. May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for your glory. Amen.

*** Closing Hymn**

Crown Him with many Crowns #309

Benediction

Let us step out into the world

Knowing that we are not alone when doubts and fears surround us

The Risen Christ is with us

Empowering and encouraging us

To transform our wounds into sources of liberation

May the power of resurrection, the divine peace, and the empowering grace of the Triune God

Be with us now and forever more. Amen.

*** Postlude**