

Columbia Congregational Church

April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In whose name do we gather this morning?

People: We gather in the name of Christ.

Leader: For what purpose do we gather?

People: We gather to share our faith and proclaim the good news of Easter.

Leader: News that Christ is risen.

People: YES! Christ is risen! Alleluia.

Leader: Then let us worship our risen Christ.

ALL: YES! Our hearts are ready to serve God and all God's people.

HYMN OF PRAISE # 42 NCH "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace!

2 My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

3 Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
Is music in the sinner's ears, is life and health and peace!

4 Glory to God, and love and praise be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (sins) (in unison)

**God of the resurrection, we gather this morning as a community of believers. We come with joy to greet one another; we come wanting to celebrate our unity, and to tell again and again the amazing news: Christ is risen! May our singing, praying, listening, and proclaiming be a testimony to the power of Your love to make us a new creation as a community of faith. We pray in the name of the risen Christ with ancient's words taught by Jesus, 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 4: 32-35 Reader- Alex Chiu

³² 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.

³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day of, 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!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you, As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained “.

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (who was called the twin¹), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ 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.”

The Purpose of John’s Gospel

³⁰ Now Jesus performed did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are written in this book. ³¹ 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.

A reading from the Gospel of

SERMON Rev. MaryAnn Purtil

HYMN - # 406 NCH “Not with Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense”

1 Not with naked eye, not with human sense:
Through the eye of faith observe Omni potence.

2 Not with golden king, not with mighty queen:
God’s in earth and heaven and all that lies between.

3 Children learn of God sitting in the grass,
Touching, tasting, smiling, hearing Jesus pass.

4 Thomas saw the Christ breaking earth’s routine;
Blessed are those who trust the Holy One unseen.

5 Not with crafted scope, not with crystal lens:
Vision of the Christ begins where seeing ends.

WE RESPOND TO GOD

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

SUFFICIENTLY BLESSED LET US BE A BLESSING IN RETURN

OFFERTORY

**“Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty” is the hope of God.
Let it become the hope of our church that with gifts drawn from our hearts,
we let love flow freely.**

A SILENT PROMISE OF OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Generous and surprising God, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

HYMN # 393 NCH “Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the sharing of a common life is like to that above.

2 Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

3 We share each other's woes, Each other's burdens bear.
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

BENEDICTION

WE CARRY THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

THE POSTLUDE

**The end of worship is the beginning of our service to God.
Go forth and serve God gladly.**