

Worship on April 24, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Edwin Webster)

Second Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 247 Christ the Lord is Risen today 1st and 3rd verse
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Prayer for our children
- Praise song – BOP Can a Little Child like me x2

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: John 20:19-31
- Sermon: Stop Doubting and Believe
- The prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 250 Lord of the Dance

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, April 24th, 2022. It is the second Sunday of Easter. Jesus conquered death and rose from the dead. Now he preparing his disciples and loved ones for the next phase of his life. The divine stage. He appeared to Mary Magdalene last week and this week we will learn what happened when he appeared to his disciples. Let us praise and worship God.

. Fellowship Time in the Church Hall following the Worship Service. We will have Tea and Coffee available.

. The Rev. Soong will have his study leave from April 18th to 24th. He will be back on 25th.

. The Rev. Soong has his office hours on Wednesday from 9am-12pm.

. Prayer is unseen, yet powerful. If you have prayer needs, let us know.

Cheryl Daddis @ cheryl@pathcom.com or Soong @ revsoonghuh@hotmail.com

. Please pray for Audrey Crake's family as they lay her to rest on Monday April 25th

. Please remember and continue to pray for Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Donations may be made to PWS&D

As we come into the presence of our God, let us open our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord and King.

Annual Meeting - Sunday May 1st right after the Worship Service.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: In Life, in death, and in life beyond death

All: "The Risen Christ is Lord"

One: In success and discouragement, in fear and in hope

All: "The Risen Christ is Lord"

One: Of the poor and broken, of the sinner and the sinned against,

All: "The Risen Christ is Lord"

One: Let us pray.

One: In Church and community, in our hearts and our homes,

All: The Risen Christ is Lord, and so we gather to worship in his name.

All: Risen Lord, we rejoice in this new day you have made. We remember the first Easter Day that changed the world and we come together to celebrate your Holy Name and give you thanks for your sacrifice. All this we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Praise song – 247 Christ the Lord is Risen Today

<u>X 2</u> Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia! All creation join to say Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!	Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia! Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
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Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we rejoice in this new day you have made.

We praise you for the abundant life with which you bless us, and for all the beauty that surrounds us as spring takes hold again. We praise you for your Son Jesus, and the power of new life promised in his resurrection. We praise you for your Spirit at work in human history, to restore and redeem our hope with that power of new life. God of steadfast love, we worship you with the Spirit and the Son, and claim your gift of new life, even in the face of any doubt or danger within the world you love. All praise, honour and glory be yours, O God, now and evermore. Amen.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

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 forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free from sin and sorrow.

In Jesus Christ, God offers us the gift of peace.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts this day.

Peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to share our peace to each other.

Prayer for children

Dear Jesus, we thank you for the gift of children who can come together to give you thanks and praise. You came to show us how to live. Fill us with faith in you and lead us to share your peace throughout the world. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 441 Can a Little Child like me

Vs. 1 Can a little child like me Thank the Father fittingly Yes, oh yes! Be good and true, Patient, kind in all you do! Love the Lord and do your part; Learn to say with all your heart:	Vs. 2 For the fruit upon the tree, For the birds that sing of thee, For the sunshine warm and bright, For the day and for the night, For the joyful work and true That a little child may do,
[Chorus] Father, we thank thee! Father, we thank thee! Father in Heaven, we thank thee!	Father, we thank thee! Father, we thank thee! Father in Heaven, we thank thee!

Prayer for Illumination:

Merciful God, fill us with your grace and mercy. As we gather here on this first Sunday after Easter. We pray that the reality of your resurrection would sink in our hearts. As we prepare to listen to your word, open our hearts to hear your word. For you are our living Lord and living King. Amen

Scripture: Luke 20:19-31

19 When 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." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his 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 to them, "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."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), 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. Although 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 and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered 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." 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: Stop Doubting and Believe!

We have journeyed through Holy week, witnessed Jesus betrayed, belittled and crucified. The wait to the empty tomb seemed long but Easter Sunday came and the tomb was empty. Christ is risen! Yes, he is risen indeed! We are an Easter people. Christ did what his Father commissioned him to do and now he commissions his disciples and his followers to go and make disciples of all people.

It is still Sunday, the day of Resurrection. Jesus revealed himself to Mary early in the morning and Mary stopped doubting and believed. As instructed by Christ, She went and told the disciples that she had seen the Messiah. She was the bridge between Jesus and the disciples.

Later that day Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. This account is not recorded in John but it is recorded in the gospels of Mark and Luke. Then on Sunday evening, Jesus appeared to his disciples who gathered behind locked doors. They did not return to Galilee immediately. They were confused and scared. Perhaps they were too frightened to make that journey in public for fear that they would be attacked or even killed, as they were associated with Jesus.

When Jesus appeared to them, imagine their surprise. Amidst their confusion, Jesus comes through the locked door. I bet some of us if not all would be shocked and dumbstruck if we saw a dead man or women appear. The locked door that separated the human disciples who were hiding from the Jewish authorities could not keep out the divine Christ.

This resurrection story reminds us of the story of Lazarus, a dead man surrounded by his friends and family. But the story of Jesus is a lot more. This is the sweet story of atonement and sacrifice. Christ is the bridge that connects us to God. This is why we pray, we say “Through Christ our Lord.” Earlier in John chapter 14, Jesus was telling his disciples about his departure to his father’s house. When questioned about this he responded with these words. “I am the way and the truth and the life.” No one comes to the Father except through me.

The appearance of Jesus left the disciples scared about two things. They were scared about what the Jewish authorities would do to them and they were scared because they thought they had seen a ghost when Jesus appeared to them. This was a moment to stop doubting and start believing. Their hearts and minds were open but Jesus sensed that they needed more proof. They are witnessing the divine power of God. They were probably trying to remember the things Jesus told them while he was preaching and teaching before his crucifixion.

Jesus sensing their uneasiness said. “Peace be with you.” And he showed him his hands and side to validate that he is the Messiah. He is the same Christ who is risen. These words “Peace be with you” is a standard Hebrew greeting that is used in the Middle East today. But when Jesus tells his disciples this, he is speaking at a more personal level. Just a few chapters back in John chapter 14 Jesus was telling his disciples about the kingdom of heaven and he said to them “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” This was before the passion and now he is saying these same words to them after his resurrection. Jesus is delivering what he promised. This peace that he offers is his gift to his disciples and it is also his gift to us.

Throughout John's Gospel Jesus is described as the one sent by God. When the disciples saw the evidence of Jesus pierced hands and side it is fulfilment of what was promised when Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve but your grief will turn to joy. Now is the time of your grief but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

After Jesus reveals himself to his disciples, John tells us he breathes on them and tells them "Receive the Holy Spirit." Now the disciples were very confused. Jesus is the One in whom the Spirit flows like a living spring, a source of life and refreshment. Therefore, to be commissioned to advance the work of God as God's agent means to be empowered as Jesus was empowered. John 20:22 becomes the climax to the entire gospel. **NOW THE HOUR OF GLORIFICATION HAS REACHED THE CLIMAX! Jesus the risen son of God has fulfilled his purpose on earth.**

Jesus is about to depart and he places the Spirit that is within him in their lives. The disciples were probably very confused. They were still in doubt because they did not know what they are supposed to do. At this point they had no idea that the day Pentecost is to come. John does not anticipate another gift of the Spirit will come in Acts 2. Therefore, some scholars believe that for John, the writer of this gospel, the disciples were anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit at this special moment in the Upper room. This was the time when they should stop doubting and believe. This was an overwhelming moment, it was private, it was touching and it was transformational for them.

During this moment of transformation, Thomas was absent. This could have been pure accidental but it could also mean that Thomas chose not to go to the Upper room the first time the disciples gathered because he was upset. Could it be possible that Thomas went away to be by himself? In times of pain and sorrow, it is easy to find peace and solitude in keeping our own company. It is possible that Thomas was not ready to be with the other disciples. He wanted to process the events of the past week that had just transpired by himself. He did not give up his discipleship or leave the group he just needed time to bridge him across to what was to come.

When the other disciples tell him that Jesus is alive, he is skeptical and does not believe. In fact, this whole passage can be termed "Doubting Thomas," We are all probably familiar with this term for Thomas. He demands proof. His experience is very much like that of the other disciples a week earlier. Earlier in John's Gospel he has committed himself to following Jesus even though it meant he might die. And he was also expressed his ignorance when Jesus described his departure in John 14:5. So he is a bit of a pessimist.

Then one week later, on Sunday, Jesus appears to his disciples again. The disciples are gathered in the same room and the doors are shut for the same reasons. This time Thomas is with them. Jesus repeats the greeting, "Peace be with you." Now this greeting although the standard greeting takes on a whole new meaning as the disciples had a whole week to process what has happened last Sunday and Thomas was present. Not only can he see that Jesus is alive but he can touch the wounds at Jesus' invitation. Jesus said "**Stop doubting and believe.**" John does not tell us whether Thomas actually touched Jesus but we know that Thomas acknowledges Jesus by saying "My Lord and my God." These are words of confession and belief.

Then Jesus goes on to offer a blessing to those who do not see and yet believe. The gift of the Holy Spirit given to the disciples in the Upper room fulfils the hope Jesus offered. The Holy Spirit is Jesus' Spirit. It is the powerful presence of Christ within his friends. John ends by

telling us “these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. And that by believing you may have life in his name. Bearing the Spirit was one of a number of markers that distinguished Christian discipleship.

Bearing the Spirit meant you have faith. Having faith means that there is no more doubt in your mind but belief. I will end with a short story.

Theologian Martin Luther explained faith and belief in Christ using the image of a Bridge. Many will remember the disaster at the Belgian port of Zeebrugge in 1987. The car ferry called Herald of Free Enterprise had just left the port, when something went drastically wrong. The ship’s bow doors opened and water cascaded inside. Tragically, over one hundred and eighty people lost their lives. Yet one story of the heroism stood out above all others. One passenger arched himself across a gap in the ship’s structures, allowing others to crawl all over him, away from the rising water. His body was the bridge that allowed people to pass over from danger to safety. Without this human bridge, even more passengers would have drowned.

Luther asks us to think of Jesus Christ as the bridge between death and life. By believing and clinging securely to him, we can cross over. Christ gave us life in order that we might do this, and have hope. There is no room for doubt in our relationship with Christ. Christ died to wash away our sins and make us whole. In His Sacrifice, we have hope again. Live is worth living because Jesus lives! In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen.

Song: In His Love

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNtpYCrX2JU&ab_channel=KnoxCollege

Prayer for the people of God:

We thank you, God, for the many ways you provide for our needs. For air and water, for food and shelter, for work to do and rest to sustain us. We pray for your creation, too often at risk because of the choices we’ve made. Help us care for the earth and all its creatures and relationships. Show us how to cherish the gifts you have given and protect them for future generations.

Lord as we remember the sacrifice you made for us your children, our faith is strengthened and hope restored. We offer a special prayer for the people of Ukraine. This war have gone on for longer than we can imagine. Families are ripped apart, mothers mourn the deaths of their sons and husbands who stayed back to fight. Now children and women have been killed are there is no reason to the madness. Lord we pray for your intervention to end this war. We pray for people in other parts of the world who face persecution and who also live in war zones. As today is PWS&D Sunday we remember that we live in a world in which there is a Global Refugee Crisis. We remember all the mission we support, those in Afghanistan, South Sudan, Somalia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Haiti, Ghana, and many more throughout the world.

We pray for your people here in Aurora. Lord we ask that you touch the members of this congregation, the leadership team and all those who call this church their place of worship. May your Holy Spirit revive them and revitalize them to find ways to grow and support one another. We pray for those members who are sick. Touch them with your healing hand and give them encouragement to carry on day by day.

Lord, today we offer a special prayer for their minister Rev. Soong. He is their tower of strength and he wears many hats. Lord sustain Him and give him the support that he needs to carry on your ministry here. Bless his wife and his sons. Provide for them and keep them safe.

Lord we pray for your church and for your saving grace. Continue to sustain us and may your Holy Spirit dwell in us so that we may go into the world to be disciples for you. All this we ask through the precious name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, Amen

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering.

In this season of Easter, we celebrate God's most precious gift to us in Christ's dying and rising. As we present our offering today, let us give with thankful hearts, trusting that God can do amazing things through the gifts we offer in Jesus' name.

Offering prayer:

Generous God,

Along with our gifts, we offer you our thanks for your steadfast love, our foundation when things around us seem uncertain. Bless these gifts and the ministry of our congregation; and bless the mission we undertake as part of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. May what we offer spread the blessings we know to others, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

Amen

Song for the Journey BOP 258 Thine be the Glory

<u>Vs.1</u> I danced in the morning When the world was begun, And I danced in the moon And the stars and the sun, And I came down from heaven And I danced on the earth, At Bethlehem I had my birth.	<u>Chorus</u> Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he
<u>Vs. 2</u> I danced for the scribe And the Pharisee, But they would not dance And they wouldn't follow me. I danced for the fishermen, For James and John They came with me And the Dance went on. <u>Chorus</u>	<u>Vs. 5</u> They cut me down And I leapt up high; I am the life That'll never, never die; I'll live in you If you'll live in me - I am the Lord Of the Dance, said he. <u>Chorus</u>

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world.

Friends, Christ sacrificed his life so that we may live life abundantly! Let there be no room for doubt but strong belief in Jesus for Christ is the bridge between death and life everlasting.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.