

**APRIL 11th, 2021**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: We gather once again to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice!

People: We give thanks that because Christ is risen, the grave's sting has been taken away. Praise God that the battle is over and life has triumphed over death.

Pastor: "Doubting" Thomas came to believe he was raised from the dead when Jesus appeared and showed him the wounds that were inflicted on him at his crucifixion. Do we need such proof?

People: We have not seen the risen Christ with our eyes or touched his wounds with our hands; but we are promised a special blessing if we have not seen but still believe, and we choose to have faith.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord and open ourselves to experience Easter's transforming power.

HYMN #216 *The Day of Resurrection!*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Lord Jesus, we confess that because you have not appeared to us in a visible way or invited us to physically touch your wounds with our hands, we have moments of doubt about your resurrection. Enable us to reaffirm our faith that you are risen so we can receive the special blessing you promised those who believe without seeing that you conquered death for all time. Be present with us now, we pray, and use this time of worship to encourage us toward a bolder, more fruitful ministry as a church and as individual Christians. By your Holy Spirit deepen our trust and love, and kindle a flame of joy in our hearts that will make us enthusiastic witnesses to the good news of Easter and share it with the world. We ask these things in your name, dear Christ, and thank you for teaching us this sacred prayer:

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2 and John 20:19-31

SERMON MESSAGE: *The Special Blessing* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests  
Silent Prayer  
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Generous God, the gifts we give cannot compare to your priceless gift of Jesus, crucified and risen! But with gratitude, love, and faith that comes from knowing what you have accomplished with our previous offerings, we once again share our resources and our very selves so your redeeming work here on earth can be carried on. Multiply our money, our time and our talents, we pray, and utilize them in such a way that those who have not seen the risen Christ with their eyes or touched his wounds with their hands will be specially blessed because they still believe, as Thomas did, that Jesus lives and is our Lord and our God. Amen.

HYMN #210 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: "Doubting" Thomas saw the risen Christ and came to believe he was his Lord and his God.

People: We want to receive the special blessing Jesus promised by believing without seeing.

Pastor: As God sent Jesus and Jesus sent his disciples, we are now being sent to make the power of Christ's resurrection known to others.

People: The Lord will equip us to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection, so we can proclaim the new life that has been made available to all people.

Pastor: Go forth to love and serve the Lord and tell others how the One whom God raised from the dead is acting in your life and in the world.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL