

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, April 24, 2022

First Sunday after Easter



Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director – Victoria Warwick
Readers: Sandra Flint, Ian Sutherland
Singers: Heather Tilson & Ian Sutherland, Rebecca Amadei,
St. Magnus Congregation, Chet Valley Churches,
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Rick Dell,
Catherine Ladouceur, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND



HYMN: VU# 164 "The Day of Resurrection" by Chet Valley Churches.

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God!
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be free of evil, that we may see aright
the Christ in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and, listening to the accents, may hear so calm and plain
Christ's own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ indeed is risen, our Joy that has no end.

OPENING PRAYER: read by Ian Sutherland (written by Karen Ptolemy-Stam)

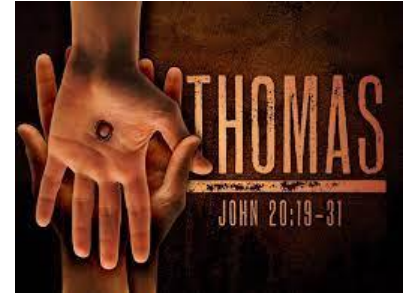
Like the first disciples of old, O Holy One, we do not claim to understand Easter or your resurrection. As we worship, help us to accept that faith and doubt sometimes go hand in hand; we are not expected to have all the answers. You simply ask us to follow in your path; to be light to each other and the world as you are our light. Thomas may have doubted but he also models faith that moves forward to be alive in our world. May we manage that in the day to day living of our lives as well. Amen

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

SUNG RESPONSE: "Halle Halle Hallelujah" sung by Rebecca Amadei

SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:19-31 read by Sandra Flint

DUET: VU#185 "You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen" sung by Heather Tilson and Ian Sutherland.



1. You tell me that the Lord is risen, that you have seen his face.
Then tell me why you crouch in fear and hide within this place.
You say that he spoke words of peace and stood just as before,
But 'til I touch his very flesh I will not trust your joy.
2. You claim a resurrection here, that God has broken death.
No easy words like these will soothe the pain that tears my breath.
How well do I recall his face, compassion strength in fear.
How deep my grief that he should die. Spare me your words of cheer!
3. "Now peace be with you. Come, my friend, my wounded body see.
Let the rich courage of your doubt bring you to fresh belief.
Fear not to wonder at the Word, to search the depths of grace.
Reach out and touch, here is my hand. Receive the gift of faith."
4. "How blest are they, how fortunate who know without the sight.
But Thomas, you are favoured too, for searching yields its light."
So may each pilgrim in the Way, each road to Christ be blest,
'til lips declare, "My Lord and God!" Christ's body one at last.

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS – AN UPDATE FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Pat File

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER read by Ian Sutherland

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A Door to Discovery

How strangely comforting, Lord,
that so many of your servants
have doubted you.

So, if I cannot always see the sense
of your Word;
if I do not always feel confident
about my faith;
if I wonder where your love is
in the face of pain and death;
I am not the first.

A great company of saints and martyrs
has felt this way before me.
Now, in your presence,
they see face to face
and know as they are known.

Teach me, like them,
not so much to fear doubt
as to see it as a sign of the mystery of life
and a door to discovery.

Before we pray the Lord's Prayer, I ask that you take a moment of silence to pray for the people of Ukraine and all who are affected by war and violence. I also invite you to lift up your personal concerns as well as joys and gratitude before God.

CLOSING HYMN: VU#190 "The Head That Once Was Crowned"

1. The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns the mighty victor's brow.
2. The joy of all who dwell above, the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love and grants his name to know.
3. To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is given,
their name an everlasting name, their joy the joy of heaven.
4. They suffer here with Christ below, they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know the mystery of his love.
5. The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him,
his people's hope, his people's wealth, their everlasting theme.

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: For the benefit of our livestreaming, we ask that people remain seated during the postlude.

