

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Mysterious God, you show yourself to us in Christ in ways defying explanation. We know that faith in you requires that we often trust what makes absolutely no sense. When we come to the end of what our reason can comprehend, help us to reach out to you, trusting in your power that passes all understanding. Through our worship, strengthen our faith in you so that we may believe what all of our experience says is impossible. Give us hope to act on that faith, especially when the world's darkness leaves us with teary eyes and weak knees. Fill us your peace, that we may always see your redeeming love at work in the world, liberating us to be your people. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"O Sons and Daughters of the King"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Welcome Table

Joyce Lloyd

Introit

"O Come, Let Us Worship"

Thurlow Weed, 2009

O come, let us worship and bow down:

Let us kneel before the Lord;

O come, let us worship and bow down:

And kneel before our Maker.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!**

Leader: But are you sure? Do you believe?

People: We don't want to be called "doubting Thomas," but how can this be?

Leader: Jesus said ... yet have come to believe."

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

***Hymn**

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

#268

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

Great God and Lord of life, we long to love you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. But our lives are cluttered. We are busy, distracted, anxious, and tired. We want to trust in you above all things, but our doubts betray us. Sometimes it is hard to believe. We find ourselves to be like Thomas, needing to see clearly and fully. Sometimes it is hard to believe that the resurrection of Jesus Christ really happened. Forgive our doubt and slowness of heart. Help us to believe! Help us to believe anew and in the great power of Easter life! Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

"Glory to God"

#585

Glory to God, glory to God, glo-ry in the high-est! Glory to God,
glory to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus! Glory to God, glory to God,
glo - ry to the Spir - it! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!
Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Choir Anthem

“The Strife Is O'er”

Ian Higginson, 2020

The strife is over, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung. Alleluia!
Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
From death's dread sting thy servants free,
That we may live and sing to thee. Alleluia!

Second Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“A Fishy Story?”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Scots Confession (3.11)

We do not doubt but that the selfsame body which was born of the virgin, was crucified, dead, and buried, and which did rise again, did ascend into the heavens, for the accomplishment of all things, where in our name and for our comfort he has received all power in heaven and earth, where he sits at the right hand of the Father, having received his kingdom, the only advocate and mediator for us.

***Hymn**

“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”

#255

Prayers of the People and 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.

Invitation to Offering

***Response** “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (refrain) #240

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God’s People

***Closing Hymn** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” #286

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response** “We Are the Church”

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff contains the melody for the lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!".

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh
Words and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company
Used by Permission. CCLI License # 1203910

***Postlude** "Thine Is the Glory" arr. Charles Callahan

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Cindy Newman

Acolyte: Devin Griggs, Darren Cox

Flowers: The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God, and in memory of Ruth Setser by Gina Wells and Gailyn Whipple.

When Cindy was 6 years old, her family moved to London when her father became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. You might know him ... Rev. Gordon Johnson. Cindy has served the church in several capacities over the years ... Sunday School teacher (for 3rd grade students, unruly 4th grade boys, junior high students, and adults). She has also been a church camp advisor, youth group advisor, assistant church custodian, a member of the Presbyterian Women, Board of Deacons (clerk), and choir member. Currently, Cindy is a ruling elder.

Cindy is married to Rob, and they have 3 adult sons who all live/work in the Columbus area ... Nick, Drew, and Zach. Cindy is a registered nurse and works as an Instructional Designer in the Learning Dept. at Ohio Health.