



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



April 11, 2021

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! While we can't be together physically, we are glad to join together for worship online. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

PRELUDE

Fanfare-Rondeau by Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682 - 1738)

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: At the beginning of the day, at the beginning of the week, the faithful yet fearful people gathered together. It was then that the Spirit of God came among them and whispered...

People: Peace be with you.

Leader: Their hearts skipped a beat as they double checked that the lock on the front door was still latched. So the Presence of God spoke a little louder...

People: Peace be with you.

Leader: They looked around at each other, puzzled, amazed, befuddled, and bewildered. Some smiled. Some doubted. Some wondered if it were just too magical sounding or too good to be true. So the Christ showed them that his own scars were not the end of the story and that is when the words of God began to feel joyous...

People: Peace be with you!

Leader: From that day on, the people of God repeated the words to one another when they gathered. From one generation to the next, they exchanged the words as a greeting to one another to remember that Holy interruption of their fear...

People: Peace be with you!!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

'The Strife Is O'er'

No. 221

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Reader 1: Holy One, our confession won't be news to you, but maybe if we allow it to be spoken aloud, You can help us find a way forward.

Reader 2: Holy One, we have doubts. We're not talking about doubts like Thoma - his were perfectly reasonable - after all we too long to see You, touch You, and truly know You.

Reader 1: Our doubts feel different. We doubt that the peace you offer is really possible because our own minds are a mess of thoughts.

Reader 2: We doubt that new life is possible because the wounds we bear are still overwhelming.

Reader 1: We doubt that You really intended to call us when You called the disciples to be of service in creating a new way of being in the world.

Reader 2: We hear the age-old stories, but we are filled with doubts about ourselves, and if we are honest, doubts about your Holy possibilities. Holy One, in these moments of stillness, hear our doubts and settle our hearts, souls, and minds... *(brief silence)* Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Reader 1: In the midst of the disciples' doubts and worries, in the midst of their fear, the Spirit of God came among them and whispered, "Peace be with you." Beloved People of God, hear the holy invitation of grace offered to every generation - Peace be with you. You are God's beloveds not because of what you have done or not done.

Reader 2: You are God's beloveds because of who you are, and who you are is a people called and gifted to be a presence of peace and love in this world. Your shortcomings are forgiven. Grace abounds. God calls to you. Peace be with you.

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

HYMN

'Now The Green Blade Rises'

No. 230

(scroll down to music)

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father (Creator) 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

'O Sons And Daughters, Sing Your Praise'

No. 220

(scroll down to music)

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

God invites us to bring the fullness of who we are into worship and to share the fullness of who we are with the world. So it is God's holy invitation that asks us to pause and wonder what we want to offer of ourselves to the world. Time? Presence? Kindness? Financial Support? Prayers?

In these moments of quiet and reflection: what is it that you have to offer this day to bring about God's peace on Earth?

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

'That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright'

No. 229

BENEDICTION

Leader: At the beginning of the day, at the beginning of the week, when the faithful yet fearful people gathered together, Jesus came among them and whispered an invitation, "Peace be with you." But that was only the beginning. He showed them the scars and marks of his own humanity and soon he was pointing at theirs as well, telling them "Just as God once sent me, so I send you." Beloved People of God, this hour is only the beginning. Do not be afraid. You have been called and you are being sent into this world to be a force of love, light, hope, and joy. Go forth into this day and into the world in the name of God, the one who creates you; go in the name of the Jesus who shows us the way; and go in the name of the Holy Spirit, who is with us now and always. *Peace be with you!*

ALL: Peace be with you!

POSTLUDE

'Christ The Lord Is Risen Today' arr. by Sylvia Berry

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Rev. Arnold, Ellis. "Easter 2 - April 11." *United Church of Christ*, 11 Mar. 2021, www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-2-april-11/.

²Fearing, Stephen M. *Prayer of Illumination: John 20: 19-31*, 5 Apr. 2015, re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/04/prayer-of-illumination-john-20-19-31.html.

³Miller, Susan. *Pastoral Prayer: John 20*, 5 Apr. 2015, re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/04/pastoral-prayer-john-20.html.

The Strife Is O'er

221

1. The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done,
2. The powers of death have done their worst,
3. The three sad days are quick - ly sped,
4. Lord, by your wounds on Cal - va - ry

the vic - to - ry of life is won; the song of
but Christ their le - gions has dis - persed: let shouts of
Christ ris - es glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry
from death's dread sting your ser - vants free, that we may

tri - umph has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
live e - ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia!

Now the Green Blade Rises

230

Unison

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
 2. In the grave they laid the love by hatred slain,
 3. Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
 4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
 think - ing that Je - sus would not wake a - gain,
 who that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, the ris - en Christ is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

Love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

WORDS: John M. C. Crum, 1928
 MUSIC: French carol

Words © 1928 Oxford University Press

NOËL NOUVELET
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220 O Sons and Daughters, Sing Your Praise

1,7. O sons and daugh - ters, sing your praise
 2. When Mag - da - lene and Sa - lo - me
 3. An an - gel greet - ed them and said,
 4. A - mong dis - ci - ples Christ ap - peared.
 5. "Come, Thom - as, see my hands and side.
 6. "How blest are those who do not see

1,7. on this most ho - ly day of days.
 2. and Mar - y went where Je - sus lay
 3. "The Christ is ris - en from the dead.
 4. "My peace be with you," was his word,
 5. I am the one they cru - ci - fied."
 6. yet place their faith and trust in me.

1,7. For Christ from death to life is raised.
 2. they found the stone was rolled a - way.
 3. To Gal - i - lee he goes a - head."
 4. but Thom - as doubt - ed when he heard.
 5. "My God, my Sav - ior!" Thom - as cried.
 6. They shall have life e - ter - nal - ly."

WORDS: Jean Tisserand (15th century); tr. Ruth Duck, 1993
 MUSIC: French carol (15th century)

O FILII ET FILIAE
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Tr. © 1995 Ruth Duck

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

229 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

1. That Eas - ter day with joy was bright,
 2. His ris - en flesh with ra - diance glowed;
 3. O Je - sus, strong in gen - tle - ness,
 4. Come, ris - en Christ, with us a - bide

the sun shone out with fair - er light,
 his wound - ed hands and feet he showed
 come now your - self our hearts pos - sess,
 in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide;

when, to their long - ing eyes re - stored,
 those scars their sol - emn wit - ness gave
 that we may give you all our days
 your own re - deemed for ev - er shield

the glad a - pos - tles saw their Lord.
 that Christ was ris - en from the grave.
 the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.

WORDS: Latin hymn (5th century); tr. John Mason Neale, 1852, alt.
 MUSIC: Trier manuscript (15th century); adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609;
 harm. George R. Woodward, 1904

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