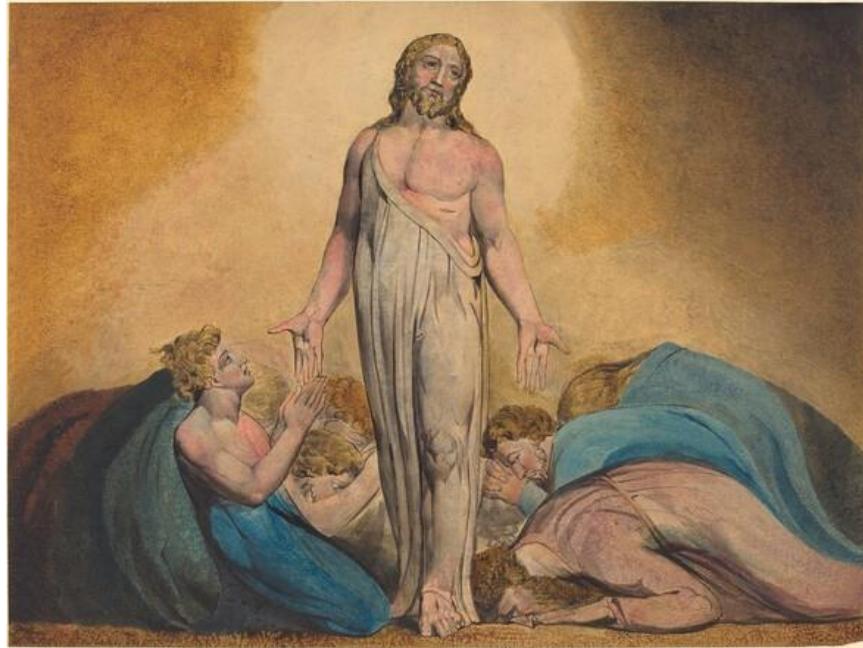




The Doubt of St. Thomas, He Qi



Christ Appearing to His Disciples After the Resurrection, William Blake

Our Service of Worship for May 1, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Westwood First Presbyterian Church Cincinnati, OH



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “*Beautiful Savior*”—Dale Wood

[*During the Prelude, you are invited to take a moment to prepare for worship.*]

Ringling of the Tower Bell

Choral Introit: “*Praise the Lord*”—arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*** Call to Worship** (*Responsive*)

The grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hold your head high, Christ has risen. Rejoice and shout, Christ has come calling us home. Home to the heart of God.

Home to God's living presence. Home to God's banquet feast

Hold your head high, Christ has risen, death has been conquered. Christ has come calling us home. He has renewed and restored us.

All that was broken has been made whole. All that was dislocated has been set right

Hold your head high, Christ has risen. Carry forward God's healing. Christ has come calling us home To a world where truth and justice triumph.

To a place where abundance flourishes. To a community where generosity flourishes

Hold your head high, Christ has risen. Christ has come calling us home. Your redemption is complete. God's eternal world has begun. Love reigns over all

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Christ has risen indeed.

Opening Prayer

* **Hymn No. 122:** “*Thine Is the Glory*”

Refrain: Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death has won.
Angels in bright raiment, rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded graveclothes where Thy body lay. [Refrain]

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb,
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing:
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of Life!
Life is nought without Thee; aide us in the strife.
Make us more than conquerors through Thy deathless love,
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above. [Refrain]

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. In Christ we pray. Amen.

A Moment for Silent, Personal Confession

[All are invited to take a moment for silent, personal reflection]

Assurance of Forgiveness (*Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians 5:17—responsive*)

Hear the good news! Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!
May Christ's peace—that which passes all understanding—be with you now and always.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- † May WestFed Food Pantry needs: Cereal, Crackers, and Canned Corn
- † The flowers this morning are given by:
 - ♥ Evelyn Robison in loving memory of her Dad and Son.
 - ♥ Rob Harris and family in memory of his wife Linda, Dee and Bob Wolfe, and Muriel and Bob Harris.
- † The flowers in the bud vases on the communion table are in honor of the births of:
 - ♥ Leo James on April 19, son of Brad and Maria Seitz, grandson of Bill Seitz, III
 - ♥ Hudson David on February 18, son of Alex and Hannah Richmond, grandson of Denny and Beth Richmond.
- † Prayers are requested for:
 - ♥ Janet Ziegler, admitted to Jewish Hospital, diagnosed with leukemia.
 - ♥ Jim Phillips, now at Alois Alzheimer's Center.
 - ♥ Joe Dearwester, recovering from knee replacement surgery.
 - ♥ The families of Jane Van Schoik, Jim Becker and Youvon Coleman, who have passed away in the last few weeks.
 - ♥ Cathie DeFazio, who is dealing with a rare melanoma behind her right eye, and Larry DeFazio, who is healing from a torn right rotator cuff.
 - ♥ Dominic, a teen-aged friend of the Zorn's, undergoing open heart surgery.
 - ♥ Susie, a friend of the Kochheisers, undergoing chemotherapy.
 - ♥ Kathy Kiefer, who has been hospitalized with kidney issues.
 - ♥ Linda Kugele who continues to deal with breathing issues.
 - ♥ Our homebound members and friends.
 - ♥ The members of our Session and its committees.
 - ♥ The discernment team.



MOMENT FOR MEDITATION: CHURCH HYMNS

How well did you know your church hymns?

- Dentist's Hymn—Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Weatherman's Hymn—There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
- Contractor's Hymn—The Church's One Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn—Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn—There's a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn—Standing on the Promises
- Optometrist's Hymn—Open My Eyes That I Might See
- The IRS Agent's Hymn—I Surrender All
- The Gossip's Hymn—Pass It On
- The Electrician's Hymn—Send the Light
- The Shopper's Hymn—Sweet Bye and Bye
- The Realtor's Hymn—I've got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop
- The Massage Therapists Hymn—He Touched Me
- The Doctor's Hymn—The Great Physician

AND for those who speed on the highway here are a few more hymns:

- ~45mph = God Will Take Care of You
- ~65mph = Nearer My God To Thee
- ~85mph = This World Is Not My Home
- ~95mph = Lord, I'm Coming Home
- ~100mph = Precious Memories

**“Blessed is he who has learned to laugh at himself,
for he shall never cease to be amused.”**

**Lord, give me a sense of humor, Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folk.**



* **Response:** “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord” (Unison)

[Refrain]: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his Name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. [Refrain]

Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. [Refrain]

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: *Revelation 1:4-8*

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: *John 20:19-21—Jesus Appears to His Disciples in the Upper Room*

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.”

²⁶A 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.” ²⁷Then 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.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “*Unlocking Doors*”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Invitation to Offering

[*No offering will be collected. Please place your offerings in the baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity—now and always!*]

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Gracious Lord, we thank for your faithfulness. Thank you that we can always trust in you. You are an abundant God and out of your great mercy you have given us so much. We give you this offering today. With it we worship you and give our whole selves to you. Please take it and use it for your kingdom and your glory. Extend and multiple its reach, that it may be a great blessing to many. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Offertory Anthem: “*Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether*”—arr. Harold W. Friedell

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving/Words of Institution/Sharing of the Elements

Pastoral Prayer After Communion and The Lord’s Prayer (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, forever. Amen.

BEARING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

* **Hymn No. 399:** “*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*”

We walk by faith, and not by sight, no gracious words we hear
From Christ who spoke as none e’er spoke, but we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice and cry, “My Lord and God!”

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found:

That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are with full and endless sight.

Charge and Benediction

Choral Response: “*Alleluia!*”

Postlude: “*Con Moto in G Major*”—G. F. Handel

* Where indicated (*), those who are able are invited to stand.

AS OUR WORSHIP SERVICE ENDS, OUR MINISTRY OF SERVICE BEGINS!!

Leading Worship This Morning:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi, *Pastor*

Heather MacPhail, *Organist/Director of Music Ministries*

Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*

Jeri Rathkamp, *Lay Worship Leader*