

Second Sunday of Easter

Online Worship Bulletin

April 19, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***The whole creation rejoices;
the birds sing from every tree.***

Alleluia! Christ is in our midst!

***Babies babble with sounds of joy;
words cannot express our overflowing hearts.***

Alleluia! Christ is our light forever!

***Breathing peace on us in these moments;
surrounding us with grace and hope.***

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God,

Nothing is beyond your power to transform!

In a gray dawn, you coax songs of Alleluia!

From the tombs of despair we take refuge in

You call us to wake up and work.

We praise you for this amazing day!

Come, Risen Christ,

in newness and hope on this Eastertide morning.

Amen.

HYMN

***That Eastertide with joy was bright,
The sun shone out with fairer light,
When, to their longing eyes restored,
The glad apostles saw their Lord.***

***He bade them see His hands, His side,
Where yet the glorious wounds abide;
The tokens true which made it plain
Their Lord indeed was risen again.***

***Jesus, the King of gentleness,
Do Thou Thyself our hearts possess
That we may give Thee all our days
The tribute of our grateful praise.***

**O Lord of all, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide;
From every weapon death can wield
Thine own redeemed forever shield.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Redeeming God,
with you there is always more life, more hope, more joy.
When doubt assails us, and we fail to recognize you at work in our lives,

Lord, have mercy!

When fear impairs our faith, and our eyes and ears and hearts
do not know you,

Christ, have mercy!

When anger and sorrow stop us from doing the risky work of love,

Lord, have mercy!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Within every kernel of doubt, there is a spark of life and hope.
In those times when our faith falters,
when we cannot recognize the presence of the Holy among us,
God takes our faith and transforms it,
patiently showing us the many ways Christ walks among us.
Look around you:
as close as your own beating heart,
and in the eyes of your nearest neighbor,
grace abounds at the heart of all life.
You are all God's children, loved without condition,
go in that peace.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

John 20:19-31

SERMON

Hiding During Times of Fear

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the gospel which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Loving God, can a generous prayer be lifted up to you this Eastertide?
Can these gifts, given with love,
be further transformed like echoes of grace,
delighting all who receive their blessings?
May it be so, through the surprising power of your Holy Spirit,
and may our lives speak of a loving God,
full of Easter surprises.

Amen.

HYMN

**Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
We stand to bless Thee ere our worship cease;
Then, lowly kneeling, wait Thy word of peace.**

**Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day.
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.**

**Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life;
Peace to Thy church from error and from strife;
Peace to our land, the fruit of truth and love;
Peace in each heart, Thy Spirit from above.**

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Follow God's lead into new life!
Recognize Jesus in unexpected places.
Easter!
Christ is Risen!
May you dance an alleluia dance,
and sing a resurrection song.
Laugh with God and let joy reside in your hearts always.

Amen.

The written prayers in today's service are by Rev. Susan A. Blain for the ucc.org/worship website.