

**FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 11, 2021**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Hill to Hill Brass Quintet

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Resurrected Christ, the one who has overcome death and doors alike, we recognize that any gathering of believers is sacred. Fill this space with your abundant joy and send out any hint of scarcity. God, we know that you meet us exactly where we are. We thank you for coming to us in the way that we need. When our faith is shaky, and we say, "unless I see..." you come to us with outstretched hands. Hands and sides which bear the marks of your sacrifice for us. You give us unconditional love, unwavering presence, and abundant grace. In return, we give you faith that is not perfect but enmeshed with our humanity. And even though this can never be enough, you take it gladly. We offer you all that we have to give; take our lives, our finances, our time, our talents. May we not keep anything behind closed doors from you. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Christ has risen,

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Pastor: We gather to worship the risen Christ, Conqueror of death.

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Pastor: We lift up praise to the risen Christ, Redeemer of all life.

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Pastor: We give thanks to the risen Christ, Giver of the Holy Spirit.

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Pastor: Christ has risen,

People: Christ is risen indeed!

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

***CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

Pastor: We confess that there are times when we are overcome by fear;
times when our faith fails, times when we close ourselves off to you.
times when we ignore the needs of others.

People: Lord, forgive us.

Pastor: When shadows surround us, show us the radiant power of your light.
When we hold on to our worldly possessions with tight fists, help us to

use our resources for the glory of your realm. When our differences threaten to divide us, draw us together in the unity of your perfect love.

People: Christ, forgive us.

Pastor: We grieve the ways in which we have caused pain; the ways in which we have fallen short, the ways in which we have turned away from the suffering in our world.

People: Spirit, forgive us.

***ASSURANCE**

Pastor: Our words of confession are released into the air, and in the act of speaking them aloud, we have been set free. In the stillness, God whispers "Take heart; you are forgiven, cleansed of all unrighteousness."

People: Praise God, in whose fullness we receive grace upon grace.

MISSION MOMENT: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Psalm 133

New Testament: John 20:19 – 31

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *Poor Thomas*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

HYMN: *JOY DAWNED AGAIN ON EASTER DAY

*1 Joy dawned again on Easter Day, the sun shone out with brighter array;
For when the Apostles hid in fear, the Risen Christ to them appeared.*

*2 O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One, come take our hearts to be your own,
That we may give you all our days the willing tribute of our praise.*

*3 O Sovereign One, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide;
From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *This We Believe

(Inspired by Mark 1:14-20, Matthew 4:18-22)

**I believe in an innovative God,
who does not wait for us to find ourselves
but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.**

**I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative,
that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power
to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.**

**I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us,
calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty**

and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people,
called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations
as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.

Because Christ has called me
in this I truly believe. Amen.

— written by Bruce Prewer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Welcome Light, Love, and Hope of God. Surround us with a warmth of the Holy Spirit. Demonstrate your never-ending grace to us. Inspire within us this same grace to offer to others. Enhance our senses to recognize your presence in the world, so that we may see, hear, and touch the ways you participate in our everyday lives. Awaken our souls to the injustices that are prevalent within our cultures. Grant us eyes to see those who are overlooked. Grant us ears to hear cries for help. Grant us hands to extend to those in need. May we advocate for the voiceless, the parentless, the homeless, and the disadvantaged. Infuse empathy in us so that we may offer dignity to those we help. Grant us the wisdom to empower them in the midst of their plights. May we act out of justice, may we love mercy, may we walk humbly with you, O God.

Pause for private intercessions

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.
We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

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.**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *BECAUSE HE LIVES* – Gaither Trio

Darin Jellison

***THE DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Unison: **Ever-present God, we desire to walk in the warmth of your sacred light. We testify all that we have seen, heard, and felt. We declare your matchless grace to the rest of creation, so that all may hear.**

Thank you for meeting us where we are. Grant us your peace in the face of uncertainty. Help us to live as those who have encountered the resurrected Christ. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *THE STRIFE IS O'ER THE BATTLE WON

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*1 The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!*

*2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions has
dispersed. Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!*

*3 The three sad days are quickly sped; Christ rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head. Alleluia!*

*4 Christ, by your wounds on Calvary from death's dread sting your servants free,
that we may live eternally. Alleluia!*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Hill to Hill Brass Quintet

*Special thanks to the **Hill to Hill Brass Quintet** and **Darin Jellison** for sharing
special music with us this morning.*

Thanks to all who take part in today's service:

Ken Koehnlein, Head Usher

John Barone, Usher

Cindy Talaber, Usher

Chuck & Karen Talboo, Lay Readers & Mission Moment

Our Stream Team