

**St. Andrew's United Church**  
**Sunday April 11, 2021**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Welcome**

No matter where we are today, we gather together virtually to welcome God into our homes and our lives. Let us centre ourselves with three deep breaths as we eagerly listen to His message.

**Call to Worship**

One: Christ has risen.

**All: Alleluia! Christ has risen!**

One: We gather to worship the risen Christ, conqueror of death.

**All: Alleluia! Christ has risen!**

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

**All: Alleluia! Christ has risen!**

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

**All: Alleluia! Christ has risen!**

One: Christ has risen!

**All: Christ has risen indeed!**

**Opening Prayer**

Resurrected Christ, the one who has overcome death and doors alike,  
Fill our homes with your abundant joy.

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 shows signs of 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 time and our talents.

May we not keep anything behind closed doors from you.

Amen

**Hymn Spirit of the Living God**

**VU 376**

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance**

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, when we ignore the needs of others.

Lord, forgive us.

When shadows surround us, show us the radiance of your light.

When we hold onto our worldly possessions with tight fists, help us to use our resources for the glory of your world.

When our differences threaten to divide us, draw us together in the unity of your perfect love.

Christ, forgive us.

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.

God, forgive us.

### **Words of Affirmation**

Our words of confession are released into the air and we have been set free.

In the stillness, God whispers "Take heart, you are forgiven, cleansed of all unrighteousness."

### **Hymn Deep in our Hearts**

**MV 154**

### **Scripture**

Acts 4: 32-35      Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

John 20: 19-30      Jesus appears to the disciples, but Thomas is not there.

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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."

A 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." Then 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord, and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

## Reflection

Hymn **I Am The Light of the World**

VU 87

## Prayer of the People

Welcome Light, Love, and Hope of God.

Surround us with the 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 are present 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, ears to hear cries for help, and hands to extend to those in need.

Infuse empathy in us so that we may offer dignity to those we help.

May we act out of justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, oh God.

Amen

## 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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
forever and ever.

Amen

Hymn **Christ is Alive**

VU 158

**Benediction and Commissioning**

Go now in the peace and presence of the Resurrected Christ.  
Walk in the overwhelming abundance of God's provision.  
Live joyfully and love fully with your heart and soul.  
Be a living testimony of the love of Christ.  
Amen

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