



New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
April 24, 2022 10:00am Service



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# The Worship of God

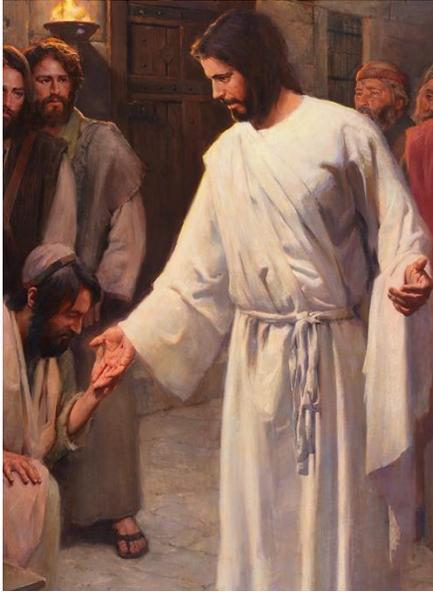
April 24, 2022      Second Sunday of Easter

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Lay Leader: Nancy Carol Willis*

**Sharing Our Vision**

**Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...**



*When Jesus appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, it doesn't surprise us that Thomas, who was absent, was reluctant to believe they had seen the Risen Lord. Because Thomas was reluctant to accept the disciples' testimony that they had seen the Lord, Thomas has become known to us as "the doubter" – although the scriptures never address him that way. When Jesus first appeared to the disciples, they didn't recognize him until they had seen the wounds on his body. When they claimed they had seen Jesus alive, Thomas wanted proof. The next week, Jesus appeared to Thomas, and, again, it was seeing the wounds that convinced Thomas that it truly was the Risen Christ. In other words, Thomas is just like the rest of the disciples for, until the disciples had seen Jesus' wounds, no one recognized him. So, there's no*

*need to make an example out of Thomas; he's just like the rest of the disciples – no better – no worse.*

*At various times through life, we catch ourselves saying "If only God would give me a sign..." This is most frequently heard on the lips of those who have endured a crisis of faith that shook their confidence in God, just like Thomas. What things cause us to doubt? Why do we feel that our faith is being challenged? It's a persistent question asked by many.*

*Doubt can be uncomfortable, because it may leave one with a sense of being unanchored and fearful of the reactions of other people. Those who don't share our doubts can be disapproving. In matters of faith, the early Christian patriarch, John Chrysostom, warned of two dangers: a willingness to believe anything, and a demand for absolute certainty. It is important for us to find a balance between the two.*

## Preparing to Meet God

**Call to Worship**

*Lay Leader: Nancy Carol W.*

**L:** I welcome you in the name of the One who WAS, and IS, and ever SHALL BE!

**P:** ***Grace be to you and grace to the world, from the One who came to deliver us all.***

**L:** Let us come and worship the One who deserves all of our praise.

**P: We come to proclaim our faith in Christ!**

**L: We come to learn how to live out the faith to which we are called,**

**P: That believing, we might have abundant life in him.**

**A: Come, let us worship Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**Hymn # 115**

*Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

**1-Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;  
Led them, with unmoistened foot, through the Red Sea waters.**

**2-'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,  
And from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen.  
Now rejoice, Jerusalem, and with true affection  
Welcome in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!**

**Prayer of Confession**

**O God, you are the Alpha and the Omega – the beginning and the end. We come today in awe of you, and the sacrifice you made for us. We confess that we are reluctant to be counted among those responsible for the crucifixion of the One you sent to be our Savior. Forgive the pride that prevents our honest confession of sin, as well as the doubts within us that cause us to question you. We DO believe that Jesus is your Son, and we truly desire to follow him. Help us to do so with an unwavering faith that does not need to SEE in order to BELIEVE. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.**

**Therefore confess your sins to each other  
and pray for each other so that you may be healed.  
The prayer of a righteous person  
is powerful and effective.**

**James 5:16**



## Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: Jesus is alive, and he has vanquished death!

**P: *Jesus is the first and the last – the living One. He is forgiving and he says, “Do not be afraid.”***

L: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel –

**P: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

## Meeting God in the Word

### Children’s Message/Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson**     *I John 1: 1 -2: 2*     *The Light of God*     *Lay Leader: Nancy Carol W.*



*We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us - we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus*

*Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

*This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

L: This is the Word of the Lord.     **P: *Thanks be to God.***

### Special Music



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 in 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.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

*What Do You Require in Order to Believe?*

## Responding to the Word

### Hymn # 255 G2G

*O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!*

**1-O sons and daughters, let us sing  
With heavenly hosts to Christ our King;  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**2-That night the apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their Lord most dear,  
And said, "My peace be with you here."  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**3-When Thomas first the tidings heard,  
How they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**4-"My pierced side, O Thomas, see;  
And look upon my hands, my feet;  
Not faithless but believing be."  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**5-No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**6-How blest are they who have not seen,  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Litany of Faith

**L:** Are you disciples of the One called Christ?

**P:** ***Our hands have touched the holes in his palms, and our eyes have seen the wound in his side. We have known suffering as he did, and we have received his peace. Yes, we are disciples of the One called Christ.***

**L:** How do you know you are the disciples of Jesus?

**P:** ***His life was revealed, and we have seen it, giving us the faith to know why he came, and how we are called to continue his legacy.***

**L:** Jesus came to show you how to have the eternal life God has wanted for you, from the beginning of time.

**P:** ***Having fellowship with God and with our brothers and sisters in faith, is what God wants for us.***

**L:** The message we are to proclaim is that God is Light.

**P:** ***And, in God, there is no darkness.***

**L:** When we walk in darkness, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not within us.

**P:** ***But when we walk in the light, Jesus' blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness.***

**L:** God does not want us to walk in darkness and sin. That is why God sent us an Advocate in Jesus,

**P:** ***For he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and for the sins of the whole world.***

**L:** Friends, are you disciples of the One called Jesus the Christ?

**P:** ***We believe that he is the Son of God, and we choose to follow him and worship him, with all that we have and are!***

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus: *I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.  
And anytime, I don't know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

## The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

**+Prayer of Dedication:** *Holy God, we come before you today with our offerings. We realize how great the needs of the world and the church are, and this offering may seem meager, but we give it with our love and devotion for you and your mission for us. Use it and us as you see fit. In the name of your risen Son we pray. Amen.*

# Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 144

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

**1-Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!  
His the scepter, his the throne!  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone!  
Hark the songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
Hath redeemed us by his blood.**

**2-Alleluia! Not as orphans  
Are we left in sorrow now.  
Alleluia! He is near us;  
Faith believes nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him,  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget his promise,  
"I am with you evermore"?**

**3-Alleluia! Bread of angels,  
Thou on earth our food, our stay.  
Alleluia! Here the sinful  
Flee to thee from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.**

**4-Alleluia! King eternal,  
Thee the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluia! Born of Mary,  
Earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne.  
Thou within the veil hast entered,  
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
In the eucharistic feast.**

## Blessing

L: God sent Jesus to us, and now Christ sends us out into the world.

**P: Let us not be faithless and lock ourselves away from the world.**

L: Rather, let us go down to the streets and do as he asks, allowing his grace to overpower our doubts, and his peace to overcome our fears.

**P: For we have committed ourselves to be the people of God, and we boldly step out in faith, going wherever he calls us to go.**

L: And now may the blessings of God Almighty...

## Response

*He is Lord – He is Lord, He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord.*