

2nd Sunday of Easter

Bright Sunday, April 11, 2021



Worship Leaders Rev. Norman and all of God's people

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Call to Worship

It is the Sunday after Easter; the lilies are gone.

And we are alone with our faith

Thomas said: "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." (John 20:25b NRSV)

Easter is past, and we are alone with our faith.

On this Sunday after Easter, help us grow into the faith that we confessed and celebrated last week. Reveal evidence of your resurrection for the days when we feel that we are alone with our faith.

Opening Prayer

Creator God, You call us out of dark places and into new life.
Fill our hearts with compassion, creativity, and
hope, as we share your story! Amen.

**God in Community, Holy in One,
on this great day of Easter,
we pray as Jesus taught us, saying,
Our Father . . .**

OPENING HYMN #185 “You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen” tune Noel

- 1 You tell me that the Lord is risen,
 that you have seen his face.
 Then tell me why you crouch in fear
 and hide within this place.
 You say that he spoke words of peace
 and stood just as before.
 But 'til I touch his very flesh
 I will not trust your joy.**

- 2 You claim a resurrection here,
 that God has broken death.
 No easy words like these will soothe
 the pain that tears my breath.
 How well do I recall his face,
 compassion, strength in fear.

 How deep my grief that he should die.
 Spare me your words of cheer!**

- 3 'Now peace be with you. Come, my friend,
 my wounded body see.
 Let the rich courage of your doubt
 bring you to fresh belief.
 Fear not to wonder at the Word,
 to search the depths of grace.**

**Reach out and touch, here is my hand.
Receive the gift of faith.'**

- 4 'How blest are they, how fortunate
 who know without the sight.
 But Thomas, you are favoured too,
for searching yields its light.'
So may each pilgrim in the Way,
 each road to Christ be blest,
 'til lips declare, 'My Lord and God!'
 Christ's body one at last.**

OFFERING AND DEDICATION

With compassion for our needs, the Risen Christ stands beside us calling our names. May our tithes and offerings be used by You as tools of compassion to relieve the suffering of this world. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, we confess our doubts.
When our childhood understandings fall away,
we feel naked.
When our long-held beliefs seem to crumble,
we feel lost.
When our convictions are questioned,
we feel ashamed.
Guide us into right paths, O God.
Guide our feet into the way of peace.
guide our hands to care for others.
guide our hearts to love our neighbors.
Call us back to You, O Christ, and renew our faith.
When the ground is unsteady,
loving God, put us back on right paths
by doing justice, loving kindness,
and walking humbly with You. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is our chosen portion and our cup.

God binds us in, counsels our minds and instructs our hearts.
God helps us to stand firm for justice, mercy, and peace.
When we fall, God lifts us up, forgives us,
and remembers our sins no more. Amen.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURE

John 20: 19- 29 (NRSV)

Psalm 133

Bright Sunday: 4 Perspectives on the Sunday following Easter

- 1) Easter is past, Easter meals are over and almost all the Easter Candy has been eaten. We are now well into another shutdown and we are even- more impatient than usual.
We have doubts Lord. Locked away and separated, from all our relations, we are not as joyous in our faith as we would have hoped to be.
On this Sunday after Easter, help us grow into the faith that we confessed and celebrated last week.
Jesus, reveal yourself in the sounds and the sights of creation and restore our faith in knowing that we are yours and we are not alone.
- 2) The Sunday after Easter invites to join in a tradition called, The Easter Laugh (Bright Sunday). This tradition was started by early Christians rejoicing the practical joke God played on the finality of death with the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection. The Easter Laugh remembers a joke that turned what is expected around; Jesus' resurrection turns the expected around, showing God's ways are not our ways. God, in love and in grace, makes a way possible when the thought is there is no way possible! Sin and death don't have the last word! Take time this week to celebrate The Easter Laugh and reflect on how God, in love and grace, is causing new life in you. Share a prayer of thanks with God and with us for Easter's laugh and new life. **Jake Van Pernis**
- 3) Holy Humour Sunday gives us a good excuse to find ways to laugh and to feel the joy of Easter in our bodies. Jesus is alive! What a wonderful, surprising, delightful, unexpected thing. Once we were feeling despair and now, we are feeling joy. I hope you are able to find ways to laugh this week and if you come across something that has made you laugh please share it with us so we can spread some Easter joy! **Maren Mclean Persaud**
- 4) "HALLELUJAH" // ALELUYA ☐☐ INKA GOLD feat TERESA JOY
<https://youtu.be/ev0iZVgEZLI>

Liturgy

You call us to be people of faith,
yet we are often people with doubts.
We doubt that love can grow again in relationships
where anger and bitterness reign supreme.
You know the strength of love and the power of prayer:
help us to be faithful lovers.
We doubt that peace can come in the Middle East, in Syria, or in our neighbourhoods after
bedtime.

Help us to become faithful peacemakers.
We doubt that the hungry can be fed in Africa,
where despair and hopelessness reign supreme.
You know that there is enough food in the world;
help us to feed and clothe those in need.
Christ, You specialize in impossibilities;
you walked on water,
you heal the nations
you forgive sins
you set the captives free,
you seek out those who others would shun.

This morning we pray for people here who are filled with doubts,
who wonder whether you exist and whether you are listening to our prayers,
who wonder what this whole community is about.
We pray for people who doubt the purpose of life,
and who wonder whether anyone would miss them, if they were not here.
Give us faith, small as a mustard seed,
so that we can be your faithful people,
believing in your power to save,
believing in your power to reign supreme,
believing that we can share this good news
with everyone we meet.
We ask all this in Jesus' name, Amen.

A New Hymn for us #187 "The Spring Has Come" <https://youtu.be/T6qvgDE2YLk>

**1 The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!
 The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!
 New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.**

New light, new day,
the spring has come, let all the church be part of it!

2 The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
The world expands, let's spread the Gospel way in it!
New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust,
the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!

3 The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.
New bud, new shoot,
the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!

Benediction (*inspired by John 20:21-22*)

Jesus said: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am now sending you." Christ believes in you. The busy world awaits your compassion. Go gladly, daring to succeed or fail to the glory of God, Follow the risen Christ, the wisdom of the Living God, and the support of the loving Spirit, to help care for one another, our neighbours and our community and our world. Amen!

Announcement- Compliance with Provincial Stay-at-Home Order

Our Provincial Government has issued an Emergency Measure requiring the people of Ontario to stay at home for the next 4 weeks. In compliance, effective immediately, we are stopping in-person worship until this measure ends.

As always, I will do my best to continue emergency pastoral care.

Stay safe and help end the spread of COVID19 and the Variances.