



*"Thomas Touches Christ's Side" Iványi-Grünwald, Béla.*

# **Christ Church** UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor  
Organist and Pianist, Pam Kothrade  
Nancy Charles, Song Leader

[www.uccmke.org](http://www.uccmke.org)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/christchurchucc](https://www.facebook.com/groups/christchurchucc)

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Today marks the second Sunday of Easter. The empty tomb astonished Mary and the other disciples on Easter morning. Jesus is soon discovered in the community, alive and present in a new way. After Easter Sunday we begin a fifty-day celebration of Jesus' new life. In this season, we begin a sermon series, *Resurrection Everyday* which challenges us to Jesus' resurrection in our daily experiences. This service focuses on the theme of "doubt" and centers on "Doubting Thomas."

**Prelude**

*O Worship the King*

arranger Lloyd Larson

**Words of Welcome**

**Opening Song**

*Alleluia, Alleluia Hearts to Heaven*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Hearts to heaven and voices raise:**

**sing to God a hymn of gladness,**

**sing to God a hymn of praise;**

**he who on the cross a victim**

**for the world's salvation bled--**

**Jesus Christ, the King of glory,**

**now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, Christ is risen!**

**Death at last has met defeat:**

**see the ancient powers of evil**

**in confusion and retreat;**

**once he died, and once was buried:**

**now he lives forevermore,**

**Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,**

**whom we worship and adore.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen!**

**Set your hearts on things above;**

**there in all the Father's glory**

**lives and reigns our King of love;**

**hear the word of peace he brings us,**

**see his wounded hands and side!**

**Now let every wrong be ended,**

**every sin be crucified.**

**Call to Worship**

One: We are here as Mary Magdalene, who announced:

**All: "I have seen the Lord!"**

One: We are here as doubting Thomas, who cried:

**All: "My Lord and my God!"**

One: We are here as Simon Peter, who shouted:

**All: "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."**

One: We are here because so many faithful disciples have listened to Jesus' words:

**All: "Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid!"**

One: Go and tell, Jesus has been raised!

**All: Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!**

### **Opening Prayer**

Gracious God,

So much of life is unpredictable.

Life begins and ends.

Isolation and shut down continue.

The weather changes.

Love surprises us.

Some doors close.

Others open.

Life is unpredictable.

But what we can count on is finding God with us,

in this time and in this virtual space;

For this virtual space is God's house and all are welcome.

So bring all your uncertainties, anxieties, questions, doubts, and longings,

For in the midst of this unpredictable life, we can predict this:

*Love lives here. Let us worship God.*

### **Special Music**

*Led By the Spirit*

solo, Pam Kothrade

### **Old Testament**

#### **[Psalm 16](#)**

*In the book of Acts 2:25-28, the Pentecost story, the Apostle Peter recites Psalm 16 in his address to the crowds about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. In doing so, Peter links the death and resurrection of Christ to the words of the psalmist. Psalm 16 can be classified as a lament, in which the psalmist cries out to God in the midst of a turbulent, life-threatening situation. The psalmist speaks of their trust in God's protection and God's steadfastness.*

<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. <sup>2</sup>I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." <sup>3</sup>As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. <sup>4</sup>Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips. <sup>5</sup>The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. <sup>6</sup>The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. <sup>7</sup>I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also, my heart instructs me. <sup>8</sup>I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. <sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. <sup>10</sup>For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. <sup>11</sup>You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

## The Gospel

*"The Incredulity of Saint Thomas" Caravaggio,  
Merisi da Burnand, 1573-1610*



[John 20:19-31](#)

*At the time that John's Gospel was written, the Johannian community was still primarily Jewish, but they were at odds with other Jewish groups. John's post-resurrection account in this passage focuses on Thomas, who earlier in John 11 was [willing to go to the death with Jesus](#). After the resurrection, the disciples were sequestered away in the house where they had previously spent time with Jesus. Despite their grief and bewilderment about Jesus' death and resurrection, they were in imminent danger. Despite the locked doors of the house and their Michelangelo hearts, Jesus appears to them and greets*

*them with a message of peace. Unable to wrap his mind around Jesus' resurrection, Thomas was at first incredulous. However, Jesus invites Thomas to explore his wounds, which leads to a bold confession of his faith: "My Lord and my God!"*

<sup>19</sup> 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." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> 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." <sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> 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." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> 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." <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> 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.

### Scripture Response

*My Peace*

by Keith Routledge

**My peace I give unto you**

**It's a peace that the world cannot give**

**It's a peace that the world cannot understand**

**Peace to know peace to live**

**My peace I give unto you**

### Homily

**Resurrection Every Day**

## Hymn

## *Thine Is the Glory*

Thine is the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us,  
risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom.  
Let his church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth:  
death hath lost its sting.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of life!  
Life is nought without thee:  
aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors,  
through thy deathless love:  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Edmond Louis Budry | Richard Birch Hoyle, Public Domain

### **Prayers for This Day**

### **Prayers for All Seasons**

### **Ellen Turnbu**

*For these prayers, you are invited to clench your fists tightly during the pastor's prayer and then relax your fists during the spoken response.*

Everything we hold on to,  
that holds us, shapes us, controls us,  
and makes us doubt your presence (pause)  
help us to let go now.

**We receive your Holy Spirit.**

The memories of hurt,  
that speak loudly to us,  
that cripple us, dull us,  
and make us doubt your presence (pause)  
help us to let go now.

**We receive your Holy Spirit.**

The words that linger,  
that have found a home in our reasoning,  
that haunt us,  
echo in us,  
and make us doubt your presence (pause)  
help us to let go now.

**We receive your Holy Spirit.**

The acts we have done,  
that have hurt and abused others,  
that linger in us and bound others,  
and make us doubt your presence (pause)  
help us to let go now.

**We receive your Holy Spirit.**

### **Prayers of the People**

*Hear Our Prayers, O God...*

**For health & healing:** *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.* Ps. 147:3

We pray for:

~Betty Budzien who is healing from injuries from a recent fall. She has been released from the hospital to a rehab facility. We are anticipating information on the location in the near future.

~Ken and Susie K. as Ken faces treatment for prostate cancer.

~Nick, nephew of Nancy & Brad who has been using heroin again for about 6 months. Prayers for him that he can find his way to his father's upcoming funeral and for the whole family.

~Ian, husband of Molly as he receives treatments of chemotherapy every 2 weeks for 2 months for stage 2 Hodgkins lymphoma.

Prayers also for Molly and their daughters during this difficult process.

They are encouraged as this type of cancer has a 90% + success rate and that overall Ian's side effects are mild.

~Continued prayers for David Rothe, friend of John Helt who is rehabbing after a serious infection.

~Kim, friend of Mary Ann Mowery who has again been hospitalized for multiple health issues.

~Rick, Uncle of Laura Pethke who recently had a "routine" heart procedure that did not go well and is now in critical condition. Prayers for the whole family.

~Prayers for strength, understanding and healing for Jack and his family as the bone marrow transplant has been postponed.

He will go through another round of induction chemo. Dick and Joan Gaeth

~Continued prayers Bob, cousin of Barb W, who has COVID. He is no longer sedated and finally is off the ventilator. He has a tremendous amount of healing and therapy ahead.

~Judy, niece of Ken K as she is on chemo for breast cancer.

~Ken's sister who was moved to a nursing home and has a serious chronic infection and dementia.

~Susie K's Aunt Evelyn who is in hospice and Aunt Eleanore who had a stroke and is in home hospice, also for her daughters and granddaughters who are taking care of her.

~Dan, friend of Molly as he and his young family navigate his illness.

~Johnny, friend of the Ken and Sue who has COVID and other health problems.

~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie S as they navigate Joe's medical issues.

~Dawn & Brad D, daughter in-law and son of Laurel as she manages diabetes and dialysis 4 times per week and Brad heals from a broken arm that required several surgeries.  
~Tracy, daughter of Nancy K, who is at home with Nancy awaiting a liver transplant.  
~Continued prayers for Julene F's nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.  
~Bernee, friend of Nancy K who has end-stage lung cancer and is in a nursing home in hospice.

### **Prayer Song**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

**Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!**

### **Prayer of Confession**

One: Gracious God,  
You ask us to follow you and we respond with logistical questions –  
How long? Where to? When and how? Will we return?  
You ask us to love each other, and we respond with excuse –  
I don't know. I'm busy. I'm tired. We don't see eye to eye.  
You ask us to dream, and we are stuck –  
Change will never come. We are defeated.  
You ask us to believe, and, like Thomas, we ask for proof –  
Unless I see, I cannot believe.  
Forgive us for our limited thoughts. Open our eyes and hearts.  
Unravel our doubts. Unravel our unbelief. Lead us to faith in the Risen Christ.  
**All: Amen.**

One: Christ is risen! We need not fear. Peace is woven for us, so we can let go of our pain and sadness and guilt. New possibilities open for us when we embrace God's amazing promise of abundant life. We are forgiven. We are comforted. We are assured of God's love. Amen.

### **Call to Offering**

One:  
Please give as you are able. [www.uccmke.org/donate](http://www.uccmke.org/donate)

### **Prayer of Dedication**

#### **Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
A-men.**

## Closing Song

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing  
who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified;  
no angels in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bend their burning eyes  
at mysteries so bright.

George Job Elvey | Godfrey Thring | Matthew Bridges, © Words: Public Domain, Music: Public Domain

## Sending

One: Mary Magdalene announced:

**All: "I have seen the Lord!"**

One: Doubting Thomas cried out:

**All: "My Lord and my God!"**

One: Peter shouted to Jesus on the shore:

**All: "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."**

One: We are here today because so many faithful disciples from different walks of life have listened to Jesus' words. Go forth and share the good news:

**All: Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!**

One: Go in peace.

## Postlude

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

arranger Mark Hayes

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways

Some Prayers and Liturgies by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC

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### **Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!**

Grace Perdue April 14

Devon Jorgenson April 15

### **Thanks**

~ "Thank you so very much for the beautiful butterfly and the card. It's so very nice to be remembered. May God Bless each of you. Love Jackie Struck".

### **Announcements**

#### **Position Opportunity**

The Pastor/Parrish/Personnel Committee would like to thank Debbie Behling for her many years of service to Christ Church as Office Administrator and as church president, council member, committee member and friend. Debbie will be retiring in May. This leaves an enormous void to fill.

The Pastor/Parrish/Personnel Committee is actively seeking someone to fill the position of Church Secretary. If you know anyone who may be interested in this position; or if you have an interest, you may contact the committee via email at: [pprc@uccmke.org](mailto:pprc@uccmke.org) or contact a committee member. The committee members are Dean Kothrade, Randene Wick and Dick Gaeth. Submitted by Dick Gaeth

#### **DI SOS donations needed**

Please help by donating the following for our Friday night meal distribution:

\*Prewrapped plastic knife, fork, and napkin (please tie or tape shut)

\*Fruit Breakfast/granola Bars (any flavors)

#### **Volunteers Needed**

Friday night volunteers for SOS DI meal distribution at Christ Church.

It would be helpful if we could get 2 more sets of Building Reps so that volunteers will repeat about every 6-8 weeks. Just 1.5 hours on a Friday evening starting at 4:45pm.

Please contact Jim Wick for information and/or to sign up. Thanks.

#### **BVCC Food Pantry Donation Requests**

This week's most urgent needs are:

**\*Pastas & Sauces, Mac & Cheese, Individually packaged chips, cookies, fruit, granola bars etc., Toilet paper, laundry detergent and/or monetary donations.**

As usual donations can be dropped off at the BVCC at 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.

Tuesdays-Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm.

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email [pastor@uccmke.org](mailto:pastor@uccmke.org).  
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

We are currently worshipping online-only until June 6<sup>th</sup>.

You can make your offering to Christ Church at [www.uccmke.org/donate](http://www.uccmke.org/donate) or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207

