

Service for April 27th, 2025
Easter 02

Hymn Books: MV = More Voices ~ VU = Voices United

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory Life of the Church Community (Announcements)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. We light this candle as a reminder that life is stronger than death, and that Jesus is alive in our hearts and in our community.

Call to Worship

Like Thomas, we have our doubts:

We want to see the marks of the nails,

We want to touch Jesus' side.

Like Thomas, we have our doubts:

We have so many questions.

We have so many uncertainties.

Like Thomas, we have our doubts:

and still we cry out,

"My Lord and My God!"

In our doubting, and our knowing,
we come to worship.

Opening Prayer

Holy God, we come to you, seeking ways to understand the mystery of Easter. Death is supposed to be the end, not a beginning. We are supposed to know what to do, but now we're left curious. Be with us in our worship, in the words of the prayers, in the songs we sing, in the words we speak and hear; for you are our God-with-us. Amen.

Hymn: VU#315 - Holy, Holy, Holy

Passing of the Peace

We share a sign of peace with each other in a form that is welcome and acceptable to both ourselves and the one with whom we are sharing.

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

As we gather ourselves together once again, let us prepare to continue our worship as we join our hearts together and pray.

Prayer for Transformation

O God, certainty is easy, but doubt is hard. We are sometimes so certain about what we know that when something happens that we can't explain, it makes us confused. And in our confusion, sometimes we don't act the best, and we don't respond the best. So forgive us for the times that we spoke when we should have hesitated, and for the times we didn't speak soon enough. For the times we reacted before thinking, and the times that we neglected our responsibilities. There are so many things done and undone that are a result of fear ... hear the prayers of our hearts.

Beloved church, the Easter story tells us that there is so very little that we can do that God won't forgive, and won't welcome us back into relationship. The Easter story reminds us of the power of life over death, and the love of community. This grace of God is ours; now and for all time. Thanks be to God!

Theme Time:

With Adults:

Describe the ways and how often do you criticize yourself? How do these self-criticisms affect how you see others? What steps do you need to take for let go of your criticisms of yourself and others?

End With:

We have learned our entire lives to be self critical. Depending on our upbringing, we have also learned to be critical of others. Jesus calls us to another way. Jesus calls us to forgive ourselves as we have been forgiven. We are also called to let go of our judgements of others so that we are set free, surrounded in God's love.

Hymn VU#155 - Jesus Christ is Risen Today

We Listen for God's Voice

Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways.

Speak to us now through the reading of the scriptures.

Focus Scripture: John 20:19-31(Common English Bible)

Jesus appears to the disciples

¹⁹ It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” ²² Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

Jesus appears to Thomas and the disciples

²⁴ Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.”

²⁶ After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

²⁸ Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

³⁰ Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded in this scroll. ³¹ But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

This is the trustworthy witness of God’s faithful people through the ages,
The divine word to us today. Amen.

Sermon – Rev. MiYeon Kim

Bio: Rev. MiYeon Kim, ordained by Seoul-North Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, the Republic of Korea, 2015 was admitted to United Church of Canada in 2017. Her skills and passions include Christian Education and congregation growth, not to mention her gift of singing. She

is also very passionate about Children's Ministry and was involved in creating YouTube Children's Dance Videos. Her goal is to create vibrant inspirational Sunday Worship services for all. MiYeon currently serves Granum and Trinity United Churches, Fort McLeod, AB.

Hymn: VU#166 - Joy Comes with the Dawn
Please be seated

God Invites Us to Respond in Faith and Hope

Invitation to the Offering:

We are called to look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. One of the ways we do so is through our tithes and our offerings. Let us now offer some of what we have to God.

Offering Response: VU#541 – Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayer of Dedication

May these gifts, given here and through PAR and other means, and through the lives and actions of our hearts, be used for the work that is ours, because it is yours. Amen.

When we pray together in community, the concerns of each of us, spoken or unspoken, are shared by all of us. We continue our response to God by joining our hearts together in prayer each in the language of their heart . . .

Prayers of the People

Let us pray:

Holy God, as you, in Jesus, came to the frightened disciples,
come to the world again.

Come to politicians and governments, come to business board rooms,
and court rooms
Come. Come and help us find peace.

Come to hospitals and prisons, to homes where the struggle of life
is known to those who are experiencing it. Come. Come and help us find
peace.

Come when we are afraid, and when we are grieving.
Come to those for whom we care and love.

In this Easter season, help us remember that you have over come death, that wicked plots fail, and that the cruelty of the world could mean nothing, if your kin-dom comes.

Make us new, once again, in your Spirit, that we might find ways to leave our places of comfort, and go into the world, to bring peace ourselves, not just expect you to help us find it.

We gather these and all our prayers, each in the language of our hearts. thankful that we may turn to you, who loves us:

**Our Father/Mother/Creator
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,
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: VU#236 - Now Thank We All Our God

We Go into the World to Share God's Love

Sending Forth

We leave this place, with doors unlocked, flung to the outside, to help us find the good news in the resurrection despite our doubt, and our confusion.

We leave this place knowing that God is with us, as always, that Jesus lives again, and that the Spirit enlivens us this day and always. Amen.