



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving Christ and Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester & Beyond



“APPEARANCE TO THE DISCIPLES” – Ed de Guzman, artist

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2020

WORSHIP ONLINE & AT HOME





You are invited from your home to participate in the elements of worship preceded in **BOLD**.

Thought Upon Entering

"This year — more than ever — I cherish the wounds in Jesus's post-resurrection life. On this first Sunday after Easter, even though we are a resurrection people, we are still hurting. The world is still wounded. Regardless of where on the planet we live, we are still anticipating grief on a scale most of us have never experienced before. This year especially, Jesus's scarred body speaks with great power, tenderness, mercy, and truth. Allow them to speak to you."

— **DEBIE THOMAS**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

PRELUDE "Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone"

arr. Larry Dalton

Amy Bowman, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

All: God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.

Leader: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

All: In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.

Leader: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him;
and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

All: Let us worship the Risen Lord!

HYMN 826, w. 1, 3, & 4 "Lift High the Cross"

CRUCIFER

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, // Till all the world adore His sacred Name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod, // the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, // your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be: // praise to the Crucified for victory. (Refrain)

WORDS: GEORGE W. KITCHIN (1827-1912). MODIFIED BY MICHAEL R. NEWBOLT, 1916.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Todd Bowman

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:14a, 22-32; John 20:19-31, NT

JOHN

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.

SERMON "Peace Be With You" The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

OFFERTORY

SPECIAL MUSIC "Because He Lives"

Jackie Lawall, vocals
Amy Bowman, piano

RESPONSE

God strengthens us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

[...the petitions conclude...] Leader: And now as Christ taught us, we are bold to pray...

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Because He Lives"

Matt Maher

After prayer and thoughtful deliberation and with deep regret, our elected leadership, the Session has acted to suspend all church activities through May 10 in order to comply with the CDC recommendation and the Commonwealth of Virginia Executive Order 55, as well as an act of Christian love towards neighbors. The goal is to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and not overwhelm our health care system with new infections. Halting the spread of the coronavirus requires a community effort. *If new information arises that allows us to resume gathering in person, we will rescind this action and resume in-person gatherings.* A worship service will be broadcast each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and video will remain on our Facebook page after the broadcast. We will also upload the video to our website.

<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchwinchester> <https://www.fpcwinc.org/virtual>

What can you do during this time?

- Support our church's elected leaders and staff. We have been making some hard decisions on the fly without a roadmap. We are learning to lean ever more closely on God and one another more and more as we lead in this crisis. We are humbled by the trust you place in us to lead well and wisely.
- Maintain your giving to the church according to your ability. Our financial obligations remain as does yours – mission commitments, staff salaries, utilities, insurance, planned maintenance of a sizeable facility. You can send your offering via USPS [116 S. Loudoun St., Winchester, VA 22601] or you can give electronically using the "Donate" button on our website. Thank you.
[<https://fpcwinc.org/stewardship/donate>]
- Check on your neighbors. There are folks who are impacted harshly by the disruptions of this pandemic than others. They need us and we can help.
- Pray for your church family. Make phone calls. Send emails. Write and send cards. Let folks know they are remembered and loved.
- Practice Sabbath. Set aside time to be with God, to be silent, to listen for the whispers of the Spirit, to release your anxiety and fear, to renew, to rest.