

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Services Canceled
Online Only
2nd Sunday of Easter

Apr 19, 2020

Sunday Morning Prayer

God of mercy, you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice; and have promised to hear the prayers of two or three who agree in your name; fulfill now, we pray, the prayers and longings of your people as may be best for us and for your kingdom. Grant us in this world to know your truth, and in the world to come to see your glory. AMEN.

Prayer List

Linda A	Donna F	Peggy P
Cathy B	Bob G	Ellen P
Tubby B	Jean G	River T
Joel C	Mike L	Unspoken Request
Mel C	Joan M	
<i>HealthCare Professionals</i>		
Kera F	Nancy P	Emma & Cory W
Elizabeth Y	Tyler P	Many others...

Call to Worship

Sing a new song!

A springtime shout-out to life!

Sing praise to our joyful Easter God

Whose power brings new life out of death!

Immerse doubt and despair in the fountain of new birth

Find refreshment and strength for a future of hope!

For God has taken ordinary things

And made them extraordinary:

All: Sing a New Song!

Opening Hymn *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Msyc6xr_CaE

Gathering Prayer

Holy God,

Nothing is beyond your power to transform!

In a gray dawn, you coax songs of Alleluia!

From the tombs of despair, we take refuge in

You call us to wake up and work.

We praise you for this amazing day!

Come, Risen Christ,

in newness and hope on this Eastertide morning. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Redeeming God,

with you there is always more life, more hope, more joy.

When doubt assails us, and we fail to recognize you at work in our lives,

Lord, have mercy!

When fear impairs our faith, and our eyes and ears and hearts

do not know you,

Christ, have mercy!

When anger and sorrow stop us from doing the risky work of love,

Lord, have mercy!

Words of Assurance

Within every kernel of doubt, there is a spark of life and hope.

In those times when our faith falters,

when we cannot recognize the presence of the Holy among us,

God takes our faith and transforms it,

patiently showing us the many ways Christ walks among us.

Look around you:

as close as your own beating heart,

and in the eyes of your nearest neighbor,
grace abounds at the heart of all life.
You are all God's children, loved without condition,
go in that peace. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,^[a] put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

"I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,

²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'^[b]

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 16

A *miktam*^[a] of David.

¹ Keep me safe, my God,
for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing."

³ I say of the holy people who are in the land,
"They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."

⁴ Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on my lips.

- ⁵ LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.
- ⁷ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I keep my eyes always on the LORD.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
- ¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful^[b] one see decay.
- ¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9 NIV

Praise to God for a Living Hope

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Meditation Hymn “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyykODLTZ8o>

The Reading of the Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31 NIV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you

forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gloria Patri

TH # 493

Children's Message

See the Children's Bulletin titled '*Jesus Appears to His Disciples*'

Today's Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKn6OE-Txvo>

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Sung Response *“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”* TH # 501

Closing Hymn *“He Leadeth Me”*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jy8EEOCa534>

Benediction

Follow God’s lead into new life!
Recognize Jesus in unexpected places.
Easter!
Christ is Risen!
May you dance an alleluia dance,
and sing a resurrection song.
Laugh with God and let joy reside in your hearts always. **Amen.**

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and until the end of eternity. **Amen.**

Three-Fold Amen



Disclosure: Ads contained in the Links may not represent the opinion of the UCC or the Greenfield Charge UCC.

Rejoice in God was written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, Faith INFO Ministry Team.



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