

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

19 April 2020

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty and merciful God, in your loving way, you ask only for our faith and to follow you. Your steadfast promise is we will see unimaginable wonders. Give us the strength and courage to trust you, Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship

Light now shines where once there was darkness and despair.

Hope and joy live where once there was only sadness and shame.

We have new life because Christ lives, and the bonds of death are broken.

Even as the days grow long and we are weary, our Lord sustains us.

Christ alone pleads our case before God so that we may know mercy. Let us pray together.

Girded with gladness, we come rejoicing. You are God of salvation; we give you praise.

When we cried for help you heard us; from out of the pit you rescued us. You turn our

mourning into dancing and adorn us with favor. We raise our voices in faithful

thanksgiving and give glory and honor to your wondrous name.

In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship God.

Prayer of Confession

We gather here as a fellowship of people who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. One of our joys is the peace we experience as we gather to worship, to give thanks, and to witness the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Yet, we admit that there are times when we feel afraid, abandoned, and lonely. We confess there are moments where faith leads to doubt and questions rather than a sense of peace of mind. Unlike those first disciples, we cannot touch or see you, and so it is all too easy to become downcast and given to despair.

Forgive us when, like the disciples, we find the truth of Easter hard to believe.

Come to us, risen Christ, come through the closed doors of our hearts and minds and take away our fears and doubts.

Come to us, risen Christ, breathe on us and fill us with the joy of your presence.

Bless us all as people who have not seen you, but who believe that you are truly the risen Christ, Son of God. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37-39

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**

Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Lesson

John 20:19-31

Sermon

Light In Our Darkness

Rev. Edward Bellis

Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Great is Thy faithfulness
O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with You
Thou changes not
Your compassions they fail not
As You have been
You forever will be*

*Pardon for sin
And a peace that endureth
Your own dear presence to cheer
And to guide
Strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside*

*Great is You faithfulness
Great is You faithfulness
Lord every morning new mercies I see
And all I have needed Your hands has
provided
Great is Your faithfulness
Great is Your faithfulness
Great is Your faithfulness
Lord unto me*

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

* Benediction