



He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. MATTHEW 28:6

APRIL 23-24, 2022

1ST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

It is a joy to enter your presence, oh risen Lord. We come with gladness and sadness, with anticipation for the future and regret for the past, with assurance and doubt. Come, Lord. Come meet us right where we are and show us how you love us too much to ever leave us the same. Use this time of worship to inspire us, to teach us, to change us and to transform us. We cannot wait to see what you are going to do. Through Jesus. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is one element of faith.*
- Paul Tillich (Theologian)
- ❖ *Whether your faith is that there is a God or that there is not a God, if you don't have any doubts, you are either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving.*
- Fredrick Buechner

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: God invites us into the holy realm of salvation.

People: We come, but we come with many questions.

Leader: God welcomes us with all our fears and doubts.

People: We admit that we do have many doubts and fears.

Leader: God's love conquers all, even when doubts remain.

People: Trusting this promise, we come.

PRAISE SONG: *He Has Been Raised* (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

Leader: Let us confess to God and before one another our sins, and especially our unwillingness to confront our own questions and fears.

People: We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. We want to believe, but we find it hard. There are so many questions about the Bible and about life. We want you to reassure

us that we are on the right track, but we are afraid of our own questions. Sometimes we fear what the answer might be; sometimes we fear because we know what the answer is; and sometimes we fear because we think there may not be an answer. Come into our presence once again and still our fears. Fill us with the courage that comes from knowing you as the God who is love. Amen.

Leader: God is indeed love and is greater than our fears. Receive God's peace, as God receives us with all our questions and fears.

CONFESSIOIN RESPONSE: *Break These Chains (music at end of bulletin)*

THE READING:

Acts 5:27-32

Acts is the biblical book on life in the early church after Jesus' death, resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. This incident takes place when believers were being arrested and persecuted. Here Peter, and some of the others, were brought before the Jewish Council and reminded what they were commanded not to do. Peter witnesses to what God has done for them and that he and others must obey God rather than men.

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

THE GOSPEL:

John 20:19-31

Here the Gospel of John has the story of two post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to His disciples, At the first one Thomas is absent and suggests that he does not believe their witness of Jesus being alive. The second time Thomas is there and Jesus invites him to touch where He had been wounded resulting in an utterance by Thomas of belief. Some say what follows about the book being written for our belief may have been the original ending to this book.

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.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to



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He Has Been Raised



Lost and fright - ened, feel - ing sad - ness, some - one you loved has
We are strug - gling, we are wond - 'ring, can we walk the



gone a - way. Seek - ing an - swers, find - ing quest - tions.
streets of faith? We are loved and we're for - giv - en.



Could it be true what the peo - ple say?
Why don't we trust in these arms of grace?



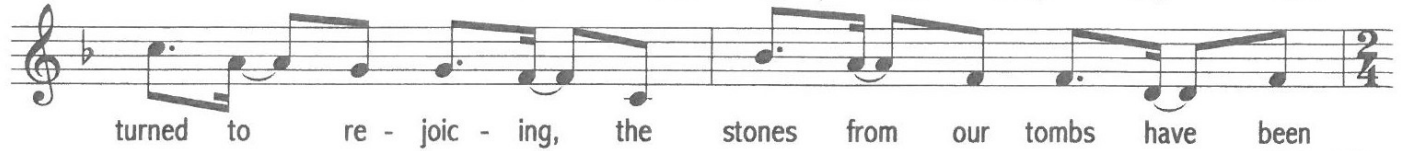
He has been raised. He is not here. Can you be - lieve your ears?



Let go of all your hurts and fears. Je - sus is a - live.



1. *Fine* 2.
Our mourn - ing and weep - ing have



turned to re - joic - ing, the stones from our tombs have been



rolled a - way. Life has come from death to - day now!
D.S. al fine

Break These Chains

Wrapped in con - fu - sion, trapped in life's cage,
I hear you call - ing, call - in my name.

tied to the cra - dle and grave.
Why do I turn from you?

Cap - tive to ques - tions, shack - led by fear,
I keep on run - ning, run - ning a - way,

touch - ing the edge of faith. On - ly
far from your grace and truth.

Refrain
love can break these chains. On - ly love can break these chains. In this

whole world on - ly love can break these chains. chains. *To Refrain*

Break these chains. Break these chains. Break these chains. On - ly

Ask the Complicated Questions

Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
Seek the disc - con - cert - ing an - swers,
Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er

Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ call from
truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock - ing,

strong our weak - ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

Let This Be a Place

Let this be a place, Lord where he-roes are fash-ioned;
filled with your fire, Lord, fueled with your pas-sion.
Ev-ery-day peo-ple, walk-ing with cour-age in-to the
1. night, bring-ing the light of a new day.
Lord you have called the young and na-ive, skep-tics and cyn-ics, who
hard-ly be-lieve. Lord, you have called the wea-ry and old,
mak-ing the tim-id, cou-ra-geous and bold.
Dar-ing to face all e-vil and wrong, tell-ing the truth with a
voice clear and strong; Dar-ing to live out the words that we say;
show-ing the world a more ex-cel-lent way Let this be a
2. night, bring-ing the light of a new day;
in-to the night, bring-ing the light of a new day.