



The Second Sunday of Easter 2021

11 April, 2021

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Gathering

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we dwell in the mystery of Christ's living presence. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us himself, wounded and risen. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of hope, open doors, peace, and forgiveness.

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE: time for prayer and preparation.

In house, please stand at Pastor's invitation

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

We are gathered in the name of the Father, + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In baptism, by water and the Word, God liberates us from sin and death,
joining us to the resurrection life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God's Easter promise be renewed in us
as we proclaim our faith and renew our baptismal covenant.

-Silence -

Do you reject the devil and all his empty promises,
renouncing the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I do, by the grace of God, and the power of the resurrection.

Walking with God's people, will you seek His ways, showing His saving
grace by faith-filled word and action?

We will, by the grace of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Do you turn to Christ as your Lord and Savior?

In faith, I turn to Christ!

May God renew us by the life-giving Spirit of the risen Christ,
and strengthen us to walk by faith in newness of life!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

WE SING THE GATHERING HYMN, #376 ELW

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

GREETING

The grace of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray *Silence*. Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

Word

In house please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON is from the Acts of the Apostles, the 4th chapter. (Acts 4:32-35)

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

+ *Silence* +

Psalm 133 is read responsively by verse.

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore. **Amen**

THE SECOND LESSON is from John 1, the first and second chapters. (John 1:1--2:2)

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

In house, please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! This is the day the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!** (John 20:19-31)

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Please be seated.

TEACHING THE WORD / SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: #596 ELW



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness;
2 Whendark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un - chang - ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer - it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
when all sup - ports are washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

I ask you to confess your faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

Do you believe in God, the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Living God we stand with Thomas in doubt and longing. We long to live again, but we doubt. We long to be community, but we are struggling. Hold out your wounded hands and give us strength. Stand with us, dwell with us, and give us hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gentle away all we hide behind, all that we cling to, all the ways we use to feel safe or in control. Fill our hearts with the sure knowledge that you are our true and only strength. When all else is gone, you remain and always will. Risen One, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, hear the cries of those in need or pain or fear. We pray for us and our communities of home and work, school and learning and recreation. Hear us as we pray for
-all who struggle with illness of body, mind or spirit...
-unity and reconciliation in the face of all that divides us, and those who divide us for power or profit...
-all who struggle to care for the needs of home and family...
-those who grieve, whether for a loved one, or for our nation's losses to pandemic, violence or disaster...
-all whose hearts are hardened to the needs around them from fear, selfishness, apathy or any reason...
Heal us, bring us to wholeness and new life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of all who continue to work for our good in this pandemic, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. Bless those laboring to find new ways to relieve suffering and create a cure. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, crying out in hope and joy to you, O Christ, and to the Father evermore:
Amen! Alleluia, Amen!

Meal

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY, AS WE GATHER OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS / ANTHEM

We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. Our tithes and offerings may be gathered to be given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of love, **you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.**

Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

**Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Table is prepared

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a joyful thing to give you thanks O God,
holy, almighty and merciful.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

For in the night in which He was betrayed,

He took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,

saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

God of resurrection and new life we remember and we pray:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence
and reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us and nourish us with this feast
strengthened to live out your mercy, justice and love.

With the whole people of God, we remember and give thanks

praying with trust and hope for the coming of the Kingdom
in the words our Savior taught us:

**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 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,
forever and ever. Amen**

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace. Amen!

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

We share in the Lord's Body and Blood. Pastor will say:

This is the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you!

Then consume the Sacrament as you desire. Silence for prayer and reflection as we commune. Then:

In house, please stand.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Wellspring of hope,

All of creation sings for joy in the risen life of Jesus. Fill our hearts with your power and peace that we may care for one another in love, together thrive in new life and be a blessing to the world. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen!

Sending

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace. **Amen**

THE SENDING HYMN #632, ELW

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 we fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 still be our guard while troubles last
 and our eternal home!

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace, and tell the news that Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THE POSTLUDE

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

The ordo is the traditional liturgy of Holy Communion.

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The Rev. Marie L. Caron, pastor
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Mrs. Cindy Carper, Secretary
Mr. Jeff Cron Council President

The Announcements

REMEMBER TO CHECK the church web site (www.christpipersville.org) for worship and meeting updates and worship videos and resources or contact the church office.

NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP will be held this week due to the sharp rise in COVID cases in the area. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to our website.

APRIL'S WEB SITE is presented to the Glory of God in Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Michener given by Bill and Carolyn Michener.

WE WELCOME Louise Gerdelmann as today's organist and thank her for her musical leadership.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Donna Hull (H). Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

SPRING CLEAN UP – Please contact Steve Gruver (610-346-6855) to check which tasks are still needed to clean up the church grounds and to volunteer for the cemetery clean up this week. See your newsletter for more details.

BLESSINGS BY THE BOX - We will again be offering assistance to local Tincum families facing food insecurity this summer. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions we will be distributing Giant gift cards instead of actual food items. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Blessings by the Box" and either mail it or drop it off at the church by *June 15th*. We will be distributing the gift cards in late June. Thank you!

BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS: You may now sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Please contact the church office to arrange your sponsorship.

WHAT TO WATCH - Looking for something new to watch or want to recommend something? Send your recommendation to christpipersville@gmail.com. We'll post one family recommendation a week here in this spot. This week's recommendation is from the Snyder's: Russ – "Stone House Revival" (A man revives Bucks County Homes, DIY network) and Deb – "The Equalizer" with Queen Latifah (8 p.m., Sunday, CBS).

Week of April 11th at a Glance

Sun. 04/04 The 2nd Sunday of Easter
9:30AM Live-Streamed Worship (NO in-person worship)
Monday – Saturday Cemetery Clean-up Week
Mon. 04/12 10:00AM Worship & Music Committee
Happy Birthday, Emily Snyder Cree and Maggie Meyerhoff!
Tues. 04/13 7:00PM Council
Thur. 04/15 8:30AM Morning Prayer; 9AM Bible Study
Fri. 04/16 Office Closed – Pastor's Day Off
Sun. 04/18 The Third Sunday of Easter
9:30AM Live-Streamed Worship (NO in-person worship)