

RESPOND TO THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, *including Concerns & Celebrations*

OFFERING and PRESENTING OUR PLEDGES

—Litany adapted from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

For many years we have had the mistaken notion
that all the problems of the world can be solved with a few dollar bills.

In Jesus' time the Pharisees came to ask him if they should pay taxes.

Jesus, looking at a silver coin, asked whose face and name were engraved on it.

"The Emperor's," they said.

"Well then, pay to the Emperor what is his," Jesus replied.

When the Pharisees heard this, they were astonished.

Has God's face ever been on a coin?

We are the coin that bears the living likeness of God.

**Giving of ourselves with whatever that may include
is the only legal currency of the kingdom of heaven.**

Note: Worshipers will be invited to bring their pledge card forward and place it in the offering plate on the communion table. We are grateful for those who have previously turned in their pledges.

OFFERTORY *Jesus Paid It All* arr., C. Tornquist

*DOXOLOGY 606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN 366 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" HYFRYDOL

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING HYMN 600 "Amen" arr., Nelsie T. Johnson

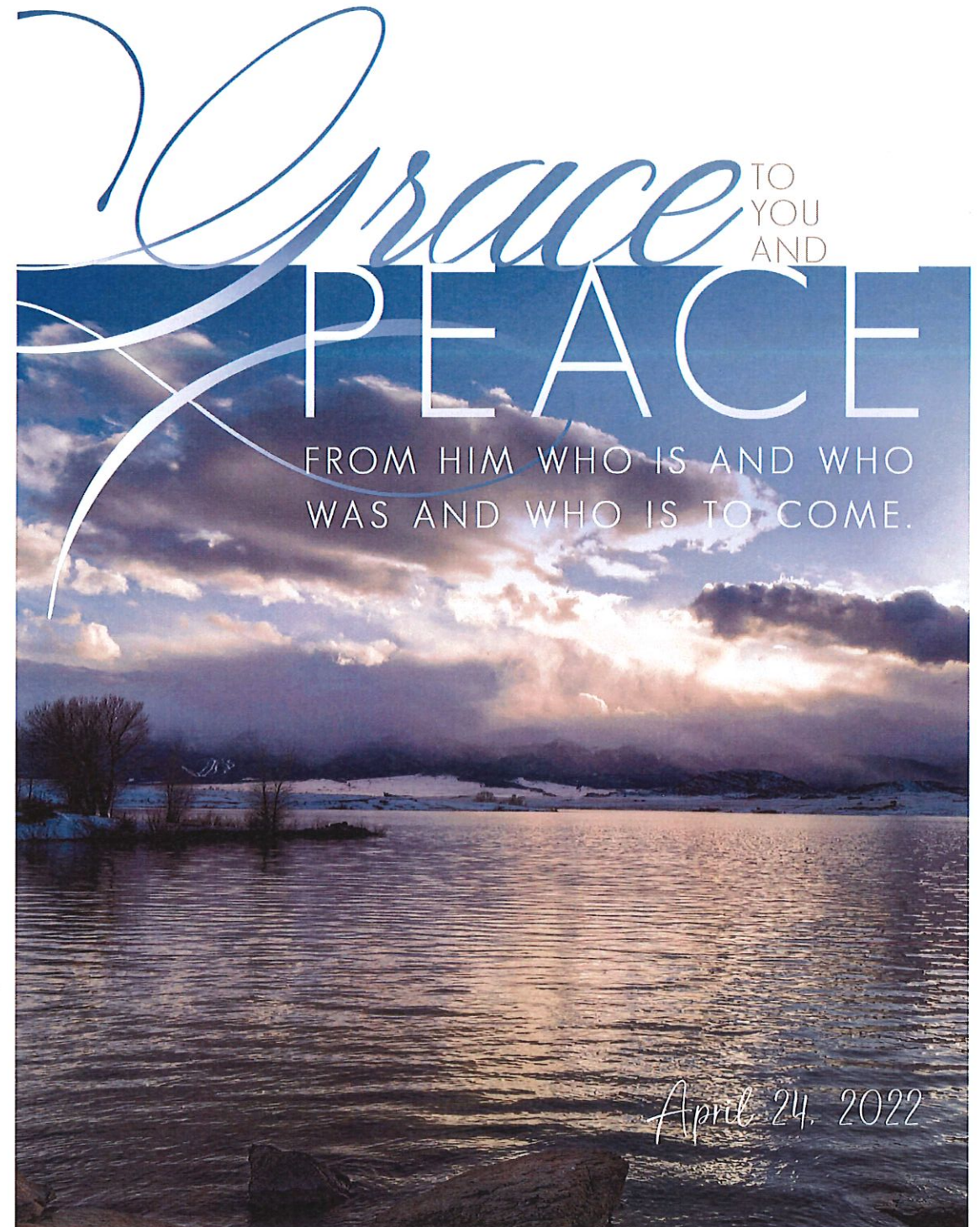
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PIANIST: Pam Knox

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson

ADULT CHOIR

Called Congregational Meeting immediately following the service.



COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: White Second Sunday of Easter 10:00am Worship

GATHER IN GOD’S PRESENCE

PREPARATION *The Wonderful Cross* arr., B. Inman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY *The Power of the Cross* arr., C. Tornquist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
Alleluia! Celebrate God in this sacred space!
Celebrate God in all places under heaven!
Give praise for God’s mighty deeds!
Give praise for God’s resurrecting power!

*HYMN 250 “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” PROMISE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, your love is boundless and your grace exceeds our imaginations.
You keep finding ways to be among us,
even when the doors of our hearts are locked.
Graciously, you seek us out.
We cannot hide, but we can confess that sin has us in its grip.
It has led us from your ways and corrupted our best intentions,
tempting us to believe that you don’t notice, that you aren’t even present.
Correct our vision. Cleanse our hearts.
Create in us a place where we can welcome you and receive the fullness
of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*PRAISE HYMN 582 “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” Vasile
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose
grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING Revelation 1: 4-8

GOSPEL READING John 20: 19-31

PROCLAMATION Dana Waters

*HYMN 817 “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” DUNLAP’S CREEK

John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

¹⁹ 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 [Jewish authorities], Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

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

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So 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.”

²⁶ A 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.” ²⁷ Then 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.”

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

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But 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.

Reflecting on God's Word

1. The disciples are hiding in a locked room out of fear of the Jewish authorities (v. 21). What do you think they are afraid of? When have you experienced a moment of paralyzing fear? What did it feel like?
2. Look back at the story. Does Thomas doubt Jesus's resurrection *or* the disciples' testimony? How is Thomas's encounter with Jesus similar or different from the other disciples?
3. Do you think doubt is a pathway to deeper faith or an obstacle to faith? Why? What role does doubt play for Thomas?
4. After the resurrection, Jesus still has wounds on his hands and side. One biblical scholar writes that the triumph of Easter “transforms but does not erase” the pain of Good Friday. What do you make of this?
5. The final two verses (v. 30-31) tell us the purpose of John's Gospel. What message is John trying to get across? What is Jesus calling us to do with our lives today?
6. Jesus says to the disciples, “peace be with you” and instructs them to forgive others. Where are peace and forgiveness needed most in our community? In our nation? In our world?