

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – April 19, 2020**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**Join us on You Tube!**

**Greeting**

**Call to Worship** [*responsive*]

The people of God were made for worship:  
To sing and to praise, to laugh and to dance.

**The people of God were made for God's presence:  
For pleasure and praise, for joy and for song.**

Come, holy people, God's chosen disciples:  
Gather for worship, come from all places!  
**We have come to God's temple, gathered together,  
We have come to praise God and enjoy God's presence forever.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Confession**

Christ has risen, and we have risen to new life with him.  
Yet we must confess the ways we have  
continued to remain in our tombs of sin and death.  
Let us pray together.

**Prayer of Confession** [*together*]

Living Lord,  
when we stand before the empty tomb  
we don't always feel the joy of resurrection.  
We feel fear, doubt, and distrust.  
We feel empty.

**Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of new life.  
Forgive our doubt of your love.  
Forgive our distrust of your surprising, joyous plan.  
Fill our emptiness with your glorious light.  
Raise us to abundant new life  
for the glory of your name.**

[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

**Assurance of Pardon** *[responsive]*

Sisters and brothers, Christ has forgiven our sins.

Christ calls us to new life. Christ will lead us into righteousness.

**In Christ our sins are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.**

## **We Listen to God's Word**

### **Scripture Readings**

#### **1 Peter 1:3-9**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

#### **John 20:19-29**

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 Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>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.' <sup>27</sup>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.' <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup>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.'

Leader: This is the Witness to God's Word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Again?!**

Rev. Mary Austin

## **We Respond to God's Grace**

### **Invitation to Generosity**

#### **Prayers of the People and 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.

## **We Depart for Service**

### **\*Announcements**

#### **Passing the Peace**

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

### **\*Commission & Benediction**

The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon are adapted from the writing of Greg Scheer.