

EASTER 2 SUNDAY

April 11, 2021

Organ Prelude: Arioso

J. S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” (John 20:19)

We who come to worship are looking for inner peace.

Jesus also said to them: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (21)

We who come to worship are looking for greater meaning and purpose in our lives.

“When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (22)

We who come to worship are looking for greater inspiration to live our deepest convictions.

Thomas the disciple reached out and touched Jesus, and Jesus said to him: “Do not doubt, but believe.” He replied: “My Lord and my God!” (28)

We who come to worship are looking for greater faith to ground us and open us up to yet greater possibilities for our lives.

Let us worship God, together!

Hymn: “Hallelujah, hallelujah”

No. 261

soloists Anna Bateman and Elias Theocharidis with organist Bruce Nasmith

4. That night the apostles met in fear;
amidst them came their Lord most dear,
and said, “My peace be on all here.”
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

6. “My pierced side, O Thomas, see;
my hands, my feet, I show to thee;
not faithless, but believing be.”
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

5. When Thomas first the tidings heard,
how they had seen the risen Lord,
he doubted the disciples' word.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

7. No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side.
“Thou art my Lord and God,” he cried.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

8. How blest are they who have not seen,
and yet whose faith has constant been,
for they eternal life shall win.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Prayer of Approach, Confession & 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 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: "This Joyful Eastertide"

Dutch Carol

soloist Joanne Nasmith with guitarist Jim Nasmith

Scripture Readings: Psalm 133, John 20: 19-31

Read by Aidan & Zonya Sterling

Psalm 133

A Song of Ascents.

¹ How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

John 20: 19-31

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.'²⁰ After 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.'

²⁴ But 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.'

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.' 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.'

³⁰ Now 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.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon: THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT Rev. Naggie Sterling

Special Music: "Thy rebuke..." & "But Thou didst not leave..." from Messiah G. F. Handel
soloist Elias Theocharidis with accompaniment by Bruce Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: "I heard the voice of Jesus say" No. 671
soloist Anna Bateman with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast!'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink and live!'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that lifegiving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived
and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun,
and in that light of life I'll walk
till traveling days are done.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: The Rejoicing

G. F. Handel

Ministers

Ministers-in Association

Minister Emeritus

Clerk of Session

Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement

Music Director

Parish Nurse Assistant

The Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis, hathan1964@hotmail.com

The Rev. Rebecca Jess, rebecca@armourheights.org

The Rev. Dr. Carol Loudon, The Rev. Deb Stanbury

The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll & The Rev. Rodger Talbot

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