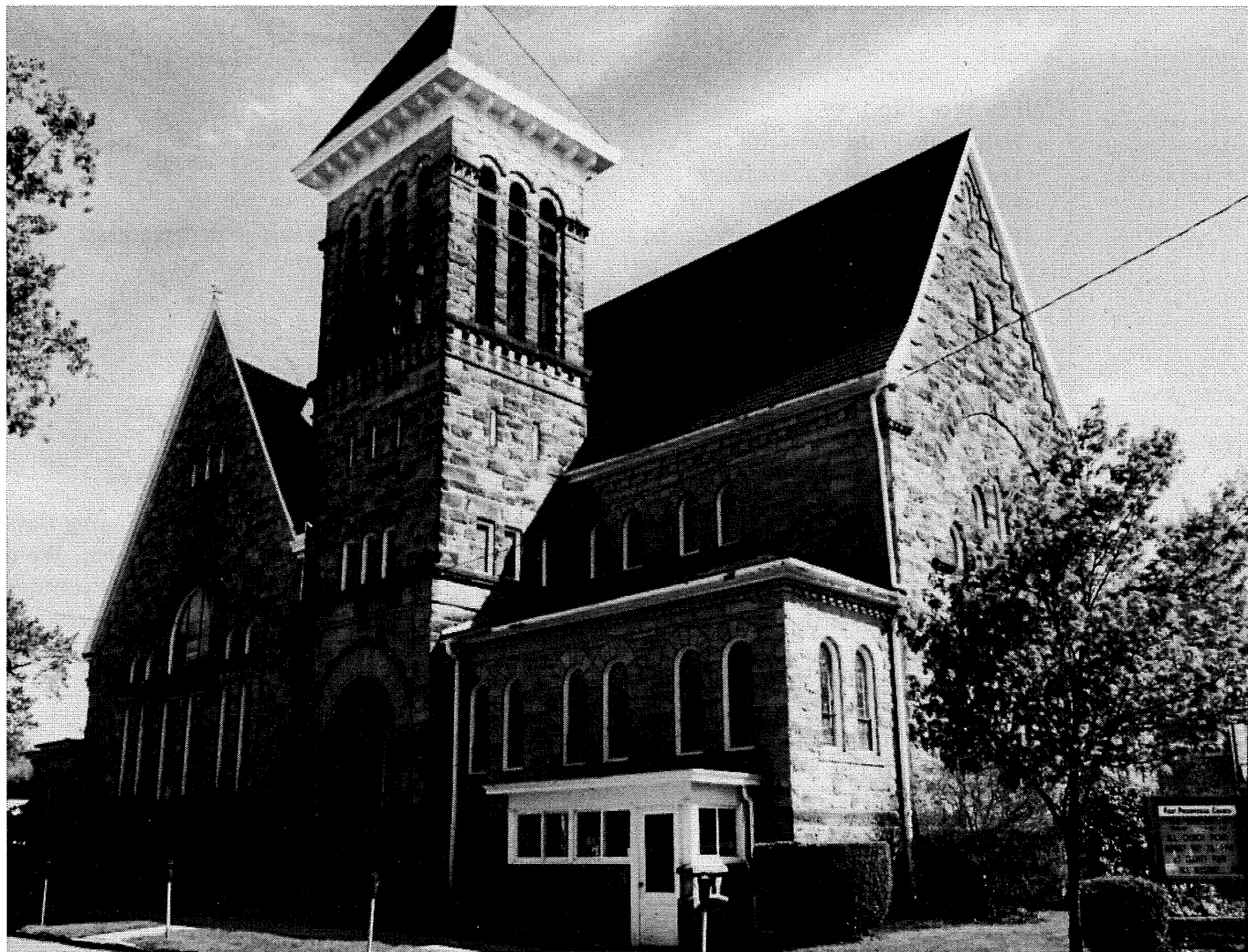


First Presbyterian Church



Second Sunday of Easter
April 27, 2025



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org

www.clarionfirstpresby.org

We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.

We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

The Second Sunday of Easter

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Kathy Larimer

Prelude

Jesus Loves Me

(Piano Duet: Brooke Maxwell & Bonnie Champion)

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord

Call to Worship

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Praise God in God's sanctuary!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Praise God for God's mighty deeds! Praise God according to God's surpassing greatness!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

Let us worship God!

✠ Hymn No. 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

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. It's in his name we pray, Amen.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✠ Gloria Patri

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Prayer of Illumination

Kathy Larimer

First Scripture

Revelation 1:4-8

(p. 245)

Second Scripture

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

(p. 191)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"What If?"

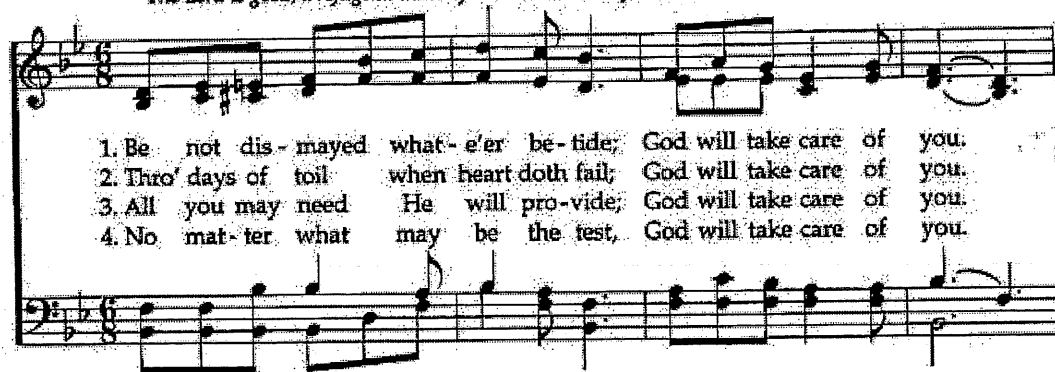
Debra Owens

Piano Interlude

WALKING WITH GOD

692 God Will Take Care of You

The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him. Nahum 1:7

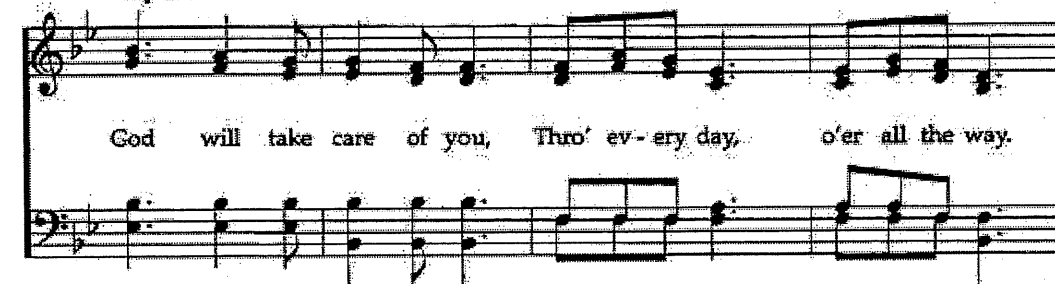


1. Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide; God will take care of you.
2. Thro' days of toil when heart doth fail; God will take care of you.
3. All you may need He will pro-vide; God will take care of you.
4. No mat-ter what may be the test, God will take care of you.



Be - neath His wings of love a-bide; God will take care of you.
When dan-gers fierce your path as-sail; God will take care of you.
Noth-ing you ask will be de-nied; God will take care of you.
Lean, wea-ry one, up-on His breast; God will take care of you.

Refrain



God will take care of you, Thro' ev-ery day, o'er all the way.



He will take care of you; God will take care of you.

TEXT: Civilla D. Martin
MUSIC: W. Stillman Martin

GOD CARES
C.M. with Refrain

We Give Thanks to God

✠ Affirmation of Faith

Hebrews 11:23-28

By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger, for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Alleluia

Theron Kirk

✠ Doxology

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 Go Forth to Serve

✠ Hymn No. 816

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

✠ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
(Piano Duet: Brooke Maxwell & Bonnie Champion)

POSTLUDE

Please remember at the close of the service, the Postlude is a time to silently reflect on God and the mission to which we are called. We ask that you please remain silent and seated until the music has ended.

COPYRIGHTS:

Prelude: "Jesus Loves Me," John Carter. Music: © 2013 *Hope Publishing Company*. All rights reserved. Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

Introit: "Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord" from *Glory to God* #389. Text: From Psalm 150. Music: Israeli melody; arr. John L. Bell 2008. Music Arr: © 2008 *WGRG, Iona Community* (admin. *GLA Publications, Inc.*). Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

1st Hymn: "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" from *Glory to God* #687. Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. Music: Attr. William Croft, 1708. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

2nd Hymn: "God Will Take Care of You" Text: Civilla D. Martin. Music: W. Stillman Martin. Public Domain. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus LicenseTM A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License © A-21963031, Public Domain.

Offertory: "Alleluia," William Boyce, Arr. Theron Kirk. Text & Music: © 1961 *Belwin Mills Publishing*. Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

3rd Hymn: "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee" from *Glory to God* #816. Text: Georg Neumark, 1641; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863, alt. Music: Georg Neumark, 1641. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus LicenseTM A-21963048 and reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License © A-21963031, Public Domain.

Postlude: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," John Carter. Music: © 2005 *Hope Publishing Company*. All rights reserved. Livestreamed with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus LicenseTM A-21963048, all rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from the **New Revised Standard Version Bible (NSRV)** copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to provide hybrid and virtual worship services for this Sunday. Services are currently livestreamed on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion) in real time, then archived to our website and YouTube channel.

At First Presbyterian Church our mission is to worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus. From our youngest to our oldest, we seek to worship God in our actions, grow in God's love, and serve God's people in our community and around the world. We hope that you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular prayer needs, please feel free to contact the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For more information visit our website at www.clarionfirstpresby.org.

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Video recordings of past sermons may be viewed by clicking the "Worship" link on our home page at www.clarionfirstpresby.org or a phone app is available at sermon.net (look for First Presbyterian Church—Clarion.) You can also choose to listen to an audio version. Simply pick the option that works best for you. Videos of Sunday worship are also posted on our Facebook page (see above).

All rights reserved. All sheet music uploaded to our website (clarionfirstpresby.org) for use with this worship service has been reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-727612 or reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License @ A-21963031, all rights reserved. Livestreamed music is with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and/or OneLicense.net #A-727612.

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Treasurer: Ann Brooks
Secretary: Debra Owens
Sexton: Mike Hetrick
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz
Video Engineer: Dan Willy

Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>	<u>Class of 2027:</u>
Jeff Deitz	Norma Kooman	Bill Champion
Jeff Kapp	Dave Larimer	Matt Kurtas
Kurt Nesbitt	Cindy Stants	Kathy Larimer

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>	<u>Class of 2027:</u>
Kim Lewis	Robin Cable	Barb Beggs
Lee Seitz	Tamalyn Goble	Stacy Hoffman
Lori Smith	Joey Kunselman	Bert Louder

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Guest Preacher: Debra Owens
Lector: Kathy Larimer
Time with Children: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Pianist: Bonnie Champion
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer: Dan Willy/Kurt Nesbitt
Acolytes: Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy, Andrew Scovel, Nathan Scovel, Sawyer Kunselman, Audrina Champion
Ushers in Charge: Robin Cable, Carol and Kevin Roth

The Sanctuary flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Deb Owens, by Pauline Henry.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

4/20/2025

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,200.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$264.00
Total Contributions	\$2,464.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bag Ministry	\$335.00
Men's Fellowship	\$50.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$100.00
Tee Shirts	\$190.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$50.00
Easter Flowers	\$10.00
Total	\$735.00
Total	\$3,199.00

NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, April 28

7:00 p.m. Evening Circle, Chapel

Tuesday, April 29

6:00 p.m. NA Meeting, Step Down Room

Wednesday, April 30

5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Next Sunday, May 4

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the last day to order First Presby T-Shirts!

Mission has designed a t-shirt to represent First Presbyterian of Clarion. The design is a red heart superimposed with white lettering saying "Clarion First Presbyterian Church" and "Clarion, PA" below it. They will be available in black and Carolina blue. There are three styles: short sleeve adult, long sleeve adult, and youth short sleeve. They are made of a "dry blend" material for comfort. Shirts are \$10 each. Order forms are in today's bulletin and on the Ramp Room table. You may put your order in the collection plate or turn it in at the church office. Checks should be made payable to "First Presbyterian Church" with "t-shirt" on the memo line.

The New Wilmington Mission Conference is among the longest-standing mission conferences in the USA, and it's right in our backyard along I-80. This year's conference will be held from July 18 - 23 at Westminster College, and will feature national and international speakers of faith. Our mission committee would love for members of the congregation to attend and grow in faith: to make it easier for you or your whole family to attend, the committee will hear requests for scholarships to reimburse mileage, lodging, or meals. You may attend for a day trip, or the whole conference, depending on your needs. Conference details are online : <https://www.nwmcmission.org/>. To discuss reimbursement/scholarship opportunities (all ages), please reach out to the church secretary: churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org to meet with a representative from the Mission Committee.

Camp Lambec began as a joint venture among six Presbyteries, including our own, and offers amazing faith-based summer camp opportunities from June through August. Recent updates to facilities at the Camp have revitalized the camp experience. Our mission committee is

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

hearing scholarship/reimbursement requests for local children or grandchildren of our congregation to attend any of the following 2025 camps: "Wet and Wild, grades 3-6"; "Wetter-N-Wilder, grades 7-12"; "Family Camps, all ages"; and "Music Camp, grades 4-college". Information is available at <https://campplambec.com/>. To discuss reimbursement/scholarship opportunities (all ages), please reach out to the church secretary, Deb Owens, via email: churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org to meet with a representative from the Mission Committee.

PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable
Margy Port
Shirley McKinley
Pauline Henry
Ruth Ann Minich
Tam Goble
Jeff Deitz
Kathy Larimer
All our homebound members

Mary Biser
Charlotte Hartman
Ben McKinley
Anthony Louder
Pat Hargest
Alexandra Sharrar
Dr. Shannon Penland
Mary Kay Arth
Mason Martin and family
Angelo Gehenio
Rob Summerville
Evie Renwick
Cori
Chuck Reninger
Kay Caller
Dan Clark
Amy Benhoff
Archer Kunselman
Ryan Cornicki
Jerry Deitz
Don Neideritter
Michael Kurtas, Jr.
Tom Minich
Rev. Robin Sharp
Kathy Meley
Shawn Martin

Sammy DiBernardo
Clayton Hayden & family
John McConnell
Ryan Kemmer and family
Dave Schirmer
A 2-year-old with eye cancer
A 4-year-old with kidney Cancer
Terry Wensel
Kaleb Pheiff
Cathy Laird
Gigi

Bereaved

Please remember the friends and family of:
Silvestri Family
Fr. Monty
Pope Francis

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US Military
Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Tim Fulton
Clarion Health Care & Rehab
999 Heidrick Street
Clarion, PA 16214
Tim's Birthday is May 7th



APRIL 27, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER

Jesus' victory over sin and death.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Seeing Christ's wounds
Monday	Acts 5:27-32	The conviction of the Apostles
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4-8	Christ sends a message to John
Wednesday	Luke 24:36-49	Jesus appears to his disciples
Thursday	2 Peter 1:3-15	The Christian's call
Friday	John 1:14-18	The Word of life
Saturday	Psalms 150	Praise the Lord
Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne. Revelation 1:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Risen Christ, give us faith and courage to live each day trusting in the power of your grace and peace for the sake of the world that needs hope in you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

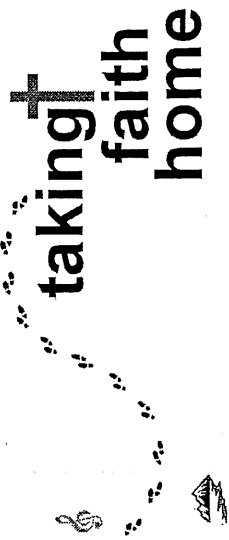
Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you for your mighty deeds, and for this food that fills our needs. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus' resurrection give you grace and peace.



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.



APRIL 27, 2025
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*My Hope Is Built on
Nothing Less*

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some of the things that get in the way of enjoying daily life?
- When is a time you felt or sought God's presence following a disappointing experience?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 1:4-8.

The book of Revelation is easily misunderstood. It is not meant to be scary book, but a comforting book filled with hope in God who overcomes death and the misuse of power. Jesus' resurrection challenges everything we understand and experience in this life. Human efforts, even those well intentioned, eventually lead to unfairness, inequality, and, finally, death. Human life is limited by sin and death. The basic message of Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, and the be-all and end-all of reality is that God takes on sin, death, and evil. God gives us a promise to live with us all our days. In Jesus, God wins, and in Jesus, we, too, win a victory over sin and death. That promise gives us power and courage to live on with hope and a desire to experience lives of love with others. We are not overcome by grief and disappointment because we overcome grief and disappointment through grace and peace in Christ.

Discuss: What disappointment in life have you experienced that needs the power of the living God in Christ?

Pray: Almighty and living God, you who are the beginning and end of all of life, we thank you for Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, who gives us new life now and forevermore. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who is dealing with grief or disappointments?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples. Thomas was not there. The disciples told Thomas later that they had seen Jesus. He questioned that Jesus really appeared to them and needed proof for himself. A week later Jesus invited Thomas to touch his wounds. Trace your hand on a piece of paper and draw a nail mark in the hand. Our role as disciples is to help others see Jesus. Pause for a moment to touch the nail mark you drew.

Say: Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org