

April 12, 2026 + 10:30 A.M.

Second Sunday of Easter

We Join in Worship

Liturgist: Carol Callaway

*If you need extra space for a wheelchair or walker, or if you have young children with you, please feel free to make use of our Prayground, the extra space across the aisle from the sound booth.*

PRELUDE Beautiful Savior

Christiansen/Cassler

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from *Psalm 16*)

Leader: Protect us, O God, for in you we take refuge.

**ALL: We say to the LORD, "You are our LORD; we have no good apart from you."**

Leader: We bless the LORD who gives us counsel; in the night also our hearts instruct us.

**ALL: We say to the LORD, "You are our LORD; we have no good apart from you."**

Leader: We keep the LORD always before us. Because the LORD is at our right hand, we shall not be moved.

**ALL: We say to the LORD, "You are our LORD; we have no good apart from you."**

Leader: Therefore our hearts are glad, and our souls rejoice; our bodies also rest secure. For you do not give us up to Sheol or let your faithful ones see the Pit.

**ALL: We say to the LORD, "You are our LORD; we have no good apart from you."**

Leader: You show us the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**ALL: We say to the LORD, "You are our LORD; we have no good apart from you." Let us worship the LORD!**

\*OPENING HYMN "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (316)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: Peter urges us to rejoice so that the genuineness of our faith may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Together, let us confess our struggles with faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**God of new life, we join our voices together in collective confession. We know that doubt is an important part of faith, but we confess that we sometimes go too far and allow our doubt to push out our faith in you and your promises. We look for reasons to distrust and disbelieve instead of reasons to trust and believe. We search for evidence of your absence instead of evidence of your presence. We seek out signs for why we should say, "No," instead of signs for why we should say, "Yes!" And so, we allow doubt to become our state of being rather than part of our process. Help us to feel your love in the flesh so that we might believe! Help us to trust you more! In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen.**

KYRIE: No. 572 (unison)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news. God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

**ALL: Jesus Christ is risen, and we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

## GLORIA PATRI No. 579 (unison)

**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.**

## STATEMENT OF FAITH (Adapted from *The Heidelberg Catechism*)

Leader: How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

**ALL: First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.**

Leader: How does the resurrection of the body comfort us?

**ALL: Not only will our souls be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head, but also our very flesh will be raised by the power of Christ, reunited with our souls, and made like Christ's glorious body.**

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>We Hear God's Word</b> |
|---------------------------|

## EMBODIED WORD FOR DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity.**

**Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may feel your words of new life in our reading of the scriptures. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, we pray. Amen.**

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>FIRST LESSON</b>   | <i>Acts 2:14a, 22-32</i>    |
| <b>EPISTLE LESSON</b> | <i>1 Peter 1:3-9</i>        |
| <b>GOSPEL LESSON</b>  | <i>John 20:19-31</i>        |
| <b>SERMON</b>         | Touching the Resurrection   |
| <b>CHORAL ANTHEM</b>  | <i>Make Us One with You</i> |

Mary McDonald

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| <b>We Respond in Faith</b> |
|----------------------------|

### 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.**

### CHORAL RESPONSE

## OFFERING INVITATION

Leader: When Jesus visited the disciples, he reminded them that their work was not done. They still needed to touch the world with new life. We continue that work today. Let us give our tithes and offerings so that we, also, can help the world to feel new life. If you did not do so as you entered, please place your offering in the plate as you leave. If you are worshiping from home, please mail in your checks or use our online giving option on the website. Now let us practice stewardship as we hear the offertory.

**OFFERTORY** This Joyful Eastertide

V.C. Thomas

## \*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures here below.**

**Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**God, we dedicate these gifts to you and the hope you bring to the world. Breathe into us the wisdom to use these resources according to your purpose. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, we pray. Amen.**

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| <b>We Go Into the World</b> |
|-----------------------------|

\***CLOSING HYMN** "Christ Is Alive!" (108)

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** Celebrate with Joy and Singing

R.B. Watkins

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\* So that we can properly greet people who come to the building during Sunday morning worship, Door A will be the only unlocked external door during the worship service.

## PEEK AT THE WEEK:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| SUNDAY 4/12:    | Adult Study – 9:00 AM<br>Worship in Person & Online – 10:30 AM<br>Fellowship Hosts: Stewardship/Finance |
| MONDAY 4/13:    | GA – 6:30 PM<br>AI-Anon – 7:00 PM   |
| TUESDAY 4/14:   | Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH)<br>Mission – 6:00 PM<br>Stewardship/Finance – 6:30 PM<br>AA – 7:30 PM |
| WEDNESDAY 4/15: | Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH)<br>GA – 7:00 PM   |
| THURSDAY 4/16:  | Choir – 7:00 PM   |
| SATURDAY 4/18:  | Sharon's Table Prep<br>AA – 6:30 PM   |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **EASTER FLOWER PICK-UP** For anyone who hasn't picked up your Easter flowers, please do so and check off your name from the list on the front pew. Please leave the tray.
- **WATCH THE GAP! All aboard!** The session of the First Presbyterian Church of Highland is excited to announce an opportunity for the church to address our deficit budget! The train is in the station (well, the narthex), and ready for some generous passengers to hop on! Be sure to have your fares ready! Oh, and **watch the gap** as you step on! We have taken a look at our projected income (including allowable income from the Endowment Fund) and estimated that the **gap** between our income and projected expenses is approximately **\$5,000**. We think we can raise this amount in a month! Are you on board?
- **MINISTRY OF MISSION'S 2026 FLOWER VOUCHER SALE** The Ministry of Mission's Annual Zandstra Flower Voucher Fundraiser begins today! The vouchers are \$17.00 each, and as you know they are worth \$17.00 at Zandstra's Greenhouse. Vouchers will be available to purchase in Fellowship Hall each Sunday after church, and you can also reach out to Tracy Oprea @ (219) 616-7181 to purchase the same. Tracy will deliver them to you at no extra charge. Mission greatly appreciates your support. Spring Blessings to All.
- **THE RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING MAY 1st and MAY 2nd !** You can begin to bring your items for the rummage sale from Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> - April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - noon on weekdays and 9 am - 2 pm on Saturdays. Bring your items to Door B. Check flyers or the Larger View to see what items are accepted or check with Lexa Miller or Donna Nelson if you are unsure.
- **CALLING ALL GRADUATES!** The 2025-2026 school year is almost over! We would like to recognize all the graduates in our church community. If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school or any higher education this year as part of the Class of 2026, we'd like to celebrate you! Please email Heather Casiano, [hcasiano@fpchighland.org](mailto:hcasiano@fpchighland.org), or call the church office, with the graduate's name and a brief bio. Please include things like the name of the school they are graduating from, future plans (college, career, military, etc.), any special awards or recognitions, sports, community organizations or other activities they are involved with, and any other details that would help us celebrate the graduate. If you have a recent picture of the graduate that we can publish, please submit that as well. Graduate information should be submitted no later than April 20.
- **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING PC(USA) SPECIAL OFFERING** If you still have fish banks or envelopes to bring in, please do so in the coming weeks!
- **"THE BIBLE IN TODAY'S WORLD"** Bible study group meets on Sunday mornings in the middle classroom (across from Pastor Tyler's office), from 9-10 am. Beginning April 12, our new study will look at "Do Not Fear" in Scripture and in our lives. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano.
- **"BYOB"** (Bring Your Own Bible) will resume weekly Scripture discussions on Wednesday, April 22, from 7-8 pm on Zoom. The Zoom link is emailed out weekly on Wednesday mornings. If you are not receiving this email and would like to, contact Heather Casiano, or Kristen in the church office.
- **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** If you don't already follow us on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so @firstpchighland on both Facebook and Instagram.
- **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF FPCH?** You are always welcome here, whether a member or not! If you are interested in joining as a member, though, we would love to have you! Please talk to Pastor Tyler if you would like to learn more.

### Opportunities to serve as the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ:

- **BLESSING BOX** Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: Canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers. Please check expiration dates!
- **HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!** Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex and fill it to help the church's food pantry.

## Prayer List

|                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Anthony                      | Charlie                       |
| Brady Vanes                  | Jerry & Rena Martinez         |
| George Griner                | Nicole                        |
| Guy Hendricks                | Greg                          |
| Bill and Anettia Holmes      | Mary Ellen Edeus              |
| David Markley                | Jane and David                |
| David Kingen                 | Flora R.                      |
| Diana and Ray Mendoza        | Tyler Gall                    |
| Janet Orem                   | Phil                          |
| Cindy Waltz and Sister       | Luana Sulkowski               |
| Yvonne Suroviak              | Sonny Buono                   |
| Georgette and Garry Sknerski | Robin                         |
| Jakob Holden                 | Eunice                        |
| Denise Matthys               | Betsy                         |
| Jan Oprea                    | David                         |
| Florance Cody                | Trina & Scott                 |
| Kathy & Chuck Pumnea         | Joe & Kathy                   |
| Laura Buono Domsic           | Breanne Polan                 |
| The Windstrups               | Tammy                         |
| Rick Parker                  | Alex                          |
| Gary Everhart                | Ben                           |
| Darlene O'Brien              | Mike Kelly                    |
| Doug & Sue Matthews          | Sue Heth                      |
| Janet Terpstra               | Ron Toren                     |
| Glen Nahler                  | Tony                          |
| Tom                          | Mildred                       |
| David Hamblin                | Neal                          |
| Jana Tolley                  | Rita                          |
| Larry & Bonnie Perryman      | Carolyn                       |
| Delta Rose                   | Oscar Ochoa                   |
| Winnie Owen                  | Tony and Sharon Nevers        |
| Breanne                      | Caroline                      |
| Mom Bechtler                 | Jean and Clara                |
| Victor                       | Suzanne                       |
| Marian Clayton               | Dave Shelborne                |
| Ella P                       | Kali Rosalia                  |
| Rita Stroncsek               | Nick B.                       |
| Keren, Zuriel, and Gedeon    | Carlito                       |
| Edna Cruz                    | Loved ones of Jennifer Noonan |
|                              | Loved ones of Marylou Crowley |

## Acts 2:14a, 22-32

**14** But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

**22** “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— **23** this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. **24** But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. **25** For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

**26** therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

**27** For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

**28**  
You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

**29** “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. **31** Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

**32** This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

## 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, **4** and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, **7** 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 honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8** 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, **9** for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## **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. **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.

### **Touching the Resurrection**

*Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31*

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When you have been taught your whole life that the messiah is supposed to take on the powers and principalities and usher in a new era of national and religious prosperity, but the messiah *you* follow is arrested without a fight.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When the empire with all of its military might wages war on the children whom your Lord welcomed and blessed and loved, wages war on the poor whom your Lord honored and favored and fed, wages war on the racial and religious "other" for whom your Lord commanded care and hospitality.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When the teacher whose teachings have opened your heart and eyes to the true nature of God and God's love for the world is accused of blasphemy by the religious leaders whom you have been told to listen to your whole life.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When false prophets and teachers mislead the masses away from God's truth with such ease.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When the person you have come to love and care for as your dearest friend is violently attacked and brutalized by those who claim to keep the peace.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When you witness harm and suffering in the world, when your loved ones are harmed, when your loved ones are suffering, when you are harmed, when you are suffering.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When the one you have come to believe in as the very Son of God is mocked and ridiculed and nailed to the cross as a public sign of folly.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When you have been mocked and ridiculed and excluded because of who you are.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When you have witnessed wonders and signs the likes the world has never even dreamed of before—healing bodies, minds, and spirits, turning water into wine, walking upon water, calming storms, multiplying food to feed thousands, bringing people back to life—and yet that wonder worker did nothing to prevent his own death.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When you have trusted in God's wonder-working power with your whole heart, and it still does not stop the death of the one you love.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When you are overwhelmed by grief for your teacher, your brother, your friend, your savior who died too young, who died so unexpectedly.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

When you are overwhelmed by grief for those who you simply cannot imagine living without.

Doubt makes a lot of sense.

Thomas had been in the midst of grief for at least three days, assuming that his beloved friend and teacher was gone. No matter how much Jesus had spoken about the possibility of the Resurrection, who among us would not also want some evidence after three days of living and grieving as though it was all over? Thomas had been out of the building when the other disciples claimed to have encountered Jesus. He probably thought they were playing some cruel joke on him, trying to get one over on good ole' Thomas. Who among us would not also want some evidence after hearing what seemed to be an unlikely story from good friends who had had time to collude together? Then, on top of all of that, there was the way in which Jesus had appeared to the other disciples. The scriptures clearly state that the doors to the house were shut and locked because the disciples were so afraid of those who had participated in the execution of Jesus. And still somehow he appeared among them. It would have seemed as though he had walked through walls, as though he were a purely spiritual being, as though he were a ghost. Sure, he showed them his hands and his side, but they did not actually touch him. Hearing that this being could simply appear and vanish, or at least walk through walls, again, who among us would not also want some evidence that this was actually Jesus in the flesh?

The first and greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind. With all your mind. That means with all your intellect, with all your intelligence, with all your brilliance. What was Thomas doing if not simply making use of his mind and

seeking to learn the truth on the basis of evidence? For the Resurrection to be true, it had to be fully in the flesh. And for anyone to truly know that, they had to feel that flesh. The other disciples had seen, but they had not touched. Perhaps their faith indeed had made them more open to belief. Perhaps they had simply had the advantage of being there, together, when Jesus appeared—able to see him, able to hear him speak, able to experience his presence, able to confer with each other and convince each other. Perhaps they were too afraid to ask. Whatever the reason, among all of them, only Thomas had this requirement, this request to touch, to feel, to know.

A week later, the disciples were again in the house, and this time Thomas was with them. Jesus appeared in their midst again, in spite of the closed and locked doors. He spoke words of peace. Then, knowing that there was one of his beloved disciples there to whom he had not yet appeared, one of his beloved disciples who had spent a week longer than everybody else in the throes of grief, one of his disciples who needed some extra TLC, he approached Thomas—somehow with the knowledge of what Thomas had said to the other disciples. Full of compassionate understanding, Jesus reached out and offered Thomas the most intimate experience, the experience not only of touching his skin but of touching his wounds. “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side.” Take a moment to take that in! After the separation of death, after a week of grieving in isolation from the others, Thomas was given the gift of feeling that connection which only exists in skin to skin contact. He reached out and touched the truth of new life. He reached out and touched the Resurrection!

To touch the Resurrection! O what Thomas must have felt! Hardened scabs giving way to the delicate softness of newly formed skin. The contours of a puckering scar. The warmth of body heat radiating from within. Vibrations from lungs breathing, from heart beating. It must have carried the same power, the same wonder as holding a newborn baby, as nuzzling into a mother’s bosom, as grasping a grandparent’s wrinkled hands, as hugging one’s children tight, as kissing one’s true love. To touch the Resurrection. To touch life.

This is what the women experienced first when they grabbed his feet and worshiped him. This is what Jesus offered to Thomas. When Jesus says, “Do not doubt but believe,” I don’t hear it as the rebuke that we so often are taught it was. I hear it as an encouragement, an invitation, a way of saying, “You no longer have to doubt. You no longer have to grieve. I am here. Believe.” And in response to the touch and the invitation, Thomas says something truly astounding: “My Lord and my God!” That was the very first time that any of Jesus’ followers identified Jesus as God. They had said, “Son of God,” “Son of Man,” and, “Messiah.” But none had called him “God.” And so, the one whom we deride as the doubter was the one who made the boldest theological declaration of belief there could be, the most profound statement about Jesus’ identity that anyone had ever made!

You see, in connecting with Jesus skin to skin after the Resurrection, Thomas came to *feel* the truth of the Incarnation—the truth of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us, the truth of God *choosing* to become one of us, the truth of the great God of the cosmos experiencing the heights and depths of human joy and human suffering in order to understand us better and so to love us better. Ah yes, knowledge is not just in the cognitive realm. It is in our bodies. It is in our senses. Yes, the fullness of the truth of the Incarnation lived in that resurrected body, in that flesh, in those wounds, in the willing vulnerability and intimacy of connection through touch. Because of his doubt, because of his questioning, because of his implementation of his intellect, Thomas had the revolutionary revelation that his Lord AND his God was with him in the flesh.

And God in the flesh spoke the famous words that have resounded throughout history in the legend of “Doubting Thomas”: “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Let’s take a moment to explore those words because, as with everything in this story, there is much more than meets the eye! First, Jesus does not rebuke or shame Thomas with his words. He does not say that Thomas is somehow not blessed because of how he came to his belief. He simply states that people

who have come to belief without seeing him are blessed. That claim does not exclude Thomas. It rather includes those who have not seen him. And there's more! As is so often the case with ancient languages, the words in Jesus' response have meanings that go far beyond the English translation. Specifically, the word for "to see" does not only mean "to see with the eyes." It also means to perceive. It also means to see with the mind. It also means to have something revealed. It also means to know through experiencing. Jesus very easily could have been saying, "Have you believed because you have perceived who I really am?" "Have you believed because it has been revealed to you who I really am?" "Have you believed because you have *experienced* who I really am?"

Yes, Thomas believed because his mind was satisfied with the evidence. Yes, Thomas believed because he perceived the truth of everything, revealed in that touch. Yes, Thomas believed because he experienced the living God in the resurrected flesh! Yes, Thomas had doubted. But his doubt did not mean that he had little faith. On the contrary, his doubt meant that he would be able to love the Lord his God with all his mind once he finally did "see." For, it meant that he was using his mind to question and to challenge, to explore and to conclude. It meant that he was thinking critically with the gift of intellect that came from God's own image and likeness. It meant that he understood truths that no one else had even seen: the truths of the incarnation and resurrected embodiment of God.

Those of us who believe today would fall under that category of "Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have come to believe." We didn't see him with our own eyes. We didn't touch his flesh. But I wonder if we would believe at all if Thomas hadn't done so! After all, our faith is the embodied faith of the Resurrection. We call ourselves the Body of Christ. Our mission is to be the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus. We use our bodies to fulfill the mission of the Kingdom, the mission of love—we touch, we hug, we heal, we comfort, we share meals, we march, we dance, we play. We breathe in the Holy Spirit. We use our diaphragms and voice boxes to sing praise. We do all of this because our God showed us how to do it as a fellow human being, because God became flesh and was with us in the flesh!

Perhaps we could all stand to be a bit more like Thomas—to dare to doubt, to dare to question, to dare to seek, to dare to think critically, to dare to touch. Perhaps that way we would actually allow ourselves to perceive and experience the evidence of the incarnation and the resurrected embodiment that continues to live today—the new life that is always within us, always within each other, and always within God's good Creation! Let us open our minds. Let us open our hands. Let us open the sensations of our skin. Let us reach out. Let us connect. And let us say, "My Lord and my God!" Amen.

# Breathe on Me, Breath of God

316

Edwin Hatch, 1886

TRENTHAM SM

Robert Jackson, 1894

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new,  
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure,  
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly Thine,  
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I nev - er die,

That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.  
Un - til with Thee I will one will, To do and to en - dure.  
Un - til this earth - ly part of me Glows with Thy fire di - vine.  
But live with Thee the per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty.\*

# Christ Is Alive!

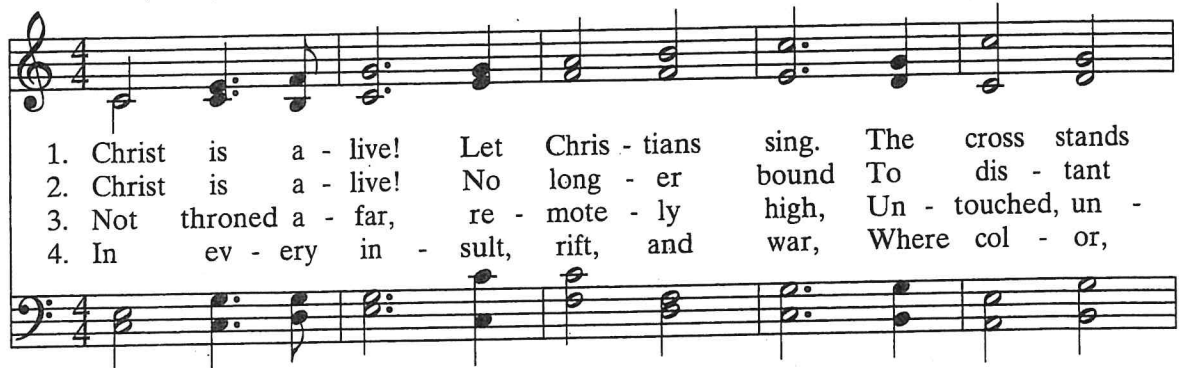
108

TRURO LM

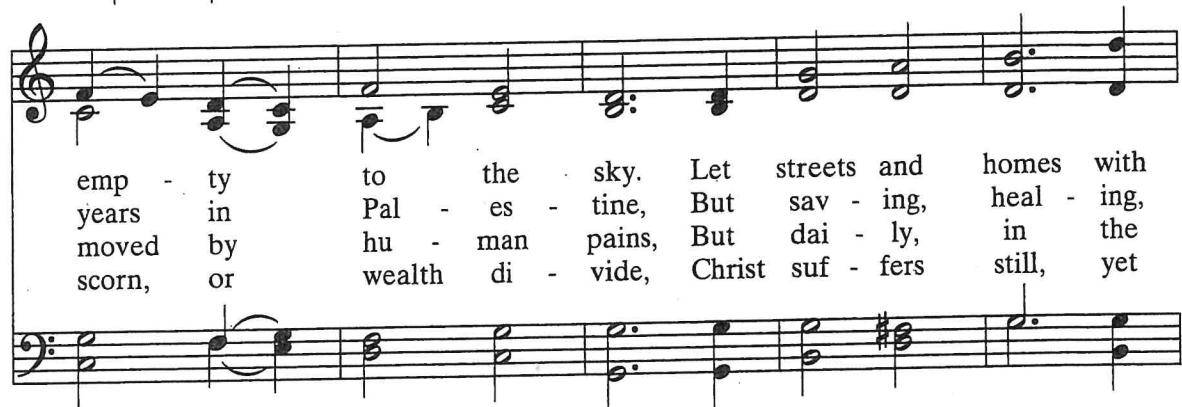
Thomas Williams, 1789

Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

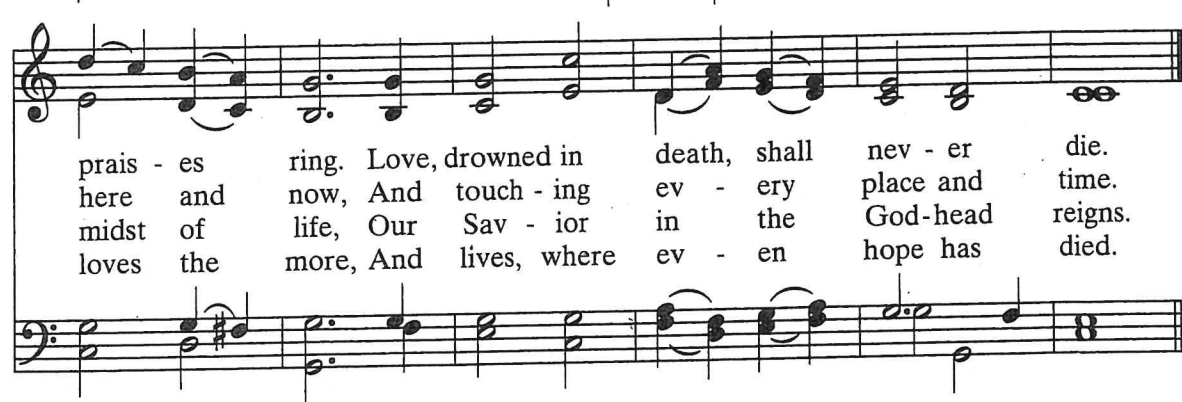
Brian Wren, 1968; rev.



1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant  
3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -  
4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, But sav - ing, heal - ing,  
moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, And touch - ing ev - ery place and time.  
midst of life, Our Sav - ior in the God-head reigns.  
loves the more, And lives, where ev - en hope has died.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring Till earth and sky and ocean ring  
Good news to this and every age, With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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