

Church at Home

for Sunday April 19, 2020

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Please pray with me...*God of Love and Mercy,*

As we gather in your name this day, remind us that we are not alone and that others are with us—praying together, considering your promises together, and looking toward you for hope and healing. Hear, now, our heartfelt prayers for one another. Protect our friends, family, and all who are in need of a healing that only you can provide. Strengthen each of us as we take this time out of our Sunday to meet with you, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit that binds us together as one. AMEN.

We pause, now, as a time to prepare our hearts and minds to receive what God has in store for us today, while we enjoy the **PRELUDE**, “Be Thou My Vision”, by John Carter; offered up today by our own Kirsten Uhlenberg....push the CTRL key and [CLICK HERE](#)

The following **lessons** are assigned in the Universal Common Lectionary for today. As you read these verses from scripture be mindful that Christians all over the world will be reading these same passages and seeking hope and wisdom with you. Ponder how the words apply to your own life today. I invite you to find a quiet place—near a window or even outside if that works—and read through each passage, answer the questions for yourself, or reflect together on the questions posed with others with whom you gather today. Then, use the prayers provided here or, better yet, offer one of your own.

[Acts 2:14a, 22-32](#)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "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—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. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 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; therefore, my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'** "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. 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. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Reread the bolded verses.

Be honest. Have you felt shaken recently? If so, by what?

Reread the bolded verses again, this time slowly, and pausing after each phrase. Hold each word as a promise to you.

PRAYER: *God, keep me from being shaken by the events of this life. Hold me in your certain stillness and safe presence. Remind me that you will not ever abandon me. Continue to make known to me the ways of life, and fill me today with the gladness of your presence. AMEN.*

Enjoy the SONG: "God I Look to You" by Jenn Johnson. Hold your control button (Ctrl) and Click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEubLmNPxwg>

A Prayer based on Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. God—you are my God, I have no good apart from you. Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows so I will not seek another kind of god. You God are my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. Because of you, the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless you, my God! You give me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me because of you. I will keep you, God, always before me; because you, my God are at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let me, your faithful one, see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. AMEN.

If you'd like to watch a **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** by Vanessa Bradby, or pass it along to the children in your lives, push your CTRL key and [CLICK HERE](#) Enjoy!

1 Peter 1:3-9

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

Notice that this lesson is really three long sentences. In the second sentence (in bold) the apostle says that we rejoice, even if we have to suffer various trials for a little while. As you embrace the sufferings we must now endure, what do you have to rejoice in today?

Would another person be able to witness you rejoicing? How?

What would "indescribable glorious joy" look like for you right now?

PRAYER: God help me to comprehend, at least in part, the good news that you have given me. Help me to rejoice in the midst of suffering. Help me to realize the great promise of hope and life that you have given me. Fill me today with the deep fountain of joy that comes from you alone. AMEN.

For our **special music** this week, listen to the following from Lauren Daigle – "How Great Thou Art". Hold your control button (Ctrl) and Click

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BL06fxHPVo>

John 20:19-31

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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." 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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.

[CLICK HERE](#) for today's sermon from Pastor Rick

Say a prayer for peace in your own words. Ask God to bless you with this peace that Jesus spoke of. Ask God to bless the world with the peace that Jesus talked about with his disciples.

Finally, enjoy the **closing SONG**: "Peace in Christ" by 5-year old Claire Ryann Crosby and her Dad. Hold down your CTRL key, and click your cursor on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Waitmz6C100>

And now, receive the blessing:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May God's holy loving face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May our Risen Lord look upon you with favor
and grant you this peace.

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!