

## The Second Sunday of Easter April 11, 2021

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

### **PRELUDE**

Karen Mohr

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### **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

### **WELCOME**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed!**

### **THE VIRTUAL CHOIR**

*"The Day of Resurrection"*

The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
From earth unto the sky,  
Our Christ has brought us over  
With hymns of victory.  
  
Our hearts be pure from evil,  
That we may see aright  
The Christ who reigns eternal  
In resurrection light;  
We listen for the teachings  
Once heard so calm and plain,  
For we, too, want to follow  
And raise the victory strain.  
  
Now let the heavens be joyful,  
Let its earth its song begin  
The whole world keep high triumph  
And all that is there in  
Let all things seen and unseen  
Their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ again has risen,  
Our joy that has no end.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS** Pastor and Paul Vine

Jesus says to his followers,  
"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to  
you. I give to you not as the world gives.  
Don't be troubled or afraid. (John 14:27 CEB)  
**Jesus also said, "Look! A time is coming—and  
is here!—when each of you will be scattered  
to your own homes and you will leave me  
alone. I am not really alone, for the Father  
is with me.**

I have said these things to you so that you will  
have peace in me. In the world you have  
distress. But be encouraged! I have  
conquered the world." (John 16:32-33 CEB)

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, we thank you for the assurance of  
peace Jesus offered to his followers before his  
death and following his resurrection. We too  
need to feel that peace in our day. There are  
so many things that steal our peace: fear;  
schedules; worries; trepidations about our  
future; concerns about creation and the  
world; and our sins against you, our neighbor  
and ourselves. God, grant us your peace; help  
us to experience peace within us and to share  
your peace in the world. In the name of our  
Risen Savior who knew and offered peace.  
Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING** John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> It was still the first day of the week. That  
evening, while the disciples were behind closed  
doors because they were afraid of the Jewish  
authorities, Jesus came and stood among them.  
He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this,  
he showed them his hands and his side. When the  
disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with  
joy. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with  
you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending

you.”<sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”<sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup> Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.”

<sup>26</sup> After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded in this scroll. <sup>31</sup> But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is

the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

## **MEDITATION**

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

*“Peace be with You”*

## **OUR EASTER PRAYERS**

### **THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR**

**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 OFFER OUR GIFTS**

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

May these offerings bear witness to our faith in you and our confidence in your desire for peace for all the world. Thank you for answering our prayers leading us toward well-being. With our gifts we hope to extend the good news of Easter beyond this community and this nation. Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

Karen Mohr