

*Worship Service*  
*For the Second Sunday of Easter*  
Crossnore Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, April 19, 2020



"Doubting Thomas" by Ed du Guzman

**Prelude: Down to the River** sung by the Virtual Choir

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

**Call to Worship:**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Though we find ourselves isolated in homes, apartments, and residential places,

**yet, we would listen to the birds singing,**

**reminding us that the whole creation rejoices in the love of our God.**

Though we cannot reach out and touch our friends and neighbors,

**we would rejoice that Jesus is in our midst, holding out hands of grace and hope to us!**

Though we have to stand at a safe distance from others, whispering hello through masks,

**we know that the Spirit is all around us, breathing peace on us in these moments,**

**surrounding us with grace and hope.**

**Hymn of Praise: *Christ is Alive*** (text by Brian Wren, 1968, rev. 1995)

TRURO LM

Sing along with: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIZOG0WvD8g>

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.**

**His cross stands empty to the sky.**

**Let streets and homes with praises ring.**

**His love in death shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound**

**to distant years in Palestine,**

**he comes to claim the here and now,**

**and conquer every place and time.**

**Christ is alive! His Spirit burns**

**through this and every future age,**

**till all creation lives and learns**

**his joy, his justice, love and praise.**

**Call to Confession:**

Like those disciples of long ago, we are filled with uncertainty, wondering what the next piece of news will bring, what awaits us today, tonight, tomorrow. Let us confess how hard it is to believe in the resurrection life and hope offered to us by the One who offers us peace and healing, as we pray together.



"Forgiveness" Saatchi Art

**Unison Prayer of Confession:**

**Creator God, we confess that at times we are skeptics. At times we doubt that you exist because of the evil and suffering we see in the world. It is not always easy to see your love and light. Sometimes those who bear your name do not walk in your ways. Help us to see your goodness in this world. Help us to know your love. Fill us with your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith (moment of silent confession). Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

The psalmist says,

*"I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!"*

Know that you do not wait alone.

God has given us one another for this journey of faith, to help one another.

Know that you do not wait alone; Christ is with us.

Be encouraged and encourage one another. Go and share the Good News. Amen.

**Response to God's Grace and Mercy: *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive***

**DETROIT**

Sing along with: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR\\_pOuLAMWg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR_pOuLAMWg)

**Forgive our sins as we forgive  
You taught us, Lord, to pray,  
But you alone can grant us grace  
To live the words we say.**

**How can your pardon reach and bless  
The unforgiving heart  
That broods on wrongs and will not let  
Old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light your cross reveals  
The truth we dimly knew:  
What trivial debts are owed to us;  
How great our debt to you!**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
And bid resentment cease;  
Then, bound to all in bonds of love  
Our lives will spread your peace.**

**Prayer of Illumination:**

Guiding God, send your Holy Spirit upon the reading and the proclaiming of your Word, that your Word Alive may serve to show us the path of life and lead us into your presence where there is fullness of joy. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

### First Lesson: Psalm 16:5-11

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.  
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.  
I keep the Lord always before me;  
because he is 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 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 for evermore.  
*The Word of the Lord; thanks be to God.*

**Special Music Video** for us all in the courageous fight against COVID-19, especially those unnamed heroes who are risking their lives every day to heal, feed, and care and provide for us: **“ Rise Up”** by **Brigitte Wickens**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Osdpf55Y4Fg>

### Second Lesson: John 20:19-23

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.” *The Word of the Lord; thanks be to God.*

**Sermon: “Hope and Joy in the Midst of COVID-19”**

**Affirmation of Faith: “[Our World Belongs to God](#),”** articles 1, 2, 6.

As followers of Jesus Christ,  
living in this world—  
which some seek to control,  
but which others view with despair—  
we declare with joy and trust:  
**Our world belongs to God!**  
From the beginning,  
through all the crises of our times,  
until his kingdom fully comes,  
God keeps covenant forever.  
**Our world belongs to him!**



**God is King! Let the earth be glad!  
Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!  
The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. Praise the Lord!**

**We rejoice in the goodness of God,  
renounce the works of darkness,  
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.**

**As covenant partners,  
called to faithful obedience,  
and set free for joyful praise,  
we offer our hearts and lives  
to do God's work in his world.**

**With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended,  
we expect the Day of the Lord.  
And we are confident  
that the light which shines in the present darkness  
will fill the earth when Christ appears.  
Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you.**

**Hymn of Meditation: *Hope of the World* (text by Georgia Harkness)**

**\*sung by Bryan McFarland and Jacob's Join**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGm\\_mR6enw0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGm_mR6enw0)**

**DONNE SECOURS**

**Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion:  
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;  
save us, your people, from consuming passion,  
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:  
still let your Spirit unto us be given  
to heal earth's wounds and end her bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,  
showing to wandering souls the path of light:  
walk now beside us, lest the tempting byways  
lure us away from you to endless night.**

**Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us  
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt:  
we render back the love your mercy gave us;  
take now our lives and use them as you will.**

**Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,  
who by this sign did conquer grief and pain:  
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious;  
you are our Lord, and you forever reign!**



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## Prayers of the People:

*Dear Lord,*

We're still hoping we'll wake up. We're still hoping we'll open a sleepy eye and think, "What a horrible dream. How could this have happened?" Just a moment ago moms were packing school lunches. Just a moment ago chefs were planning the day's menu. Just a moment ago arenas were noisy, brides were walking down the aisle and neighbors were discussing the weather.

In just a moment, everything changed. A phantom disease invaded our peace, our plans, and our security. In a heartbeat, our language and behaviors were upended. Even young children understand the term "social distancing," "quarantine," and "Covid-19." Grandma isn't allowed visitors in her nursing home. Workers are telecommuting, Zooming, and Skyping in their baseball caps and slippers. Handshakes and hugs have been put on indefinite hold.

This strange season has introduced a level of fear we haven't seen since 9/11. Fear of what might come. Fear of touching. Fear of exposure. Fear of what we can't see. We are anxious, Father. And so we come to you. We don't ask you for help; we beg you for it. We don't request; we implore. We know what you can do. We've read the accounts. We've pondered the stories and now we plead, "Do it again, Lord. Do it again." Remember Joseph? You rescued him from the pit. You can do the same for us. Do it again, Lord. Remember the Hebrews in Egypt? You protected their children from the angel of death. We have children, too, Lord. Do it again.

And Sarah? Remember her prayers? You heard them. Joshua? Remember his fears? You inspired him. The women at the tomb? You resurrected their hope. The doubts of Thomas? You took them away. Do it again, Lord. Do it again.

You changed Daniel from a captive into a king's counselor. You took Peter the fisherman and made him Peter an apostle. Because of you, David went from leading sheep to leading armies. Do it again, Lord, for we need counselors today, Lord. We need apostles. We need leaders. Do it again, dear Lord.

What we're seeing on the news, you saw on that Friday so long ago. Innocence interrupted. Goodness suffering. Mothers weeping. Just as the darkness fell on your Son, we fear the darkness falling on our friends, our family, our world. Just as our world has been shaken by a disease, our world was shaken the day the very child of Eternity was pierced.

You saw it. But you did not waver, O Lord. You did not waver. After your Son's three days in a dark hole, you rolled the rock and rumbled the earth and turned the darkest Friday into the brightest Sunday. Do it again, Lord. Grant us another Easter.

We thank you, dear Father, for these hours of unity. Selfless acts of service and kindness warm our hearts. Strangers see opportunities to share with others. Our medical warriors are working together, at personal risk, to care for the rest of us. We thank you for their remarkable commitment.

And we see the world turning to you, Father. People encouraging people with scriptures and reminders of your sovereignty. We read posts urging us to respect each other, care for each other, and look up. We confess we have been anxious, but because of you, we have hope.

We ask, Father: let your mercy be upon all who suffer. Grant to those who lead us wisdom beyond their years and experience. Have mercy upon the souls who have been hurt by this disease. Give us grace to help each other and faith that we might believe. And look kindly upon your church. For two thousand years, you've used her to heal a hurting world. *Do it again, Lord. Do it again.* Through Christ. *Amen.* (by Max Lucado)

### **Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:**

Jesus told his disciples to “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21). Out of gratitude for God’s blessings, let us generously give of our lives and our treasures and in doing so, reveal the love of Christ who dwells within us.

### **Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

**Lord, we offer to you this day, the gift of our lives and our substance. Take our lives and these gifts and multiply them to work in this world, which you have placed in our care, for the healing and reconciliation of all people to you. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn: *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace***

\*sing along with the Dragon School Oxford Chorus

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2svZhZT6Pro&list=RD2svZhZT6Pro&start\\_radio=1&t=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2svZhZT6Pro&list=RD2svZhZT6Pro&start_radio=1&t=1)

**Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.**

**Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

### **Charge and Benediction:**

In great mercy, God has given us a new birth into a living hope,  
for it is the risen Christ who stands in our midst and says,  
"Peace be with you!"  
We go forth clothed in new life and living hope  
We go forth to witness to this life and hope revealed in others.  
And may the peace of the risen Christ be with us all!

### **Postlude: *We Are Not Alone***

written and composed by Pepper Choplin

Sung by the Riverside Choir: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HO28FY\\_MPdA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HO28FY_MPdA)

### **Bread for the Journey:**

As you prepare for a new week , a video to inspire your Shelter at Home time: *We are AloneTogether*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObSa51leuwo>