



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

Second Sunday of Easter

April 8, 2021

WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING | Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

THE GOSPEL | John 20:19-31

God is with you! **And also with you!**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his

side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE |

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- As we gradually - very gradually - step into physical community again, what are your hopes for fellowship in our neighborhood? With family and friends? With the wider community?
- What do you take away from the story of "Doubting Thomas" and the risen Jesus?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community (name). Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

God is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

Communion will be served in bread only. Extend your hands and the minister will drop a wafer in your hand using tongues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church on the Avenue Book Club.

This past Thursday we came together to discuss the first book of our book club: *One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins*. If you missed the first session, not to worry! Grab a copy of the book and jump in next time when we meet on Thursday, April 22 (link to buy the book: <http://emmykegler.com/one-coin-found/>)

- 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at 7pm (on Zoom of course)
- Next Meeting: April 22

If you have questions you can email Scott Davis at scdavis553@gmail.com

Food-Not-Bombs Fundraiser for St. Luke's (Volunteer Opportunity)

Friday, April 16th 4-7pm

Mama Saray is holding another take-home dinner fundraiser. The funds raised will support utility usage of the group in thanks for the opportunity to serve from our kitchen. Extra hands to help prepare over the course of that week are most welcome. Please let Pastor Jim know if you would like to help and he will connect you.

YARDSALE!!!! (Volunteer Opportunity)

Saturday, April 17th

A Spring thrift shop yard sale is in the works for Saturday, April 17th. The last yard sale was a great team effort and raised over \$1300. A slot signup will be made available in the coming weeks. We hope you can join us!

Thank you for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry during this strange and difficult time! You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>.

Prayers of Concern

from Eric...

Prayers for Mike, Rose, Kevin, and Tab moving in together, and for Tyler to keep him out of trouble.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

from Eric...

Thankful Kevin got a great house.

If you have prayers of concern or thanksgiving to share, please offer them up through the weekly newsletter so that we join you in care and in gratitude.

BENEDICTION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May God look upon you with favor and give you peace,
in the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!