

April 11, 2021  
Second Sunday of Easter

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## GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Pastor:** At the beginning of the day, at the beginning of the week, after Jesus' resurrection from the dead, the faithful yet fearful disciples gathered together. It was then that the Spirit of God came among them and whispered:

**People:** *(Whispering)* **Peace be with you.**

**Pastor:** Their hearts skipped a beat as they double checked the lock on the door, to ensure it was still latched. The Presence of God whispered a little louder:

**People:** *(Whispering a little louder)* **Peace be with you.**

**Pastor:** They looked around at each other, puzzled, amazed, befuddled, and bewildered. Some smiled. Some doubted. Some wondered if the voice they were hearing was too good to be true. So, Christ appeared and showed them that his scars were not the end of the story. This is the moment when the words of Christ began to feel joyous:

**People:** *(Speaking in a normal tone)* **Peace be with you.**

**Pastor:** From that day on, the people of God repeated the words to one another when they gathered. From one generation to the next, they exchanged the words as a greeting to one another to remember how God showed up – a holy interruption and answer to their fear and doubt:

**People:** *(Speaking louder and joyfully)* **Peace be with you!**

### HYMN

*The Day of Resurrection<sup>1</sup>*

**End of Bulletin**

### CALL TO CONFESSION (1 John 1:8-10)

**Pastor:** “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

**All people:** *We use a lot of words, Gracious God, but do little to turn them into deeds. Instead of being of one heart and soul, we choose sides and form groups of folks just like us. Blessed with great grace, we have trouble sharing it with those who need it the most. Forgive us, God of love. Forgive us, as we step out of our shadows into your light. Restore us, as we reveal our brokenness. Hear us, as we proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and our God.*

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE (Based on 1 John 2:1-2)

**Pastor:** This is the good news we declare: Sinners have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours, only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

**People:** **This is the word we have heard: our faithful God, through Jesus Christ, forgives sins and raises sinners to new life.**

**All people:** *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen!*

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<sup>1</sup> Public Domain. St. John of Damascus, an 8<sup>th</sup> century Greek poet (Translator: J. M. Neale) circa 675 CE. CCLI Song #2725914

<sup>2</sup> Shuman, Thom. Unison Prayer of Confession. Posted on his [Lectionary Liturgies](#) blog.

## HYMN

### *Breath on Me, Breath of God*<sup>3</sup> (Verse 1, only)

Breathe on me, breath of God:  
Fill me with life anew,  
That as you love, so I may love  
And do what you would do.

## FIRST READING – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (NIV)

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand,<sup>2</sup> through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.<sup>3</sup> For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,<sup>4</sup> and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.<sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.<sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.<sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.<sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

This is the Word of the Lord. Let all the people say, “Thanks be to God!”

## HYMN

### *Breath on Me, Breath of God*<sup>4</sup> (Verse 2, only)

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
until my heart is pure.  
until my will is one with yours,  
to do and to endure.

## SECOND READING – 1 John 1:1-2:2 (NIV)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup> this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup> we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup> We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.<sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;<sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.<sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;<sup>2</sup> and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This the Word of the Lord. Let all the people say, “Thanks be to God.”

<sup>3</sup> Public Domain. Author: Edward Hatch. 1878. Music: Robert J. Trentham. CCLI Song #5398757

<sup>4</sup> Public Domain. Author: Edward Hatch. 1878. CCLI Song # 5398757

## HYMN

### *Breath on Me, Breath of God*<sup>5</sup> (Verse 3, only)

Breath on me, breathe of God,  
fulfil my heart's desire,  
until this broken part of me  
glows with your heavenly fire.

## THIRD READING – John 20:19-31 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup>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." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>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." <sup>27</sup>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." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>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." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>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.

This is the Good News of Christ, let all the people say, "Praise be to Christ."

## HYMN

### *Breath on Me, Breath of God*<sup>6</sup> (Verse 4)

Breath on me, breath of God.  
So, shall I never die,  
but live with you the perfect life  
of your eternity.

## SERMON & PRAYER

*Transformers*

**Rev. Laura C. Bair**

## OFFERING INVITATION

Pastor: God invites us to bring the fullness of who we are into worship and to share the fullness of who we are with the world. So, it is God's holy invitation that asks us to pause and consider: What of ourselves we will share and offer the world. Time? Presence? A unique talent? Financial support? Prayers? A special gift? In these moments of quiet and reflection: what is it that you will offer through the ministries of the church and your work in the world, to bring about God's peace, God's kingdom, on Earth?

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*All: Miracle-Working, Stone-Rolling, Life-Restoring, Peace-Giving, Community-Building  
God - thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you for your grace, for this community of  
faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless our tithes and offerings that they might be used to  
further your kingdom of peace and light, right here and right now in the world. Work  
through each of us, through the ministries of this congregation, and through the larger  
church that you might be glorified in all that is said and done. Through Christ, we pray,  
continuing as he taught us: 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*

<sup>5</sup> Public Domain. Author: Edward Hatch. 1878. CCLI Song # 5398757

<sup>6</sup> Public Domain. Author: Edward Hatch. 1878. CCLI Song # 5398757

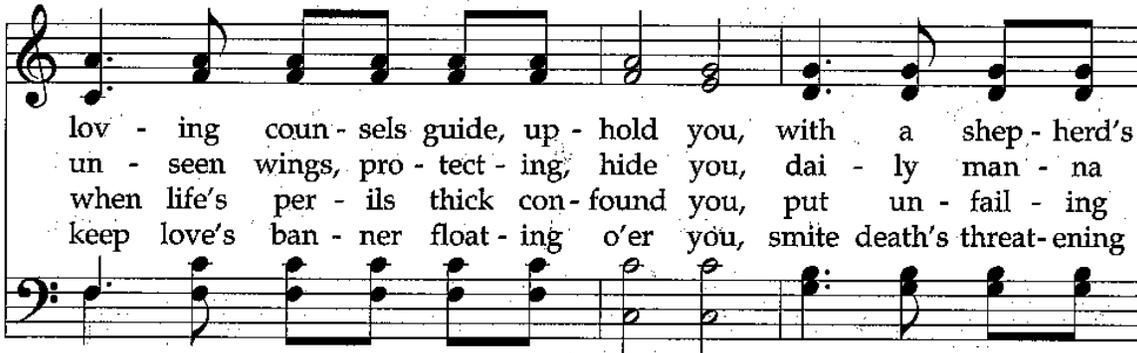
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

HYMN

God Be with You 'til We Meet Again



1-4. God be with you till we meet a - gain;



lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's  
un - seen wings, pro - tect - ing, hide you, dai - ly man - na  
when life's per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing  
keep love's ban - ner float - ing o'er you, smite death's threat - ening



care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.



*Refrain*  
Till we meet till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
till we meet, till we meet,

# BENEDICTION

Pastor: You have been transformed by the breath of peace, blown into you by the Resurrected Lord. Until we meet again, may you live with a tender and grateful heart, remembering that you may be the only gospel that your neighbor reads this week. You have been blessed by the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit. And now, you are commissioned to share the same with others. In all you say and do, be a blessing in the world.

All: Amen.

# POSTLUDE

## 298 The Day of Resurrection!

C F C C F G F G

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful! Let earth its song be - gin!

G7 C C7 F C G D7 G

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;  
 The world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

G7 C7 F A7 D7 G

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
 and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
 let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend;

G C Dm7 C7 F F C G7 G C

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 his own "all hail" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our Joy that has no end.