

April 12, 2026
Permission to Need More

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

WELCOME & GATHERING

Rev. Laura C. Baker

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: God of compassion, you meet us not only in our faith – but in our need. When we long for clarity, when we struggle to trust, when we quietly wonder if we are enough – you do not turn away. Tonight, meet us gently. Hold us honestly and remind us that we are allowed to need what we need. Amen.

HYMN

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Bulletin Insert

MEAL BLESSING

All people: God of grace. Meet us here – not as we think we should be, but as we truly are - hungry for food, hungry for meaning, hungry for something more. Feed us in all the ways we need. Amen.

SHARED MEAL & TABLE FELLOWSHIP

- What is something you've been enjoying lately?
- Where in your life do you feel like you need "more"?
- Have you ever needed more – more clarity, more reassurance – and weren't sure if that was okay?
- What helps you feel safe enough to be honest about what you need?

ANTHEM

Dona Nobis (Give Us Peace) Hopson

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

MONOLOGUE SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker

TABLE CONVERSATION

- How do you feel about history labeling the disciple as “*Doubting Thomas?*”
- What do you think it took for Thomas to say aloud what he needed?
- What do you think Thomas really needed?
- Did anything in the story feel familiar to your own experience?
- Have you ever needed something others didn’t understand?
- What does it mean that Jesus meets him there? (physically, spiritually, emotionally)
- What kind of community makes it safe for people to be honest about what they need?
- What might it look like to trust that God meets you in your needs too?
- How does it change the story for you to hear that others in the room may have felt similar or at least understood Thomas’ perspective?

HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: This is a table, NOT only for people, who feel they already have everything they need. This is a table for people who come hungry – for peace, for clarity, for healing, for something more. This is Christ’s Table and ALL are welcome.

On the night of before love was tested, and hope would feel fragile, Jesus gathered at the table with those who did not yet understand what was to come. They brought with them everything they were – their trust, their fear, their questions, their unspoken needs. And Jesus did not turn them away. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them saying, “This is my body given for you. Take and eat.”

After the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and shared it, saying, “This cup is the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Drink this and remember me.”

And so, we remember, not just a meal long ago, but a table where all are welcome to come as they were – as they are.

Pastor: Spirit of the Living God, be present in the bread and cup, that they may be for us the presence of Christ. Come also upon us – our questions, our longings, our quiet and unspoken needs. Meet us here – not after we are certain, but while we are still becoming. Not after we have enough, but while we are still needing more. Shape us into a community where honesty is welcomed, where doubt is not feared, and where every person has a place at the table. Thank you Christ for the invitation and for meeting us here. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD’S PRAYER

All people: God of compassion, thank you for meeting us, both in certainty and doubt, our joy and sorrow, our hope and fear. Stay with us. Walk with us. Continue to meet us in all the ways we need. We continue to pray, saying: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

God Be With You

Bulletin Insert

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in peace – not because you have everything you need... but because God meets you in your every need. Go in trust – not because your faith is complete... but because it is still growing. Remember: God invites your honesty. Christ allows you to need more. The Spirit meets you where you are.

All people: Amen.