

TCC Takeout

An Order of Service for Worship at Home

*God's Extravagant Welcome:
"No matter who you are or where
you are on life's journey, YOU are
welcome here!"*



**Second Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2020**

Announcements:

From Ted Thornton

TCC Takeout is a liturgy for these times when we find ourselves without a settled pastor and apart from one another physically. Links will take you to materials appointed for this Sunday in the Lectionary. TCC uses the Revised Common Lectionary as archived at Vanderbilt.edu. The UCC has created a website of resources during our struggle with coronavirus: [Click here](#)

Send announcements for the weekly Trumpet Blast and prayers for Joys and Concerns to me as soon as possible and no later than Tuesday noon for inclusion in the following Sunday's Order of Service. Printed copies of both this service and the Blast will be mailed or delivered to the doorsteps of members who do not use computers. Thanks for your prayers and support.

Many thanks to Chris, Patter, and Heather for putting together the music for this service.

From Chris Harris

At my piano: This week, I am turning to a favorite book of hymn settings, "All Nature Sings," by Larry Shackley, celebrating the Creator and the beauty of His creation. They're all about Spring and nature. One of my favorites is "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." I remember playing this as a duet with Lynne Walker one summer Sunday. The lyrics are reassuring in times like these: "He's got the little bitty baby in His hands, he's got you and me brother, in His hands, he's got you and me, sister, in His

hands, he's got the wind and the rain in his hands, he's got the whole world in His hands." Here's a link to a choral version: <https://bit.ly/3aaz7RT>. Click on "Listen"

Prelude ["Spring", Vivaldi](#), Nashua Flute Choir

Introit ["We Walk By Faith," Henry Alford](#), sung by Marty Haugan

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing a new song!

People: A springtime shout-out to life!

Sing praise to our joyful Easter God

Whose power brings new life out of death!

Immerse doubt and despair in the fountain of new birth

Find refreshment and strength for a future of hope!

For God has taken ordinary things

And made them extraordinary:

All: Sing a New Song!

Opening Hymn ["Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"](#) NCH 241

1 Joy dawned again on Easter Day,
the sun shone out with bright array;
For when the Apostles hid in fear,
the Risen Christ to them appeared.

2 O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One,
come take our hearts to be your own,

That we may give you all our days
the willing tribute of our praise.

3 O Sovereign One, with us abide
in this our joyful Easter-tide;
From every weapon death can wield,
your own redeemed forever shield.

Gathering Prayer

Holy God,

Nothing is beyond your power to transform!

In a gray dawn, you coax songs of Alleluia!

From the tombs of despair we take refuge in

You call us to wake up and work.

We praise you for this amazing day!

Come, Risen Christ,

in newness and hope on this Eastertide morning. Amen.

Gloria Patri

[Gloria Patri \(Glory Be to the Father\)](#)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
 As it was in the beginning,
 Is now and ever shall be,
 World without end,
 Amen, Amen

Anthem [“Spirit of Faith Come Down.” Charles Wesley](#)

Spirit of faith, come down,
 Reveal the things of God,
 And make to us the Godhead known,
 And witness with the blood.
 'Tis Thine the blood to apply,
 And give us eyes to see;
 Who did for every sinner die
 Hath surely died for me.

No one can truly say
 That Jesus is the Lord
 Unless Thou take the veil away
 And breathe the living word:
 Then, only then we feel
 Our interest in the blood,
 And cry with joy unspeakable,
 “Thou art my Lord, my God!”

O that the world may know
 The great, atoning Lamb!
 Spirit of Faith, descend and show
 The virtue of His name;
 The grace which all may find,
 The saving power impart,
 And testify to all mankind,
 And speak to every heart.

Inspire the living faith,
 Which whoso e'er receives
 The witness in himself he hath,
 And consciously believes;
 The faith that conquers all,
 And doth the mountains move,
 And saves who e'er on Jesus call,
 And perfects them in love.

Readings From Scripture: [Psalm 16](#), [1 Peter 1:3-9](#), and [John 20: 19-31](#)

“For the word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God Among Us, For the Word of God Within Us, Thanks Be to God”

Reflection: Ted

In First Peter 1:8-9, we read, “Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

And, in John 20 we see “Doubting Thomas” put his finger in the wounds of the risen Christ and exclaim, “My Lord and my God!” Those words are the strongest proclamation of Jesus’ divine nature found anywhere in the Bible, and they come from the mouth of arguably the most famous

doubter in world history. I was ordained to the Episcopal Priesthood on Thomas' Feast Day, December 21, 1978; so, doubts and all, he has always held a special place in my heart.

The First Epistle of Peter was written in Rome but addressed to Christians living in the Roman provinces of Asia Minor (roughly the area of modern Turkey). It was sent to boost their spirits at a time during the reign of the Emperor Domitian (81-96 A.D.) when intense persecutions were underway in that area as well as in Rome itself. Roman emperors of that period traditionally proclaimed the imperial propaganda line that they were gods. Domitian asserted those claims of divinity much more aggressively than others, and was therefore keen to root out competition from Christians, Jews, and anyone else. The Book of Revelation was written during his reign and in response to the same persecutions. Think of the current novel coronavirus as our particular and personal "persecution" and you'll get some idea of the degree of social isolation, fear, stress, and dislocation those early Christians were experiencing. They were hunkering down just as we are: cut off from one another, unable to worship together, lonely, and frightened.

Peter's exhortation to be of good cheer was meant to encourage Christians to draw upon their faith without restraint. We are meant to do the same.

Psalm 16 is the Old Testament scripture assigned to this day (the Second Sunday of Easter). Its words remind us that we Christians share our heritage with Jews, whose celebration of Passover this year ends on April 16. Early Christians were encouraged to draw strength and comfort from this psalm, and so must we, living as we are today through one of the worst global crises anyone alive today has experienced. The following lines in particular speak to me:

"Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good thing apart from you." 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 recommend we all recite these lines often through the challenging days ahead. God Bless You!

Hymn of Reflection [At The Name Of Jesus](#)

1 At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him King of glory now; 'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

2 At his voice creation sprang at once to sight: all the angel faces, all the hosts of light, thrones and dominations, stars upon their way, all the heavenly orders in their great array.

3 Humbled for a season, to receive a name from the lips of sinners, unto whom he came; faithfully he bore it spotless to the last, brought it back victorious when from death he passed;

4 bore it up triumphant with its human light, through all ranks of creatures, to the central height, to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast; filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

5 In your hearts enthrone him; there let him
subdue all that is not holy, all that is not

true. Look to him, your Savior, in
temptation's hour; let his will enfold you in
its light and power.

Anthem [“A Better Resurrection”](#), Craig Courtney, Millikin University Choir

A Better Resurrection

By Christina Rossetti

I have no wit, no words, no tears;
My heart within me like a stone
Is numb'd too much for hopes or fears;
Look right, look left, I dwell alone;
I lift mine eyes, but dimm'd with grief
No everlasting hills I see;
My life is in the falling leaf:
O Jesus, quicken me.

My life is like a faded leaf,
My harvest dwindled to a husk:
Truly my life is void and brief

And tedious in this barren dusk;
My life is like a frozen thing,
No bud nor greenness can I see:
Yet rise it shall—the sap of Spring;
O Jesus, rise in me.

My life is like a broken bowl,
A broken bowl that cannot hold
One drop of water for my soul
Or cordial in the searching cold;
Cast in the fire the perish'd thing;
Melt and remould it, till it be
A royal cup for Him, my King:
O Jesus, drink of me.

Joys and Concerns

Please keep Linda Leavis' grandson Dana Kellogg and his fellow National Guardsmen in your prayers as they work on the front lines to help victims of Covid-19. Patter asks your prayers for her younger sister Lula, who is receiving chemo for metastatic cancer, and has an infection caused by low immunity.

Prayer

Holy and Almighty God, with the apostles, we live in the afterglow of the resurrection celebration. Like them, we too have fears and doubts. We want to believe with all our hearts the story we have heard, but so often daily life gets in the way of our faith. Help us, O God. Your Holy Spirit enables us to walk through each day's obstacles so that we see them not as causes for doubt but barriers to be lifted by faith.

God of our journey, we praise and thank you for gathering us to worship, discuss, decide and act together. Give vision beyond our usual sight; and give faith that is strong.

(written by Bishop Telmor Sartison, and posted on the ELCIC Resource Archive on the Lift Up Your Hearts website. <http://www.worship.ca/>)

Prayer for a Time of Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/02/coronavirus-prayer>

Hear O Lord, we pray, our petitions of intercession. We pray for the lonely, for the bereaved, for the sick, for the aged, for those who feel overwhelmed by personal problems. We ask, on their behalf, for the comfort of your presence.

We pray especially for those in need who are on our hearts and minds and lips this morning.

We pray for all who are ill or who suffer from any affliction: physical, mental, or spiritual. Bring healing and comfort to them, their families, and to those who care for them and to others who love them.

Bless and protect from harm all workers who risk their health and their lives in the service of others: first responders, police, doctors, nurses, and all others who work in the healing professions. We ask these things in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Now praying together as Jesus taught us, we say,

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

Prayer Response - NCH 769 - *Hear Our Prayer, O God* -- [Audio version](#)

Hear Our Prayer, O God,
Hear our prayer, O God,

Incline Thine ear to us,
And Grant us your peace.

Closing Hymn [Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain](#)

1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God has brought all Israel
into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

2 Spring has dawned on earth today;
Christ has burst from prison,
And from three days' sleep in death
as the sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins,
long and gray, is flying
From the Light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

3 Now the joyous season, bright
with the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joys to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem
who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.

4 Neither might the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dim portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal
hold you as a mortal:
But today amid the twelve
you will stand, bestowing
Peace and joy which evermore
passes human knowing

Pastoral Benediction

As you go from here,
know that God is always with you.
Do not be shaken, for he is right beside you.
He will show you the way that leads to life!



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