

## **Eastertide**

### **April 19, 2020**

#### **LIFE IN THE CHURCH**

- We are in the Eastertide season - Easter is a season, not just a day -
  - The next 6 weeks, as we move towards pentecost, we, like the disciples are sitting with, waiting, preparing for the holy spirit to enter their lives.

#### **Thank You for Giving**

Thank you to those who have continued to send in their pledges as well as given additional donations to serve the most vulnerable in our community during this time. And a reminder, you can still mail in a check, you can set something up with your bank to do automated giving, or you can use the Zelle app or the paypal button on the website. I've included a link and brief instructions on the connect with God page above the livestream window.

#### **Zoom Next Week**

Next Sunday - holy humor Sunday, prepare a clean joke to share. Try to do some hymn singing, and fellowship. Look for email with link. Call if you need help.

#### **Sunday School Lessons and Activities**

Parents of Sunday School age kids, look for an email from Patty Zollinger with some fun things to do.

#### **Parade for the kids**

We are working on possibly putting together a parade for children and their families to drive by and have some socially distanced interaction - stay tuned for that.

#### **Paint some rocks.**

Ric, head of Busy Bee preschool has come up with a great idea, where he has set up a station for the children to paint rocks, parents helping to write words of encouragement for our healthcare workers and for patients, and these are being left in the garden outside Nyack Hospital. Keep an eye out for more about that, but also, feel free to begin working on that on your own.

#### **Choir**

If you want to give it a try, David Morgans Sanchez, our music director has some parts of songs recorded and sent out for you to practice. This is a great, non-intimidating way to try out what it's like to be part of the choir.

#### **Germonds Cemetery**

Take a walk in the Germonds cemetery anytime, it is beautiful. A good place for socially distanced walks. I'm available.

## OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we find ourselves this morning in locked rooms. We are in isolation, shut away from the ordinary activities and routines of life. Reconciling ourselves to the new normal. A new reality.

We are not sure what to make of your resurrection. Not sure we can believe resurrection in the midst of so much fear and anxiety. It feels dissonant, counter to what is all around us.

Lord, you come to us in the midst of this turmoil. You seek us out in the middle of our isolation and fear and you speak peace to us. You offer us hope and remind us of all you have promised, and all we have learned in our faith that will guide us now, in the midst of this crisis. Appear to us in our own locked rooms. Bring to us your peace we pray. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

Psalm 16:5-11

5 Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;  
you make my lot secure.

6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
surely I have a delightful inheritance.

7 I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.

8 I keep my eyes always on the Lord.  
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest secure,

10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

11 You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

## SCRIPTURE

John 20:24-29 New International Version (NIV)

**24** Now Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

**25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

**26** A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

**28** Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

**29** Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

PRAYER CONCERNS - People and needs for you to be praying for.

*A note from the Deacons*

At each meeting the Deacons of Germonds spend time in reflection and prayer. We discuss how we can best address the needs of our congregation. Often it is with a meal, card or an assist to a doctor’s appointment. Pastor Abbie and the Deacons keep a list of these needs – The Prayer Chain.

During these difficult times, the list of people that we have been asked to pray for, increases almost daily. We ask that the entire Germonds family join us in our daily devotions. Pray with us for the needs that your friends find most pressing.

Health issues

The struggles of loved ones with Covid-19, cancer, brain tumor, kidney failure, blood transfusion, leukemia, back injury, chronic pain, migraines, depression, intestinal issues, vision and hearing loss, and chemo therapy effects.

Separation

Parents in nursing facilities, those suffering with Alzheimers. Church members who are mourning the loss of close friends and family. People that they want to comfort, but due to the virus, are forced to distance themselves from.

MUSIC LINKS

**Traditional Playlist**

What Wondrous Love is This <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsVnvN3EVxY>

Now the Green Blade Rises <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVduV0ustWw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-5Bi2jM40E>

How Great Thou Art <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt-yAYEiYWg>

How Can I Keep From Singing? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9hth14hokI>

For All the Saints <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbPshOGxpew>

(I’ve had this last hymn in my head all week, thinking about how Easter ties so closely to how we think of death and the loss of loved ones).

**Contemporary Playlist**

What Wondrous Love is this? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acOZB3u5\\_Gk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acOZB3u5_Gk)

How Great Thou Art      <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BL06fxHPVo>  
How Can I Keep from Singing?   <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Li2hddmy63U>  
Holy Holy Holy                      <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Clufvh5yesA>

### **A Prayer for These Times**

Lord, in the midst of our weariness,  
in the midst of the ordinariness  
the daily rhythms within the confines of our homes,  
though we may no longer remember what day, which week, or what hour it is,  
may we be reminded of your presence with us  
your Word and your Spirit in us  
and your power before us.

Transform our eyes, to see as you see  
our ears to hear your heartbeat  
our mouths to speak your words  
that bring forth life  
in us and through us.

Transform our minds, our hopes, and our dreams  
to long as you long  
for your will to be done  
on earth  
as it is in heaven.

Grant us your peace  
your grace  
and faith to engage  
fully and presently  
just for today  
and hope for tomorrow.

Amen