

Beecher Presbyterian Church
2nd Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2022



Supper at Emmaus
Rembrandt, etching

*Indicates to please rise either in body or spirit
Bold text indicates unison response

Gathering Music

Judy Smith

Welcome, Concerns & Announcements

Opening Sentences

The stone that the builders rejected has
become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

***Hymn #104** *"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**You send us, God of the Great Commission, but we hedge and
hesitate. Forgive our fear and our excuses. We are witnesses of
your grace and glory but allow others to silence our praise. We
imprison ourselves with doubt and shame and fail to shine your
light for all to see. Forgive our fears. Free our testimony. Amen.**
Time for silent prayer and reflection.

Assurance of Pardon

Christ has transformed us. Christ has renewed us. Through
Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to
sing God's glory and testify to God's grace.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Response #579** *"Glory Be to the Father"*

The Word is Read and Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination

Savior God, your Word is a lamp to our feet on this discipleship road. Walk with us. Guide us with your wisdom and grace. Open us to discerning your will and your way. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Special Music

Judy Smith

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

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.”

²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ 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.”

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

Response: This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved.
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Response to the Word

Affirmation of Faith *(from the Belhar Confession)*

We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope;

together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

*Hymn #399

"We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight"

Prayers of the People with the Lord's Prayer

Offering to God our Gifts

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Judy Smith

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Christ all people here below

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Praise Holy Spirit ever more;

Praise triune God whom we adore;

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

*Offertory Prayer

Charge & Blessing

*Hymn #313

"Come Down, O Love Divine"

*Postlude

Judy Smith

Beecher Life April 24, 2022

Prayer for today:

God of the Resurrection, you open the tomb and invite us to sing and dance in the new life you give us. In Jesus Christ, whose wounds are not erased but glorified in resurrection, touch our wounds that they may be transformed into channels of healing for others. Holy Spirit, breathe into us the power to forgive so that all may have new life. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries: 1st Donna Marple,
11th Rhianna Wessels, 21st Margo Northcutt, 28th Matthew Zinser

Upcoming Events:

Prayer List

Please pray for: the leaders of our nation, the churches of our presbytery, Pete Eckerle, family of John Craynon, Ukraine, Joe, Melissa Eckerle, Marge Stoll, the Menefee family, Roy Heitman, Jerry Henry, Mike & Hila Illing, the Stryker's, Margie Oelker, Bob Oelker, Alicia Smith, Daphne House, Hailey Smith, Ry Wessels, Rick Lowes, Jackie Rhodes, the Clearinghouse, Glen Wiesmann, Roberta Pavey, Phillip Smith, Steve Wessels, Terry Wilson, Deborah McLaughlin, Jim Thompson, Beecher Presbyterian Church, Jeri Smith.

Minute for Mission

It's been more than 50 years since the first Earth Day (1970). Spurred by concerns from that time period about oil spills, polluting factories, and dangerous chemicals being used regularly (described in Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring"), thousands of college students and concerned citizens came together in mass rallies, across political lines. Later that year, the United States Environmental Protection Agency was formed, and federal environmental laws soon followed: the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act. By 1990, Earth Day began to be celebrated globally. The first United Nations Earth Summit was held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro.

Presbyterians have long been engaged in caring for God's Creation.

National church policy as early as the 1950s showed concern for wasteful use of natural resources. In the 1980s, there was demonstrated coalescing around environmental concerns culminating in the 1990 Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice policy passed at the General Assembly. There has been a continuous Presbyterian uplifting up of earth care concerns ever since. (To see some of these policies, go to presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/acswp/topics).

Alongside policies, Presbyterians formed a grassroots network in 1995 called Presbyterians for Restoring Creation (now [Presbyterians for Earth Care](#)), created volunteer Restoring Creation Enablers in presbyteries, and started a national office for Environmental Justice. Presbyterian staff have participated at the global United Nations talks on climate since the original 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

In 2022, there are nearly 300 PC(USA) congregations who are certified as [Earth Care Congregations](#) through the Presbyterian Hunger Program and multiple environmental networks working to educate and advocate around issues of climate change and earth care. Throughout the year, at local and national levels, you will see numerous resources, events and opportunities for action to care for God's Creation — including [Earth Day Sunday](#) (April) and [Call to Prayer for the Care of all Creation](#) (September). Many local congregations are visible in their community with Earth Day fairs, solar panels, stream clean-ups, community gardens, reusable shopping bags with the church logo and so much more. For more Earth Day history, see earthday.org/history.

Rev. Rebecca Barnes (she, her, hers), Coordinator, Presbyterian Hunger Program

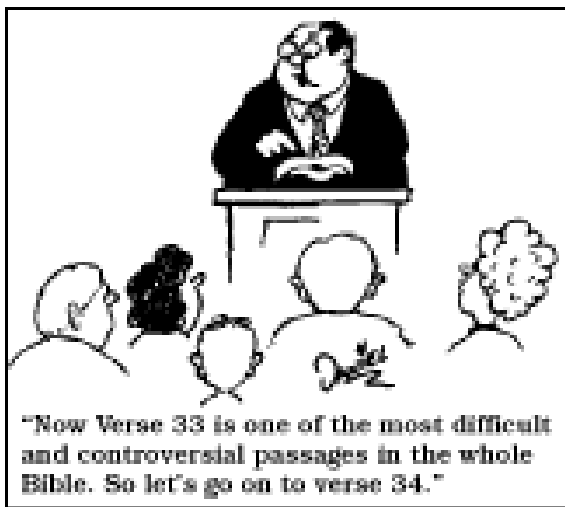
Questions for Reflection

Thomas doubted the resurrection until he saw the nail holes and put his finger in the wound of the risen Christ's hands and side. We, too, have been wounded in this life, and our society often teaches us to hide our wounds and vulnerabilities. What might happen if, like Christ, we invited those shut down by life to explore our wounds?

Thought Provoker

Faith is a way of waiting—ever quite knowing, never quite hearing or seeing, because in the darkness we are all but a little lost. There is doubt hard on the heels of every belief, fear hard on the heels of every hope, and many holy things lie in ruins because the world has ruined them and we have ruined them.

But faith waits even so, delivered at least from that final despair which gives up waiting altogether because it sees nothing left worth waiting for. Faith waits—for the opening of a door, the sound of footsteps in the hall, that beloved voice, delayed, so long that there are times when you all but give up hope of hearing it. Frederick Buechner, *A Room Called Remember*



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Visit Beecher's Website: Beecherpcusa.org

Email: BeecherPCUSA@gmail.com

Facebook.com/beecherpresbyterianchurch

Pastor - Bob Northcutt cell: (804) 338-1261
Clerk/Financial Secretary - Melissa Eckerle

Treasurer – Mike Eckerle
Organists - Judy Smith