

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 11, 2021**

**1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway**

**Join Zoom Worship**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7423478806?pwd=MTdaSjRFSVZ3RlF5bW9sMGpqYVhXQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 742 347 8806**

**Passcode: 6562894**

**One tap mobile**

**+19292056099,,7423478806#,,,,\*6562894# US (New York)**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**“Ode to Joy”**

by Ludwig van Beethoven  
Arranged by The O'Neill Brothers

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Peace be with you.

**How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.**

Receive the Holy Spirit.

**It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of the Lord.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Breathe in this place, O Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to open our minds, unlock our hearts, and enliven our faith so that we may welcome the risen one among us. Amen.**

**HYMN 245**

**Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!**

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!**

**All creation join to say, Alleluia!**

**Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!**

**Sing O heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!**

**Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!**

**Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!**

**Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!**

**Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!**

**Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!**

**Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!**

**Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!**

**Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!**

**Risen Christ triumphant now. Alleluia!**

## **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

We have an advocate with God - Jesus Christ, the righteous one - who offered his life in love to save the world from sin. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God of all who doubt and believe, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life—Jesus Christ—our Lord and our God.**

**Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

### **PSALM 133:1-3.**

<sup>1</sup> How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

<sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life for evermore.

## **John 20:19-31**

<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.

**SERMON**

**"The Reception"**

**Elder Carl Kline**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**As Easter people, we believe God is Lord of both life and death. We believe that in an astounding act of grace, Jesus suffered and died on the cross to save us from our sins. We believe, three days later, Jesus was raised from the dead, promising us salvation, not because we deserve it, but out of love, through grace. We believe we are called to respond to that gift of grace, not out of duty, but in gratitude, to seek peace, care for the ill, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, empower the oppressed and welcome the outcast; to carry on Christ's work until he comes again. Because, as Easter people, we are confident Christ will come again. Alleluia! Amen.**

**HYMN 377**

**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

**I want to walk as a child of the light.**

**I want to follow Jesus**

**God set the stars to give light to the world.**

**The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Refrain*

**In him there is no darkness at all**

**The night and the day are both alike**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God**

**Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus**

I want to see the brightness of God  
I want to look at Jesus  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
And show me the way to the Father.

*Refrain*

In him there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

I'm looking for the coming of Christ  
I want to be with Jesus  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus

*Refrain*

In him there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

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

### HYMN 547                      Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am without you, you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE            “All Creatures of Our God and King”**

Words by Francis of Assisi  
Music from Geistliche Kirchengesang  
Arranged by Phillip Keveren

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**GIVING TO 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY**

- Go to our web page (fpcrockaway.org), scroll down to “donate” and give electronically
- Mail your donation to:  
     1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway  
     35 Church St.  
     Rockaway, NJ 07866

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**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Time: 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

We will not meet April 11 but will start a new study on April 18. We will be reading *The Bible Tells Me So...Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It* by Peter Enns.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86468468691?pwd=Z3ZNNzJabHdKaFN0TjhrOEVBYXlqdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6846 8691

Passcode: 31716

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**Pastor Nancy will be on vacation April 5 – 22. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the church office. We are grateful for Joe Martinoni and Carl Kline, who are sharing their gifts as preachers for April 11 and 18. Thank you!**