

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

April 7, 2024 9:30 AM

The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



THE INCREDULITY OF ST. THOMAS – PETER PAUL RUBENS

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



-WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD –

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome all who have joined us in person and on ZOOM on this Second Sunday of Easter! Are there any announcements to come before us?

PRELUDE

“In the Presence of Jehovah”

M. Hayes

GREETING

Come, let us rejoice in Almighty God, who has raised Christ Jesus from the dead! We praise and glorify God's name, for now new life blossoms where dead hopes were buried, and today, the world is made new by the resurrection power of Christ, our risen Savior!

You are risen, and in you I am changed.
 You are with us, and You promise to remain!
 You are Life to me, Lord!

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Liturgist: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Come, let us praise the Lord.

P: Let us worship our risen Savior.

L: For death has given way to life, despair is overwhelmed by hope.

P: Grief has been replaced by joy, and darkness is dispelled by light!

L: All is made new, for Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Let us pray:

Gracious God, Power of Life, we praise you that you have not abandoned us to the living death of sin and despair, but that with Jesus Christ, you have lifted us up from the grave. Grant that we might ourselves know the power of the resurrection, now and in the world to come; through the power of Jesus Christ, the Risen One, we pray. Amen.

HYMN MEDITATION

"Come, Ye Faithful, Raise The Strain"

#315

1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
 God hath brought forth 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. 'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;
 all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

3. Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
 with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy 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 dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold thee as a mortal;
but today amidst the twelve thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.

5. "Alleluia!" now we cry to our King immortal,
who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal;
"Alleluia!" with the Son, God the Father praising,
"Alleluia!" yet again to the Spirit raising.

PASSING THE PEACE

Officiant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: We share signs of peace and welcome with our neighbors.

-WE REJOICE IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS-

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:32-35

Liturgist: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. A description of the early Church.

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. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 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. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Here ends the reading.

PSALTER

Psalm 133

#850

R **♪ Unite, us Lord, unite us by your everlasting love. ♪**

Liturgist: Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when we live together in unity!

**People: It is like the precious oil upon the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!**

L: It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!

**P: For there the LORD has commanded the blessing,
life for evermore. R**

SECOND LESSON

First John 1:1-2:2

Liturgist: A reading from First John. We walk in the Light of God through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Here ends the reading.

HYMN MEDITATION “O Sons And Daughters, Let Us Sing” Vv. 1-4,9 #317

**1. O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of heav'n, the glorious King,
O'er death and hell rose triumphing.**

Refrain: Alleluia! Alleluia!

**2. That Easter morn at break of day,
the faithful women went their way
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.
(Refrain)**

**3. An angel clad in white they see,
who sat and spake unto the three,
"Your Lord doth go to Galilee."
(Refrain)**

**4. That night the 'apostles met in fear;
Amidst them came their Lord most dear,
And said, "My peace be on all here."
(Refrain)**

**9. How blest are they who have not seen,
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win.
(Refrain)**

****THE GOSPEL**

+John 20:19-31+

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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."

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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."

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

"In The Doghouse"

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

THE APOSTLES' CREED

#881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Traditional use of this creed includes these words: "He descended into hell."

** *universal*

CHORAL ANTHEM

**"The Presence of God"
Laura Currie Chancel Choir**

Jay Althouse

-WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER-

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

#894

Bidding: *We are reaching out in prayer;*

Response: *Hear us and save us, risen Lord!*

Celebrant: Almighty God, we gather together today on the first day of the week as witnesses of the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ. Be present with us and breathe the peace of Christ's Holy Spirit upon us as we pray: *We are reaching out in prayer; **Hear us and save us, risen Lord!***

Liturgist: You have gathered your Church to serve You: Bless all who minister in your name, that we may extend your gift of forgiveness to all creation, and through believing, may have life in your name.

*We are reaching out in prayer; **Hear us and save us, risen Lord!***

L: Almighty God, you have overcome all powers and authorities to reveal yourself in Christ as the Alpha and Omega: Visit the leaders of our nation and all the nations and all who exercise power throughout the world, that they may embrace your Spirit of peace and extend your reconciliation to everyone.

*We are reaching out in prayer; **Hear us and save us, risen Lord!***

L: God of Compassion, you visited the disciples in their fear and comforted your grieving servant Thomas: Be present with all who are haunted by painful memories and doubt and with those who huddle in fear behind locked doors; breathe your healing Spirit of peace upon them.

*We are reaching out in prayer; **Hear us and save us, risen Lord!***

L: Loving God, you are in the midst of us in this community of faith and you invite us to welcome and include as friends those who have not yet experienced the reality of Christ's risen life: Help us to offer our acceptance and love to all of our neighbors, that we may be a community of reconciliation and peace.

*We are reaching out in prayer; **Hear us and save us, risen Lord!***

L: God of Wholeness, you have absorbed all human suffering and pain into your body through Jesus and raised him with power to become our wounded

healer: Grant the comfort of your grace to those whom we have spoken aloud and those who we share with you in silence.

*We are reaching out in prayer; **Hear us and save us, risen Lord!***

L: You have loved us and freed us, O God: Hear our grateful thanks for all the blessings of our lives.

*We are reaching out in prayer; **Hear us and save us, risen Lord!***

L: You have overcome death through the victory of Christ: Grant your resurrection life to those who have died. Let everything that has breath, praise God. Hallelujah!

Celebrant: Receive our doubts, O God, and let the Risen One visit us and fill us with your joy, that we may be grateful witnesses of Christ's resurrection, sharing the liberating breath of your Holy Spirit throughout creation, for to you is glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

- WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD -

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Celebrant: The bounty of God's grace has blessed us in so many ways. God's love was manifested in the ultimate gift of Jesus, the Christ. Let us demonstrate our love through the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure that God may be glorified.

****DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

#95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Celebrant: From our hearts and from our hands, we humbly and gladly present these gifts to you, O God, that they may be used to serve you and to bless your people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!

LITURGY OF COMMUNION/THE HOLY EUCHARIST

(Responses on page 15 in the front of the hymnal. You will be instructed when to come forward to receive)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Adults, youth, and children come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table. It is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. Come, for all are welcome.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our Creator God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One. You sent your only-begotten, in whom your fullness dwells, to be for us the

way, the truth, and the life.

Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him, healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.

He enacted peace in the midst of violence, love in the face of hate, He offered Divine Life to all people suffering under worldly forces of death.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Through his resurrection Life you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.

It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God that we gather this morning and remember together that on the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

CHORUS

"Do This In Remembrance Of Me"

Kerr-Whitt

Do this in remembrance of me: this broken life, your lives outpouring.

Do this, do this my friends! As I now live, so you must live!

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer, we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup, and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ. Accept our praise and thanksgiving, accept our lives as holy offerings to you, that in losing our life we might find true Life and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers life to all.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

*By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.*

*All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.***

And now, as our Lord has taught us, we are bold 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, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

*Celebrant: The body of Christ, the bread of life.
The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.
The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that
Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with
thanksgiving.*

*(Please allow the choir to come forward first. Then come forward take the bread and eat.
Then move to the cup, drink it, and put the empty in the basket.)*

RESPONSORIAL PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: You have given yourself to us, O Lord.
People: Now we give ourselves for others.
Celebrant: You have raised us with Christ, and made us a new people.
People: As people of the resurrection, we will serve you with joy.
Celebrant: Your glory has filled our hearts.
People: Help us to glorify you in all things. Amen.

- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -

**1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.**

**2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

**3. Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth her song begin!
The round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.**

BENEDICTION

Officiant: May God the Father, who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, continually show loving-kindness toward us.

May God the Son, Victor over sin and death, grant us a share in the joy of his resurrection.

May God the Spirit, giver of light and peace, renew our hearts in God's love. And Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and always.

People: Amen. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

****Indicates to rise if you are able**

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- How might the vision of the early Church described in the passage in Acts conflict with our present economic system? How might we embrace both?
- What does it take to live together in unity?
- What have you heard and seen and touched concerning the Word of Life? How do you communicate the story of Jesus to others?
- What helps you when you are feeling doubtful about the faith? How do you help others in their times of doubt?