

**Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale
Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 24, 2022**

PRELUDE

**WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, we are called to gather.

All: Holy One, lead us into this new life to find new ways of being.

One: We are called to carry the light into the world.

All: Lord, it is our sacred duty to bring Your light into this world, the light of peace and love.

One: Let us bring ourselves as true and acceptable offerings in praise and worship.

All: God of all, we lovingly place ourselves before You in song and praise! Amen!

OPENING HYMN

Thine Be the Glory, #218

Words: Edmond L. Budry (1884); Trans. Richard B. Hoyle (1923)

Music: George Frederick Handel (1746)

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*Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes
where thy body lay.*

[Refrain:]

*Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

*Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing.
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting. (Refrain)*

*No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. (Refrain)*

UNISON PRAYER

Holy One, we thank you for leading us into this new life, for we have struggled to become better disciples than we were. Lord, You defeated death to save me from the evil one and from my basic instincts. Merciful God, as You walk and talk with me, open my heart and mind to the possibilities that this new life may bring to my neighbors and the world. On this day of wonderment, Holy Spirit guide me to a better place. Amen!

Our 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever, Amen.

GLORI PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: Lesser Doxology (3rd-4th centuries)

MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

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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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE New beginnings, Pastor Dave

CHILDREN'S HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

Words & Music: Harry Dixon Loes

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*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (X3)
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.*

SCRIPTURE READING

New Testament Lesson: Revelation 1:1–8

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19–31

SERMON

It's Okay to Doubt, Pastor Dave

HYMN

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me, #214

Words: Augustus M. Toplady (1776)

Music: Thomas Hastings (1830)

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*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure,
save from wrath and make me pure.*

*Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.*

*Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress,
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly,
wash me, Savior, or I die.*

*While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.*

MORNING OFFERING

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD

We joyfully offer ourselves in God's work using our time, talent, and treasure.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Lord of Life, may the beauty of this offering bring us new hearts to hear in Your ways. A new sight to see your children with sincere love and empathy. With minds that are focused on the love and peace that Jesus has brought to each of us. Amen!

WE PAUSE TO REFLECT AND PRAY

Prayers of the People: You are invited to offer prayers of concerns or joys.
Sharing our joys and concerns

Pastor: God is with you

All: And also, with you

Pastor: Let us pray

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

WORDS: Psalm 143:1

MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897

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*Hear our Prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer O Lord.
Incline thine ear to us, And grant us thy peace. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name, #91

Words: Edward Perronet (1779); alt. John Rippon (1787)

Music: Oliver Holden (1792)

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*All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.*

*Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.*

*O Sinners, who can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all;
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all*

*Let every kindred, every tribe,
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all;
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.*

*O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life, #432

Words: James L. Merrell (1991)

Music: Alexander R. Reinagle (1836)

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*O Christ, the Way, the Truth the Life,
be with us now, we pray;
direct our steps as we go forth
to do your will this day.*

*O faithful Guide, renew our trust
in love that does not fail;
and give us strength to work and pray,
that peace may soon prevail.*

RECESSIONAL POSTLUDE

Revelation 1:1-8 (NRSV)

1The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

3Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

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.

John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

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.”
Jesus and Thomas

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.”

26A 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.” 27Then 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.” 28Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

The Purpose of This Book

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