



Holy Language

# Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

March 12, 2026

A wholeheartedly inclusive Christian community  
called by a challenging and progressive faith  
to live lives of love and justice

## Virtual Worship

To Dial In by Phone Only 1 (312) 626-6799 - MTG ID 874 9506 6741

## Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495066741?pwd=NjdvYnNycy80SWpldVJQZmQ4UDd0QT09>

**Participant ID** (Not required. None provided) **“Otherwise just press #”**

Meeting Password: **760760**

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## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

### LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

### UNPACKING EASTER

With Music

*Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

Philip P. Bliss

Arr Lloyd Larson

With Meditation

*“Jesus, ignoring the locked doors, appears among them, right into the midst of their terror, offering them peace. He graciously lets them see his wounds. And then he breathes on them the gift of the Spirit. It's quite the entrance.”*

*Fran Pratt*

\*Please stand in body or spirit

# INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

CENTERING PRAYER

*A Litany of Transformation*

(adapted) Fran Pratt

God, we are caught up in fears  
Of things known and unknown  
As the disciples huddled in a house, fearful after Christ's death  
So we tend to lock our doors.

**We forget that when we lock our doors, nothing can enter  
Neither the bad nor the good.  
But Perfect Love doesn't need a door -  
Christ has appeared among us, even so!**

Into our darkest, most fearful places  
Jesus has walked right in!  
Into our most doubtful moments  
Jesus has spoken Peace.  
We saw in his wounds, the evidence of death and pain upon him,  
Our worst fears realized in his flesh.

**What we learned is that our worst fears are not the end:**

**Life has overcome death;**

**Joy has overcome pain;**

**Love has overcome fear.**

**The one who went before us, straight into the heart of darkness --  
The Risen Christ has overcome the world.**

Breathe upon us, Lord Christ:

**The breath of hope and peace,  
The breath of Perfect Love,  
The breath of the Spirit of God.**

\*HYMN

*Yours Is the Glory #253*

(see insert)

\*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

We share "happenings" in the community, and lift up concerns for prayer.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD FOR OUR LIVES**

Reading from the Hebrew Scripture

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Reading from the Gospel

John 20:19-31

Sermon

*The Gift of Doubt*

Rev. Edmonds

CALL TO PRAYER

*These Things Did Thomas Count #254*

(see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Prayer of Thomas*

(adapted) Stephen Garnaas-Holmes

Beloved,

I reach out for you.

I want to touch you,  
to know your living presence.

**I want to feel the flesh of your grace,  
that the nails I helped pound have not held you,  
that still you love, that you forgive and bless.**

**I want to touch your wounds,  
your willingness to share our suffering,  
your brokenness for the evils of the world  
because you love us so deeply.**

**Give me the courage to see you  
in the wounded of this world,  
to see the wounds I have caused,  
the evil I have cooperated with,  
the ways I have abandoned you,  
and to know your forgiveness.**

**I want to know  
that out of your wounds flows love.**

**Beloved, every moment,  
even when I am forgetting,  
I am reaching for you.**

#### MUSICAL REFLECTION

(an offering plate is available by the door in the Narthex or you may mail your gift)

*My Faith Looks Up To Thee*

Lowell Mason, 1832  
Arr Lloyd Larson

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

*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                      *We Live by Faith & Not by Sight #256*                      (see insert)

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Amazing Love*

Billy J Foote  
Arr Larry Shackley

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## WELCOME...

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity today! If you're new, please introduce yourself, we'd love to get acquainted. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Pastor Dale!

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## FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given by The Holtz Family in honor of Lucy's 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday

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# TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

## Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

847-722-6756

[PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org](mailto:PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org)

## Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

## Office Manager

Heather Hughes

## Lay Officers

Council President

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Financial Secretary

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Tue.–Wed. 9-12

[trinitydeerfield.org](http://trinitydeerfield.org)

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 12, 2026

John 20:19-31

### Holy Language

The season of Easter is underway. It's a time where we are being invited to experience the full 50 days of Eastertide, embracing the resurrection promise that breathes newness and vitality into our ordinary days.

Chances are, though, there are many — perhaps even you, dear reader — who are feeling anything but hopeful. Perhaps your faith in a great God is as stale as the leftover jellybeans that filled last week's Easter baskets.

Take heart, for you are not alone. Doubts plague everyone, even the saintliest of saints among us. After her death, it was revealed how Mother Teresa battled many dark nights of the soul, questioning God's presence in her life.

And long before Mother Teresa's doubting, there was Thomas. Known as "the twin," Thomas was absent that first Easter evening when Jesus came into the room speaking words of comfort and assurance: "Peace be with you."

Still reeling from Jesus' death, Thomas couldn't believe his friends who told him the great news of Jesus being alive. He didn't dare to believe for the pain of losing Jesus once before was enough. Why dare to hope again?

To protect his heart from breaking with false hope, Thomas said that he had to see Jesus in the flesh for himself. He had to be able to put his fingers in Jesus' pierced side to believe the impossible news that he was walking among the living.

Thomas got what he asked for. Jesus returns and stands before the doubter and shows him the scars. It's then Thomas utters the first public confession of faith, "My Lord and my God!"

Doubt. It haunts us all. It makes us insist on proof today for evidence of a better tomorrow. Why do we need to see before we believe? It is not an intellectual quest as some might think, but a protective reflex born out of too many shattering-heart let downs.

Like Thomas, we can relate to the scary vulnerability of risking our hearts to believe in hopeful possibilities, especially when there's no guarantee we won't be let down yet again.

But as Eastertide gets underway, we are given the good news that with God we can risk our hearts. We can believe boldly in God's care for us, even without hard proof. Even on those days when we think God has forgotten us. God has not. God shows up at the right time. The Easter promise is that our hopes will never be crushed, because God who raised Jesus from the dead is raising us from our own tomb of doubts.

*God of new beginnings and bright promises, transform our doubts into beautiful truths this Eastertide. Open our guarded hearts to the amazing possibilities that You have waiting for us. And help us, O God, to always believe without the proof we often insist on. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

*(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)*



## **Prayer Concerns**

Paula Blanchard, cousin of Jean Harris, who has had a recurrence of brain cancer

Walter Eduardo Jimenez and all those now living in fear...

Joyce Black, friend of Marge Magnani

David Bunce and Steve Schoonmaker, two friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who are both struggling with cancer

The Family of Adrienne Mazura, friend of Lucy, who succumbed to breast cancer

Bill and Roseann Stenzel

Sarah Hughes as she recovers

Levi Chisholm, continuing slow & steady recovery from drowning accident

Don Inman

Mary Ferrante

Nancy Rose, Barbara Struthers' sister

Irene Santos and Family on the sudden passing of her brother

Carmen Ruiz & Fernando Rodriguez, Barbara Struthers' daughter-in-law's parents in Puerto Rico

The People of Ukraine and Leaders of all nations

For youth who feel alienated or without hope

For all whose lives are torn by disasters of human making

For those suffering devastation in the Middle East

**\*Please let Heather know when there should be changes to the prayer list. We don't want to remove anyone prematurely or omit anyone that should be held in all of our hearts.**

# A toi la gloire, ô Ressuscité!

(Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!)

Matt. 28:1-10; John 20:19-29; 1 Cor. 15:54-55

Edmond L. Budry, 1904

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

1 A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té! A toi la vic - toi - re,  
 1 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One! End - less is the vic - tory  
 2 See, it is Je - sus, Je - sus has ap - peared; do not doubt at all for  
 3 Am I still fright - ened? One whom I a - dore, Je - sus, lives a - gain, gives

pour l'é - ter - ni - té! Bril - lant de lu - miè - re, l'ange est de - scen -  
 you o'er death have won. An - gels clothed in ra - dian - ce rolled the stone a -  
 noth - ing you will fear. Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph  
 peace for - ev - er - more. Je - sus is my vic - tory, life and strength and

du, il rou - le la pier - re du tom - beau vain - cu.  
 way; con - quered is the grave in which your bod - y lay.  
 sing; tell it with - out ceas - ing: Death has lost its sting.  
 Head; Je - sus is my glo - ry, noth - ing shall I dread.

*Refrain*

A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té!  
 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One!

Swiss pastor Edmond L. Budry may have drawn his inspiration for this hymn from a German Advent poem set to Handel's triumphant music. The tune Judas Maccabeus is adapted from a chorus in Handel's oratorio of the same name.

Tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS  
 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. with refrain  
 G. F. Handel, 1751

A toi la vic - toi - re, pour l'é - ter - ni - té!  
End - less is the vic - tory you o'er death have won.

## These Things Did Thomas Count

254

Thomas H. Troeger, 1984

John 20:19-31

1 These things did Thom - as count as real: the warmth of  
2 The vi - sion of his skep - tic mind was keen e -  
3 His rea - soned cer - tain - ties de - nied that one could  
4 May we, O God, by grace be - lieve and thus the

blood, the chill of steel, The grain of wood, the heft of  
nough to make him blind To an - y un - ex - pect - ed  
live when one had died, Un - til his fin - gers read like  
ris - en Christ re - ceive, Whose raw, im - print - ed palms reached

stone, the last frail twitch of flesh and bone.  
act too large for his small world of fact.  
Braille the mark - ings of the spear and nail.  
out and beck - oned Thom - as from his doubt.

*The author cites his "reading of twentieth-century theology and its coming to terms with the limits of the enlightenment and rational cognition" as the foundational thought for this text.*

Tune: DISTRESS L.M.  
The Sacred Harp, 1844  
Arr. Jonathan McNair, 1993

## We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

256

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

John 20:24-29

*Unison*

1 We live by faith and not by sight;  
 2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,  
 3 Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;  
 4 That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra - cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as  
 nor fol - low where Christ trod; But in con - fess - ing  
 and may our faith a - bound To call on you when  
 in realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.  
 we re - jice: our Sav - ior and our God!  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

*As dean of Canterbury, Henry Alford exemplified ecumenism by working closely with non-Anglican groups. He promoted New Testament scholarship with his famous commentary on the Greek New Testament, one of fifty books he published during his lifetime.*

Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK C.M.  
 Samuel McFarland, c. 1816  
 Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986