

***Prior to the start of the service,
we invite silence, prayer and preparation.***

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and those who are near. This week we pray for:

Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania; The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean; St. Andrew's, Madison; St. Mary's, Manchester; St. Andrew's, Marble Dale; All Saints', Meriden; Hospital chaplains; Stephen Ministers; pastoral care groups; ministries of healing; nurses; wellness programs; recovery ministries.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: comfort and heal those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs. Grant that they may be strengthened and have confidence in your loving care. This week we pray for:

Sabin Streeter, Keath, Kristi, Blair, families of the victims of COVID-19, Eleanor Robinson, Woody Anderson, Ashley, Burt Devine, Michael Trask, Marcy, Clemente Rico Tornez, Todd Lefurge, Watson Bastos, Anne Griffiths, her daughter Elle and husband Evan Wagner, and children, Whitney, Charlotte Shales-Clarke, Bernice, Claudia Reynolds, Chase, Ted Schell, Maggie, Suzy, Huntley, Helena, Ray Padegenis, Ben, Tony Piccirillo, Jane Olgren, Tillie

Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church.

... our parish families:

Monday: Amanda Blair

Tuesday: Marguerite Boardman

Wednesday: Brian Bowes & Laura Lee Miller

Thursday: Charlie & Nicoll Brinley

Friday: Evan Brown

... those having birthdays this week:

Sunday: Richard Sager

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday: Carolyn Ross

Friday:

Saturday:

We pray for those who have died:

All victims of COVID-19;

All victims of violence

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that, being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to the President of the United States, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen

Prelude

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks ~ *Alleluia No. 1*

Hymnal 178

Descant

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

Praise to his Name. Name.

Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

1-4 Final Ending

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
Now we shall live for ev - er. Al - le -
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

Repeat Refrain

The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.

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Welcome

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

BCP p. 355

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
mighty God and Fa-ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Acts

4:32-35

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

A Reading from First John

1:1 - 2:2

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: I want to walk as a child of the light ~ *Houston*

Hymnal 490

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to follow Je sus.
 I want to look at Je sus.
 I want to be with Je sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and we
 When we have run with pa-tience the race,

star of my life is Je sus.
 show me the way to the Fa ther.
 shall know the joy of Je sus.

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.

a tempo

rit.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Anita Louise Schell

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

On this day we praise our God for the dying which destroyed our death, and we pray for our world in need of life, saying: **Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord calls us to examine the wounded hands and feet of the risen one and to know the depth of his love for us. Let us approach Christ in faith and share the good news with all we meet. For this let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

The apostles received the Holy Spirit and the grace to lighten the burdens of one another's sin. May the church be faithful to this gift. May all the baptized live with abundant compassion for all, especially for those shut out from the society. For this let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ calls us blest who not having seen, yet believe. May more and more of God's people and all the created order become a sign of the resurrection in the world, and may our faith give courage to the doubting. For this let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

We are strengthened by Christ's resurrection to share the power of the Spirit with all the suffering. We pray for all in any need. May the power of Christ's resurrection give life to all who have little reason to hope. For this let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

May that morning star which never sets, Christ our light, find us burning with charity until the world is enlightened with love. For this let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Here other intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.

Eternally creative God, give us the faith and courage to recreate the world in your image. We ask this in the name of the risen one, Jesus our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

from *Intercessions for the Christian People*
edited by Gail Ramshaw

The Confession and Absolution

p. 360

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Peace

p. 360

Announcements

Offertory
Blessing

Hymn: Blessed Assurance

Voices Found 119

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vis - ions of
3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend-ing, bring from a -
sa - vior am hap - py and blest; watch-ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of his spi - rit, washed in his blood.
bove, ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my

sa - vior all the day long; this is my sto - ry, this is my
song, praising my sa - vior all the day long.

Dismissal

Postlude

Dear people of Saint Ann's,

Easter Sunday we hosted a joyous Easter celebration on our church terrace - another first during this season of Covid. We also held our second recorded Easter service (the first one was in 2020) and an Easter morning service at Essex Meadows (Thank you Rev. Pat for conducting Spiritual Communion for our members and friends at Essex Meadows). So many firsts and so many thanks as we begin our 50 day season of Eastertide.

Special thanks go to Dan Ivey, our sexton, for taking the church doors off (and putting them back on) so we could roll the baby grand piano out onto the terrace (and roll it back into the church) Thank you to the moving crew: Hector Migliacci, our organist/choir director, Todd Lefurge, Peter Griffin and Jeff, Kathy and Tim Rowe.

Over the past year we have responded to the pandemic moment. We have stayed safe and kept connected. We have become very creative with our outdoor space and resilient in adapting to online technology, chiefly Zoom. Through all of these ways we have made new friends and members of Saint Ann's. Thank you for your ongoing support in word and deed and financial commitment. Some say it has been a year like none other at Saint Ann's. As Steve and I are still in our second year with you, I cannot imagine what the third one will bring! More excitement, creativity, resilience and generosity I am sure.

What I know for sure it is that we are rooted in the love of God in Jesus Christ. And, as we are even more connected to folk near and far we will take all the lessons and experiences of the past year and continue to be shaped by them. Let's keep finding the risen Christ in the world around us. Welcome Happy Morning Age to Age Shall Say!!!

Mother Anita

Scripture Reflection: Stories of a Resurrection!

Today, this Second Sunday in Easter, we find ourselves again in John's Gospel where we are told that the disciples are gathered in a room late on Easter Sunday, and the mood is bleak. Every plan and hope for the future rested with Jesus, and now he is dead. There are incredible stories of a resurrection, but the disciples remain unconvinced. How can it be?

Then, without warning, Jesus appears in their midst. "Peace be with you," he says, and he shows them his hands. The disciples recognize Jesus by his words and his wounds, and they rejoice; The Lord is alive; all is not lost!

But Thomas isn't there when this happens. Likely lost in the throes of his own grief, Thomas misses his chance. Later the others are telling him wild tales: "We have seen the Lord!"

This is too much for Thomas. Didn't they all dismiss Mary Magdalene's story? So he makes an outrageous remark: "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." It's a brazen statement and some people interpret it as unfortunate doubt. Is it? Come and explore more about this powerful Gospel story in Sunday and Monday's Bible study!

Mother Anita

Today's Featured Hymn: "Blessed Assurance"

From Hymnary we learn that "Blessed Assurance" and "To God Be the Glory" are probably the best known texts by Fanny J. Crosby. Crosby said the following in her *Memories* about her writing of "Blessed Assurance": Sometimes a tune is furnished me for which to write the words. The hymn titled "Blessed Assurance" was made in this manner. My dear friend Phoebe Palmer Knapp (Mrs. Joseph), so well-known as a writer and singer of most excellent music and as an aid and inspiration to all who knew her, had composed the tune; and it seemed to me one of the sweetest I had heard for a long time. She asked me what it said. I replied, "Blessed Assurance." I felt while bringing the words and tones together that the air and the hymn were intended for each other."

Crosby's text and Knapp's tune were published in John R. Sweeney's *Gems of Praise* in 1873. "Blessed Assurance" is a typical gospel hymn of the late nineteenth century. It is simple, and has an emotional appeal that comes from its rousing tune and from the personal experience described in the text. It is a testimonial hymn of praise to Christ for his work of redemption (vs 1), for the Spirit's work of sanctification (vs 2), and for the joy of serving Jesus (vs 3).

Mother Anita

Education Piece: Why is Thomas sometimes called "Doubting Thomas"?

The Second Sunday of Easter is always the Sunday of Thomas "the twin," sometimes called "Doubting Thomas" - which I think is unfair to Thomas. Paul Tillich's, classic book *Dynamics of Faith*, published in 1957, Tillich claims that doubt is in fact an inescapable and essential part of faith. According to Tillich, faith is what happens when a finite being is "grasped by and turned to the infinite." Because we are limited in our understanding, there will always be things about the infinite nature and character of God that we cannot understand, try as we might. Yet Tillich believes it is important to try. In his view, an unquestioning faith is no faith at all, because it shows a lack of engagement with the divine.

Tillich also believes a questioning faith requires an element of risk, and more than a little courage. To ask a question is to risk an answer. As he puts it, "Where there is daring and courage, there is the possibility of failure." Sometimes we ask questions and receive no answer. Sometimes we ask questions and don't like the answer we receive. These are the risks we take when we honestly engage with one another, including God.

Learn more about Thomas and his connection to the church in India in this week's sermon!

Mother Anita

Easter Altar flowers are given:

In loving memory of:

*Peter Barbar
Kevin Lee Barnett
Bonnie Jean MacKay
Muriel Carter MacKay
Anne Tranker Griggs
Robert Foote Griggs, Jr.
Caroline Griggs Hyman
Gerold Frederic Hyman
Julie Griggs Pfeffer
Charles Blakeslee Razee
Jeannette Stephan Razee
Edith May Blakeslee Razee
George Clarence Razee
Ruth Elizabeth Razee
Mary Fowler Razee Wilkins
Richard Shannon Wilkins
Georgia Cunningham Watson
by George and Nancy Razee*

*Mary DuBois Schwarz
Frederick A. O. Schwarz
Edwin K. Merrill
Helen Stokes Bush
by Newt & Polly Merrill*

*Margaret Warren Sibley
by her children & grandchildren*

*Deever & Cil Rockwell
by the Murphy and Rockwell families*

*our parents,
Dr. William Russell & Frances Baker MacAusland
Theodore William & Anne Hess Schell
by Steve MacAusland and Mother Anita*

*Linda Crosby
by Mother Anita*

*Don Joffray
Marshall Joffray
by Sue Joffray*

*Nancy Padegenis
by Raymond Padegenis*

*Ernest C. Miller & Edith P. Miller
Elizabeth M. Bowes & Frank J. Bowes
Jack B. Portrfield and Rand B. Smith
by Laura Lee Miller & Brian M. Bowes*

*Robert F. Herbst
by Margo Valentine*

*Dick Lamourine
Anne & Stu Clement*

*Bob Comstock
John Keydel
Walt & Judy Tucker
Jenny & Rudy Wood-Muller
Jim Blair
Ollie & Helen Nash
Rosemarie Fox
Pete & Bunty Karter
Ken & Malu Wood
Marilyn Slavtcheff
Donna Chilleri
Margaret Nelson
Peggy Sibley
Anne Talbott
Marie Clark
Millie Wrege
Joan Swain
Esther Jackson
Dick & Heather Dillenbeck
Dot Smith
by Kathy Rowe*

*Elizabeth Oliver McCarthy
Buy W. Oliver
Roblee McCarthy
Mary Jean Lovelace
C.S. (Butsy) Lovelace
by Jeff & Judy Lovelace*

In thanksgiving for:

*our children, daughter-in-law and grandchildren:
Jeffrey C. Lovelace Jr.
Leah O. Lovelace
Marisol Lovelace
Mauricio, Ailin, & Benjamin Lovelace
and our granddog, Sage Lovelace
by Jeff & Judy Lovelace*

*God's presence in our world
by Saint Ann's staff*

