

Banning United Methodist Church

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

(Translated from "Cristo Vive", UMH 313, v 3)

*Death has lost its old dominion, let the world rejoice and shout! Christ, the firstborn of the living, gives us life and leads us out. Let us thank our God, who causes hope to spring up from the ground.
Christ is risen, Christ is giving life eternal, life profound.*

PRELUDE

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

†CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord did not abandon Thomas to his unbelief,

P: nor will the Lord abandon us to ours.

L: God hears our cries for help and answers.

P: God knows how we struggle to believe what we can't see or touch.

L: Know that our Invisible God makes forgiveness visible

P: to our hearts and souls.

L: See God at work in your life from this day forward.

P: We seek to trust His spiritual sight more each day.

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven

†OPENING HYMN "In the Garden" (All Verses) UMH #314

OPENING PRAYER

(Based on John 20:10-31)

Lord, we confess our preoccupation with Proof. Too often we muffle faith and hand the microphone to Proof. We'll move if Proof says so. We'll act if Proof gives the okay. After your resurrection, we may have asked to touch you a second time -- just to make sure. We confess our frequent failure to trust You. Hear us and help our unbelief we pray. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON 1 Peter 1:3-9 NRSV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

†HYMN "Open My Eyes, That I May See" (All Verses) UMH #454

GOSPEL READING John 20: 19-31 NRSV

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.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "What It Takes to Believe"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Affirmation from 1 Cor 15:1-6 & Col 1:15-20) UMH #888
This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR and PEOPLE

Children in Prayer
(After all slides: In Your mercy, **Lord, hear our prayer**)
Sharing Our Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer

THE 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.

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

OFFERTORY

†**DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy and loving God, you treat us not like the stern disciplinarian but like the forgiving parent who runs to embrace us when we've rebelled or disappointed. Your mercy gives us the opportunities to try again, to return into your grace, to pick ourselves up and brush ourselves off. You forget how many strikes we have against us but invite us back into the inheritance you desire for us. May our offering this day reflect our gratitude. In Christ, we pray. AMEN.

†CLOSING HYMN "He Lives" (All Verses) UMH #310

†BENEDICTION