

**McKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WORSHIP SERVICE**

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

WE ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE "Christ the Lord is Risen"

**Candice Holsinger, Organist
Arr. Williams**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

OPENING PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) Though darkness seems to envelop us,

(C) Jesus breaks through with a word of peace.

(L) Fears are banished!

(C) Hope is more than restored.

(L) Rejoice! The Lord is with us!

((ALL) We rejoice in the peace and blessings Jesus Christ brings! AMEN

***HYMN #1**

"Open My Eyes"

No. 563, brown

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

We listen to the news, read the newspapers, and wonder if peace will ever reign in Your world, Lord. Today we have been invited to be with the disciples in that hidden place where they also wondered about peace and hope. You broke through. You shattered the darkness and they were astonished again. Help us to understand that You will bring peace to each one of us. Forgive all those times when we treat this moment of revelation as though it was impossible. Give us the courage to reach out to You, and touch our hearts once again. For we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

(pause for silent reflection)

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Open your hearts and ears, beloved people of God. You are loved, forgiven, and chosen to be disciples. Be at peace. AMEN.

(ALL) Give thanks to the Lord!

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 813, brown

**Glory be 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

JOYS

Leader: "For (joy), Gracious God..."

All: "we give you thanks"

CONCERNS

Leader: "For (concern), Merciful Lord ..."

All: "hear our prayer."

Let's pray together 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 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 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please contact the church by email or phone with your prayer requests during the week.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Please welcome the children & youth to the front of the sanctuary.

ANTHEM

"In the Garden"

**(Chancel Choir)
Arr. Miles**

SCRIPTURE READING:

John 20: 19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON:

" Do Not Doubt.... Believe!"

Guest Speaker, Mark Jones

THE RESPONSE

WE COMMIT TO THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

**(Chancel Choir)
Arr. Willis**

***DOXOLOGY**

***HYMN #2**

" Breathe On Me, Breath of God"

No. 393, brown

THE EXIT

WE ENGAGE THE WORLD OF GOD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTUDE

"Thine is the Glory"

**Candice Holsinger, Organist
Arr. Handel**

**All those who are able, please stand"*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 7, 2024

GUEST SPEAKER:

Please stop after service to thank Mark Jones for being our guest speaker today.

FELLOWSHIP :

Please join together for friendship and fellowship after today's service.

IF YOUR ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE:

Please contact the church office.

REFRESH:

Come "Refresh" on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Join in for learning, fellowship and a meal. Please bring your family and friends.

EYEGASSES, HEARING AIDS:

Lions Club of White Oak is collecting old eyeglasses, hearing aids, and used, clean, non-labeled prescription bottles. If you would like to dispose of any of these items, please give them to Carol Lasch or drop them off at the church office.

MALAWI VISITATION:

The Malawi visitation is postponed from May to September. Please watch for further updates.

MCKEESPORT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor-Rev. Michael Stanton

Director of Music-Edward R. Moore

Organists- Millie Kistler, Candice Holsinger, & Faye D'Ippolito

Office Assistant- Robin Enright

Maintenance Manager -Brock Cochran

412-678-2000

www.mckpres.com

mckeesportpresbyterian@gmail.com