



**Harmony United Methodist Church
April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter**

**9:30 AM Online Worship
11:00 AM Outdoor In-Person Worship**

**WELCOME
PRELUDE**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Shari Laraway

Let us gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Thomas said:

“Unless I see the mark of the nails and put my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

We are often skeptical people, driven by our senses, relying on that which we can hear, see or prove.

Our Lord asks us to see the invisible, to trust in the spirit, to have faith. Lord, give us faith!

Sometimes we get carried away by our emotions, by wishful thinking and by popular trends that pull us in.

Lord, help us to be bold in our beliefs, but also careful as Thomas was. Move us beyond mere trust in ordinary things and open our eyes for spiritual realities.

Jesus said: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Amen.

PRAYER

Shari Laraway

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on,
illuminating the places where you are present.

As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance,

you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace.

You showed them the appalling marks of evil pierced on your hands and feet.

You opened their minds to understand why you had to die to defeat such evil and death.

Increase our understanding, we pray,

and open our minds and hearts to receive you, Lord.

Speak your word of peace to us and let your love shine on any dark areas in our lives.

May this worship which we offer in your name be a worthy response to your love

and your sacrifice for us.

Amen.

*I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him, he's always near.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives?
He lives within my heart.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice
and sing eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;
none other is so loving, so good and kind.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives?
He lives within my heart.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jessica Randall

MORNING PRAYER

Pastor Debra

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.

CHOIR ANTHEM*He, My Savior Is***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Shari Laraway

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Shari Laraway

Acts 4:32-35

4:32 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.

4:33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

4:34 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.

4:35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

GOSPEL READING

Shari Laraway

John 20:19-31

20:19 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."

20:20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

20:22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

20:24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

20:25 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."

20:26 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."

20:27 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."

20:28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

20:29 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."

20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

20:31 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.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Shari Laraway

SERMON

Behind Locked Door

Pastor Debra

SPECIAL MUSIC

Shari Laraway

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor Debra

Now we come gracious God to that time in our worship celebration where we have an opportunity to respond and express our love for you by making a gift. This is not our dues or an entrance fee, it should not be a token, but it is an expression of our faith and our love. It is hard to imagine worship without giving, it is even harder for some of us to give. So, empower our generosity Lord, help us today to look beyond ourselves and appreciate the impact that our giving can have on so many lives through the ministries of this church. Now Father, watch how we give. In honor of Jesus. AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN

O, For a Thousand Tongues

UMH 57

*O, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!*

*My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.*

CLOSING COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor Debra

"Peace be with you," Jesus says to us in this room.

"As the Father sent me, so I send you."

No doubt or fear can lock God out of our lives.

Remember that as you leave this place,
sent forward to live by faith.

And may these words echo through your mind, as well:

"Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe."

And all God's people said, "**Amen!**"

POSTLUDE