

Second Sunday of Easter + 19th April 2020

A simple liturgy for use during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Light a candle.

Sit for a few moments to gather your thoughts.

Breathe deeply and slowly.

Gathering in God's Presence

So we do not lose heart.

Even though our outer nature is wasting away,
our inner nature is being renewed day by day.

For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us
for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,

Because we look at not what can be seen, but at what cannot be seen.

For what can be seen is temporary,
but what cannot be seen is eternal.



(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Prayer of Brokenness

Holy One,

we confess that it has been too much.

There is too much loss, too much fear,
too much grief, too much despair.

There's only so much we can handle, and it is overwhelming us.

Help us, O God, to let go of the fear that holds us in its grip and instead cling to hope.

Help us, O God, to acknowledge our doubts, and yet to trust in You,
to know that You are with us, and we are not alone.

Help us, O God, to have faith that this too shall come to pass.

Guide us in this time of uncertainty to focus on You,
our Rock and our Redeemer.

In the name of Christ we pray.

Amen.

Reading: John 20.19-31

Reflection

While the crucifixion narratives in the Gospels all have similar details, the post-resurrection encounters vary widely. But Matthew and John both have in common that some of the disciples doubted. John's post-resurrection account in this passage focuses on Thomas, who earlier in John 11 was willing to go to the death with Jesus. Now, he is unwilling to believe the resurrection unless he sees Jesus and his scars. Written to a generation most likely without living witnesses of the resurrection, John records Jesus stating "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."



In our Covid-19 world, many of us have not been able to see one another. We may have a hard time seeing hope right now. But we see hope in the number of people making masks for others to wear. We see hope in the neighbours who are helping their neighbours. We see hope in the numbers finally starting to taper off in areas where there were breakouts of Covid-19. Resurrection, new life is all around us. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have come to believe. We will be together again.

Prayer of Intercession

Impossible God, You make all things possible. You make all things new.
You called forth light when Your Spirit hovered over the waters, and there was light.
You breathed into dirt and brought forth humanity.
You raised Christ from the tomb.
You continue to bring forth life out of death.
You raise flowers from the earth after the cold winter.
We know You will bring forth life again.
In this time, may we deepen our trust in You.
May we strengthen our faith in humanity that love can overcome fear and hate.
May we broaden our understanding of love to all who are in need.
May we rise from this time with lessons learned
and strive to build a better society of kindness and caring.
May we remember those who are risking their lives to save lives, and those who are
keeping our society running and making it possible to have food and vital services.
May we our part to ensure their health and safety now and in the time to come by
working for justice for all, for living wages for all, for healthcare for all.
Impossible God, may we learn that nothing is impossible with You.
We can change the world because of You.
We can love one another without hate because of You.
We can become a new creation because of You.
Remind us, teach us, and guide us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Christ is the one who died on the cross,
but also laid in the tomb of death for three days.
Christ knows our fears, what it is like to feel trapped, what it is like to live without hope.
And yet, Christ rose, and we will rise.
Christ lives, and we live now and forever.
Christ loves us and calls us to love one another.
Live into this hope by loving one another,
and trusting that Christ is with us, through all things, and will see us through.
Amen.