



**Serving as a Beacon for Christ**

**Following Jesus' Call to Love**

**God, Neighbor and Self**

[thebeachchurch.com](http://thebeachchurch.com)

850-932-6628

Worship 9:00 am

Pastor Jim Coyl

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 24, 2022**

**WELCOME**

**SONG**                    *To God Be The Glory*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader:            When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,  
Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said: Peace be  
with you!

**People:            The Risen Christ is with us now, offering us the gift of peace.**

Leader:            Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

**People:            We too have seen the Lord. Let us rejoice and give thanks!**

**All:                 Let us worship God!**

**SONG**        *And Can It Be*

**SCRIPTURE READING**    John 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.

**SERMON**                "Peace Be With Us"

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORDS 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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**SONG**                *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Ode to Joy

### May We Come to Believe

*Thomas was absent when Jesus appeared to the disciples. He could not believe that the other disciples saw the risen Jesus showing his wounds in his hands and side. For people like Thomas, seeing is a prerequisite for believing. He needs strong evidence: "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put his fingers in the mark and put his hand in his side, I will not believe" (20:25).*

*Strangely enough, the disciples who saw the risen Lord and rejoiced are still in the house a week after Easter. Yet, Jesus can pass through the locked doors (the same words used as in verse 19) and greets them once again with "Peace be with you" (verse 26). This time Jesus allows Thomas to see and touch ("put inside") him. It is Jesus' invitation for him to believe. Finally, his belief is expressed in the supreme form of confession: "My Lord and my God."*

*See the sign and believe*

*John 20:30-31 seems to be a proper conclusion of both these post-resurrection stories and the entire book, even though another chapter is added to the Gospel as an appendix or postscript. "Many other signs" in verse 30 implies that what Jesus has just shown is a sign. In John's narrative, seeing signs is closely related to believing. Jesus said earlier, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe" (4:48; see also 6:30). This represents the position of Thomas. Then are the physical wounds and scars on the body of the risen Jesus a sign? Resurrection belief challenges us to see life in the marks of an excruciating death.*

*One may ask if anyone who sees the sign believes. Thomas was fortunate to see the sign and believe. Still, others see signs but do not believe (12:37). Finally, Jesus speaks about another group of people—the blessed who believe even without seeing (20:29).*

*Readers of the Gospel in John's time and our time cannot see the signs Jesus performed, but they are "written" in the book so that the readers "may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God" (20:29-31).*

By: Jin Young Choi, Baptist Missionary Training School Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School Rochester, New York

# FAMILY CORNER

## **Scripture John 20:19-31 NIV**

*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Jesus Appears to Thomas. Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Let's about trust, and how we can know that something is true. Would you believe me if I told you that I have climbed Mount Everest? No? Well, what if I told you I brushed my teeth this morning? That might be a little more believable, but you still didn't watch me do it, so you would have to take my word for it. What if I told you i have a scar on my arm that is shaped like a heart? You'd want to see it, right?

Well, in our gospel lesson today, someone had a hard time believing what others tried to tell him. The story of Jesus appearing to his disciples after Easter is so exciting.

Imagine watching Him die, and feeling so upset, and then seeing Him alive again! But one disciple (Thomas) missed out. He wasn't there in the room when Jesus came, and didn't see him personally. He did not believe what his friends told him about witnessing Jesus, and promised that he wouldn't believe it until he saw Jesus face to face. When Jesus did show up later, and showed His wounds, Thomas must have felt embarrassed. But the neat thing is that Jesus said "blessed are those who have not seen, and yet still believe." He commended people who believed in Him without witnessing face to face. Do you know who that is? That's us! We haven't physically seen Jesus, but we can still believe in Him.

How? How do we know about Jesus? The Bible! We might hear about Jesus from other people, and that is great. But we have the word of GOD, most importantly. We have the stories of the Bible, and we know what God's word says is true. In order to trust someone or something, we have to know that it is trustworthy. God has most definitely proved Himself trustworthy. He does what He says He'll do. His promises are real and are true. The Bible gives us great hope. We can't see God in the physical, but we see His evidence everywhere in creation and know He gives us life. The Bible is God's word, given to us so that we can know and believe!

**Prayer: Offer thanks that we can trust God, and ask for His help in doing so:**

Dear God,

Thank you for saving us

Thank you for your love

Help us to believe

Even in what we cannot see.

Thank you for Jesus!

In His name, amen

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