
WORSHIP AT HOME

Call to Worship

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name
On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son,
our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

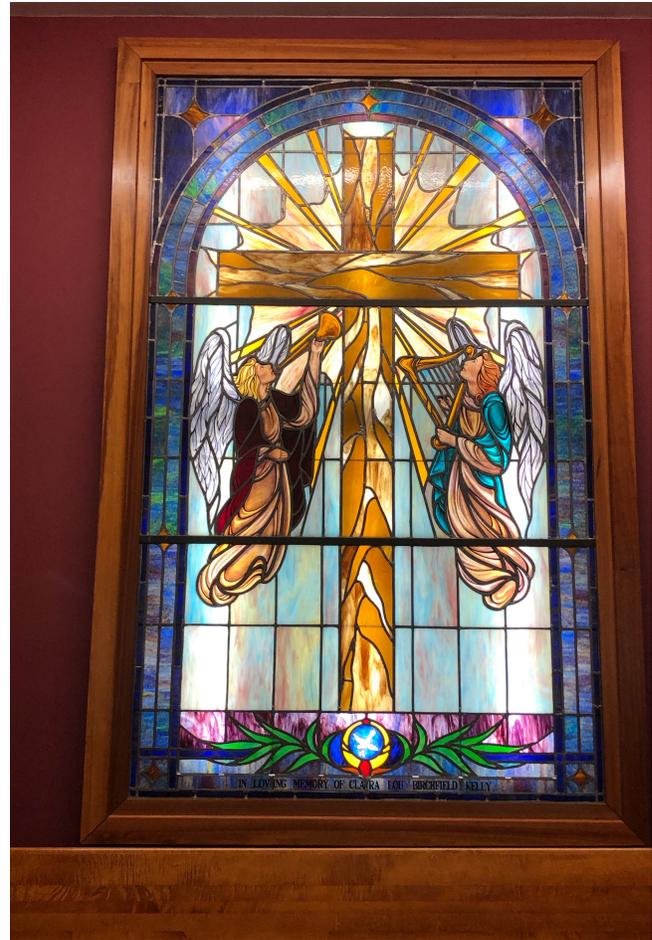
Thomas believed Jesus to be Messiah. After Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, Thomas doubted the Good News. Doubt also serves as a door through which Believers pass to enter Faith in Christ's authority, power, grace, and love

Jesus met Thomas in his doubt! Doubt is a temptation from which the Holy Spirit delivers us.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lead us not into temptation,
“doubt,” but deliver us from
(this) evil.”

JESUS OF NAZARETH



Look! The Stained Glass tells the Good News! The Holy Spirit comes from Heaven to Earth via the Cross of Christ. The “Dove” is our symbol of the Peace Christ made on the cross with sin and death! At the Cross doubt meets Faith in Christ. What must you do to “DENY” your doubt, take up this cross, and follow Jesus?

Morning Prayer

Donny Jenkins - borderline diabetic
Cindy Ashley -broken eye socket, pray for healing w/o surgery New MS meds
Dennis Ashley - Diabetes
Madison Arnold - BP problems (R.Burlingham)
Johnny Quillen - Dementia (D. Shupe)
Jerry Palmer - lung issue, very sick, pray for healing (Nancy Allman
Patsy & Maurice Lay - Aging and Alzheimers
Patty Cooper - Vein and heart issues
Steve Cooper - Vision
Shawna Cooper - Stomach, digestive
Dusty Cooper - Cystic Fibrosis
Donny Neeley - Adrenal Gland deficiency (C. Ashley)
Susie Richardson - Stroke (P.Clark)
Nancy Allman's sister and niece (Quarantined)

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Father, flood's, tornadoes, pandemics, and social isolation capture our minds and hearts. Like Thomas, doubts creep in. Come Spirit of Christ Resurrected. Come ask us again, "Why are you afraid?" Holy Spirit comfort our fear and doubt by leading us to confront and name our doubts. As Jesus promised, lead us not into deeper temptation of doubt upon doubt, but deliver us from such evil into the glory of Your Presence who is with us now and always. Amen

The Work of the Spirit

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate[a] will

not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about[b] sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; 11 about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

Now with the Confidence that comes from our belief becoming faith let us pray in The Way of Our Lord.

“Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

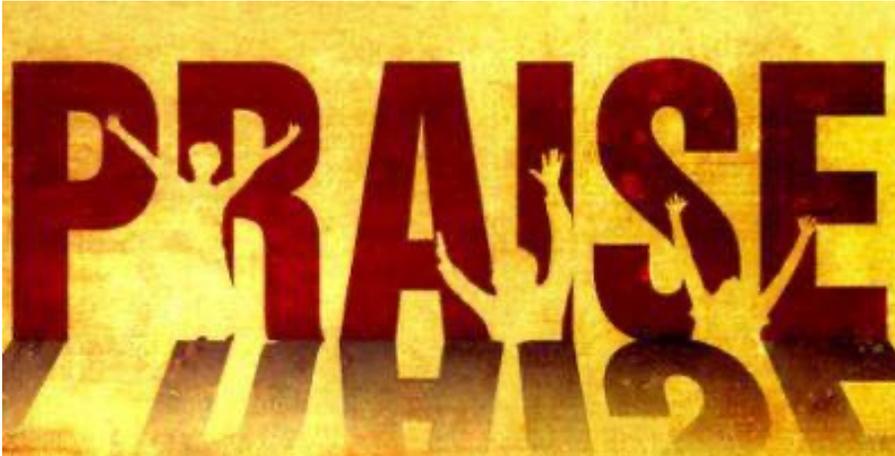
hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread.[c]

12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13

And do not bring us to the time of trial,[d] but rescue us from the evil one.[e]

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; 15 but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.



Glory be to 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.

The difference between believing in being “right and good” and faith in “Jesus’ blood and righteousness”, our opening hymn, is denying self to trust the Truth of Jesus’ mercy, grace, and love! Robert

Jesus and Thomas

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin[c]), 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.”

Homily:

What amazes me about Thomas' doubt centers and focuses on the power of a faithful community. The Disciples who first witnessed Jesus, and Him resurrected from the dead, didn't shame, guilt, nor blame Thomas. Love is patient, and kind enough to let the Holy Spirit do the work of salvation, transformation, and change.

Things were happening so fast that I imagine the Disciples had empathy for Thomas. Peter didn't believe Mary's witness. The other disciples ran to see the empty tomb. Mary doubted up unto the point she had ears to hear Jesus' call her name!

Friends, having eyes to see is a blessing. Having ears bless us with the sounds of creation. But hearing and seeing creation is never the same as experiencing the voice that spoke it into being! God still speaks in a still small voice. God's voice is like the wind. We experience the wind's presence but our human eyes only see effects! The wind captures our attention. So it is with the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit captures our attention to equip and send us as the Father sent the Son!

I have fond memories of serving Calhoun/Spring Creek United Methodist Churches. A couple of the saints were similar to Thomas. "Robert, pray that God gives me a billboard." "Pastor, you know how I am. Pray that God gives me my burning bush." These saints taught me that believing is also discovered in experiencing. They refused to settle for mind centered facts and knowledge. Friends, the heart of humanity settles for nothing less than an experience of being made holy as God is Holy.

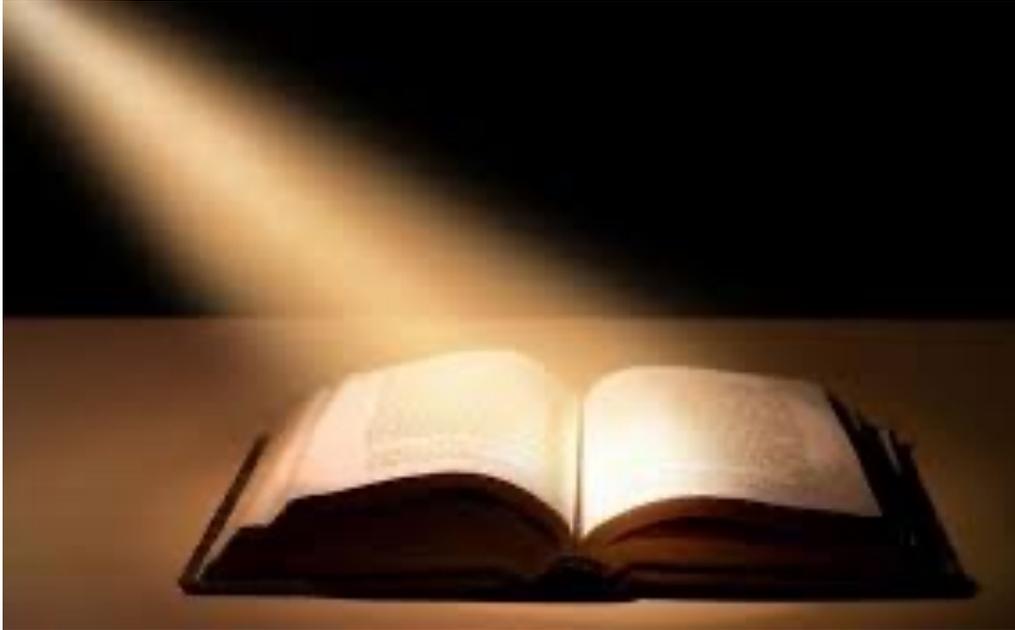
Thomas refused to believe The Good News until he had an experience of Jesus. He wanted to place his fingers in the wounds of Jesus' hands. He longed to experience placing his hand in Jesus' wounded side.

What has happened to the Church? Have we become so mentally enlightened that we dismiss the Thomases of life. Or could it be that our religious leaders have unintentionally done far worse. Claiming to believe in Jesus have we allowed Satan to deceive us? Claiming Christ, and the power of his resurrection, have we fallen from grace? (Galatians 5:3-4) Doesn't the believer become a new creation. Doesn't the believer change? Isn't the believer sent by the same Holy Spirit that was in Christ Jesus. Didn't Jesus send us as the Father sent him." We are saved by grace through Christ mercy!

Again, what amazes me about Thomas and the Disciples is that they stuck together. Friends after 26 years of pastoral leadership I confess that I spent too much time fact checking, judging, casting shame, guilt, and blame. I still know a lot of facts and knowledge. It still puffs me up from time to time. And when it does, Like a Pharisee, I place burdens on people too heavy to carry. And why not? I do unto my neighbor exactly as I do to myself. Friends, I find such confession pleasing to God. By such humility I seek justice and fall in love again with God's Mercy. (Micah 6:8)

The Gospel is changing my heart and mind. I am more at ease eating and taking time to get to know sinners. Patience often cleanses me of my need to prove myself right and good. It builds trust and opens a door for the Holy Spirit to do the work of salvation. Trinity, you blessed me with time and trust to walk with others through The Apprentice Series, James Brian Smith. The Spirit used this experience to help me deny my selfish need to be right and good. I find peace beyond understanding in the experience of Being Good and Beautiful in God's sight.

Am I saying, "Anything goes?" NO! I am saying that Disciples make room for the Thomases of Life to experience Our Good and Beautiful God.



The Word of God. For the People of God. Thanks be to God.

Jesus ate with sinners and tax-collectors. He let the least of society touch him. The Song says, “He touched me.” Egoic fools have no grasp of the difference!

I long to be part of a Good and Beautiful Community that trust Christ’s mercy, grace, and love. Well, a Good and Beautiful Community that at the very least clings to The Good News Christ as much, and hopefully more, than the Law of Moses.

Jesus fulfilled the Law of Moses. Please do not expect me to do what only God has the power to do. God chose Jesus to fulfill the Law of Moses and the Prophet, not you, not me, and not the leaders of the world!

Amen

Tithes and Offerings

Thank you for your generous support of Trinity's budget. We live in the world of buildings, budgets, physical things and money. We live in this world but not of it. Thanks again for your tithes. Now may our offerings to God be wrap the people of our community in mercy, grace, and love. Let them know Jesus and the power of His Presence! Amen

Your Church Council, with Joyce's dedication has applied for the grants passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump. Once the approved Grant is in our Bank account we shall let you know what this means for Trinity UMC.