

Doubting Thomas visual

Sunday 27th April 2025
Easter 2C – Wesley 10.45 am

Liturgist: Ian Diamond and Rev Geoff Dornan

Preacher: Rev Dr Bruce Stevens

Reader: Elizabeth Wetherell

Director of Music: Jade McFaul

Organist: Lorraine Macknight

Wesley Music Scholars: Chloe Law (cello), Evangeline Osborne, Martin Magill, and Phoebe Bourke (choir)

Stewards: John & Tia Nation, Elizabeth Chan

AV Team: David Bengler and Simon Cowling

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The Gathering of God's People

Prelude Courante from Cello Suite No. 1 in C major J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Introit When Christ Was Risen (Song 9)

Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625), Ed: Ross Jallo, Words: George Wither (1588-1667)

When Christ was risen from the dead,
And Thomas of the same was told,
He would not credit it, he said,
Though he himself should him behold,
Till he his wounded hands had eyed,
And thrust his fingers in his side.

Which trial he did undertake,
And Christ his frailty did permit,
By his distrusting sure to make
Such others, as might doubt of it:
So we had right, and he no wrong,
For by his weakness both are strong.

Greeting: The Lord be with you
And with you!

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country & Safe Church Statement

Lighting of the Community Candle

Call to Worship – *an invitation to prayer & praise*

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

Alleluia! Celebrate God in this sacred space!

Celebrate God in all places under heaven!

Give praise for God's mighty deeds!

Give praise for God's resurrecting power!

Praise God with a fanfare of trumpets.

Praise God with the harp and the cello!

Praise God with tambourines and dancing!

Praise God with flutes and guitars!
Praise God with cymbals and drums!
Let everything with life and breath praise God!

Let us worship God!

Hymn 360 v1,2,6,7,8: Lights reddening dawn gleams through the sky..

Prayer of Adoration

God of all glory, on this first day you began creation, bringing light out of darkness.

On this day you began your new creation, raising Jesus Christ out of the darkness of death.

On this Lord's day, grant that we, recreated by water and the Spirit, may join in praising you for your great glory.

Through Jesus Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and for ever. Amen.

Call to Confession

When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us, it is hard to be healed and receive new life. So let us open ourselves to God in confession, trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace.

Prayer of Confession

**God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts,
when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us to find our voice.**

**When we are afraid to forgive and to love again,
forgive us and give us the power to forgive.**

When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, join with the weak to make us all strong.

**When we are confined by our hurts,
touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When we are locked behind our doubts and fears,
pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace.**

Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy**
Christ have mercy, **Christ have mercy**
Lord, have mercy, **Lord have mercy** **Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Christ comes with healing light
into our locked places and shadowy hurts,

resurrecting our spirits and breathing into us new life.
As God's own forgiven people,
go to bring peace, forgiveness, and new life to the world in the name of
Jesus Christ.
Believe the Gospel, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

Doxology – *expressing our joy*

Hymn 771: Now to him who loved us,..

The Peace – *one with God, and one with each other*

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Service of the Word

A story for all ages

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, as the risen Christ came into the locked room of the first
disciples, may your Word enter into us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, so
that we who have not seen may yet believe. **Amen.**

Bible Readings – *listening for God's living Word*

Old Testament: **Song of Solomon 1:15-17, 2:3-7 (page 544)**

New Testament: **Acts 5: 27-32 (page 889)**

The Epistle: **Revelation 4:1-18 (page 997)**

Hymn 649: These things did Thomas count as real.. ..

The Gospel: John 20:19-31 (page 883)

After the Gospel the reader will say: "Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to my
feet"

Please respond by saying: "**and a light to my path.**"

Choral Anthem Most Glorious Lord of Life Music: William Harris (1883-1973),
Words: Edmund Spencer

Most glorious Lord of life, that on that day
Didst make thy triumph over death and sin,
And having harrowed hell, didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win.

This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,
And grant that we for whom thou diddest die,
Being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin,
May live for ever in felicity.

And that thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love thee for the same again;
And for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,
With love may one another entertain.
So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought;
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Preaching of the Word

Hymn 691: Faith will not grow from words alone..

Our Response to God's Word

The freewill offering Jesus, I will ponder now (Flor Peeters, 1903-1986)

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle focus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

After the general intercessions, the bidding: As you sent Christ, is followed by the response, **Now send us.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sending forth of the people of God

Hymn 379: He is risen, He is risen!

Word of Mission

Go to celebrate all that God has done
as Christ breathes new life into you,
sending you out with the Spirit of forgiveness and faith
for the life of the world.

Blessing

May you be filled with the grace and peace of the God

who is and was and is to come,
and with the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
God's faithful witness,
who loves us and sets us free.

Amen.

Postlude Menuet I from Cello Suite No. 1 in C major J.S. Bach (1685-1750)