



God is still speak-

**First Congregational Church, UCC
Second Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2020
Rev. Dr. Daniel Ling**

**Our Mission: Feeding the hungry in body, mind, and spirit
“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome at First Congregational Church.”**

Welcome

It’s a joy to connect with you today. You cannot be here in person but you are here in spirit.

Statement of Oneness (*unison*)

We were made in the image of God; thus, as we grow in faith and mature in spirit, that image shall shine all the more clearly. Like Jesus, we are children of God; thus, as our birthright, we shall live all our days surrounded by unconditional love. Humanity, the Image of God, is beautiful in God’s sight, part of a magnificent creation; therefore, we are beautiful in God’s eyes.

The Scriptures declare that the entire Kingdom of God is within us. Also, we live our lives immersed in Divinity. We gather to celebrate that sacred and wondrous Truth.

Many hurtful and unjust things happen in our world, motivated by hatred or fear. Yet also there is love in our hearts. Let us declare that love, acknowledge it is of God, and promise to grow in love day by day. Amen.

Call to Worship

Psalm 16 (The Message)

One: Keep me safe, O God, I’ve run for dear life to you

All: I say to God, “Be my Lord!” without you, nothing makes sense

One: My choice is you, God, first and only.

All: And now I find I’m your choice!

One: You set me up with a house and yard

All: And then you made me your heir! You gave me an inheritance.

One: Day and night I’ll stick with God;

All: I’ve got a good thing going and I’m not letting go.

***Hymn #215**
page 4 below)

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day (2 verses, see

***Unison Prayer**

Dear God, we confess that we live in a world in which truth is often twisted to fit our own desires. When we do not live by your truth

and do your will, our world becomes a broken one filled with fear and suffering. You sent Jesus to show us how to conquer hate with love. May our words and actions bring hope and love to all those who are struggling. Give us grace to be your instruments of Peace, Hope, LOVE and JOY. Amen

Scripture Reading **1 Peter 1:3-9** (The Message)

What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have Him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all - life healed and whole.

I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it *proved* pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out *proved* genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.

You never saw him, yet you love him. You still don't see him, yet you trust him - with laughter and singing. Because you kept on believing, you'll get what you are looking forward to: total salvation.

Scripture Reading **John 20:19-31** (The Message)

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus

repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you." Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master." But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them and said, "Peace to you."

Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe." Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even

better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in

the way he
personally revealed it.

Sermon What do you need for your faith to bloom?

Prayer Request and Offertory Reminder

***Hymn #214 Thine is the Glory** (2 verses, see page 3 below)

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, the comfort, guidance and challenge of the Holy Spirit, be with each one of you, now and always. Go in peace and the God of peace go with you. Amen

Thine Is the Glory

1. Thine is the glo - ry ris - en, con - quering Son; end - less is the
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is nought with -

vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - querors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for our Christ now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry ris - en, con - quering
 to thy home a - bove.

WORDS: Edmond L. Budry, 1904; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923, alt.
 MUSIC: Georg Frederick Handel, 1751

JUDAS MACCABEUS
 55.65.65.65 w. refrain

Written for a Y.M.C.A. hymnbook in Lausanne, Switzerland, this
 hymn owes its widespread success to its use at the First Assembly
 of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam in 1948.

Tr. © The World Student Christian Federation

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day 215

1. Joy dawned a - gain on East - er Day, the sun shone
 2. O Je - sus, source of gen - tle - ness, come now your -
 3. O Sav - ior, now with us a - bide in this our

out with fair ar - ray, when to their long - ing eyes re -
 self our hearts pos - sess that we may give you all our
 joy - ful East - er - tide; from ev - ery wea - pon death can

stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
 days - the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
 wield your own re - deemed for ev - er shield.

WORDS: Latin, c. 5th century; tr. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.
 MUSIC: Melody, *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609;
 harm. George R. Woodward, 1904

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
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John Mason Neale was the most significant of the translators from Latin who were part of the 'High Church' Oxford movement within the Anglican church.