

Bulletin Information: Easter 2 – Year B

Centering Moment

At the sound of the chime, please be seated and take a moment to prepare yourself for our worship together.

Comment [ka1]: New ... before the gathering music.

Call to Worship:

One: When I am prone to doubt and my fear rules instead

Many: May the one I claim as my own sustain me,

One: When I am uncertain of how to act,

Many: May I be guided in the way of peace,

One: When I fail to live up to the commitments I have made,

Many: May I forgive myself and begin anew.

One: When all I seek seems far from my reach.

Many: May I remember that the one I seek is never far from me.

****Invocation & Welcome (pulpit guide only)**

Holy One, may my greatest doubts and fears melt before you. May I be gentle with myself and with others knowing that my own faith is fragile and requires your grace. May we experience your tender care and always know that despite our lack of faith, you meet us where we are and walk with us as the one who nurtures and sustains us. Meet us here as we long to be one with you and with one another, Amen.

First 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.

Second Reading: *From Myrtle Fillmore's Healing Letters*

"Be still. Be still. Be still. God in the midst of you is substance. God in the midst of you is love. God in the midst of you is wisdom. Let not your thoughts be given to lack, but let wisdom fill them with the substance and faith of God. Let not your heart be a center of resentment and fear and doubt. Be still and know that at this moment it is the altar of God, of love; love so sure and unflinching, love so irresistible and magnetic that it draws your supply to you from the great store-house of the universe. Trust God, use God's wisdom, prove and express God's love."

Reflection:

"Doubt's Possibility – An Encounter with the Divine" Rev. Tim Agar