

**Mennonite Church of Normal**  
**Second Sunday of Easter     April 11, 2021**

**Focus:** On Easter evening, the Disciples were fearing for their lives, behind locked doors. Jesus appeared to provide what they needed, to be able to believe. Do we believe that as we interact in the world, we are the evidence of Jesus' resurrection which others need, to believe?

**Gathering in God's Presence**

**Prelude** Denise Hedberg

**Welcome/Congregational Life** Gary

**Call to Worship**    VT 854 Gary

Some of us are exhausted.    **We come to rest.**  
Some of us are curious about Jesus.    **We come to learn.**  
Some of us are hungry.    **We come to be fed.**  
Some of us are disoriented.    **We come to pray.**  
Some of us are broken.    **We come to be healed.**  
We gather around you today, O risen Christ.  
**Teach us, feed us, hear us, heal us.**  
**Grant us your peace. Amen**

**Opening Prayer**    VT 879 Gary

Life-giving God, may your Holy Spirit inspire our praise and our prayers.  
Open our hearts and minds to your presence among us and within us.  
To you alone belongs all praise and honor and glory and blessing,  
Now and to the end of time. Amen

**Praising the Name of Jesus**

**Songs of Praise**

VT 57    *Holy Spirit, Come with Power*  
VT 101    *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns*

**Words of Praise:**    VT 881 Joelle Friesen

God of cosmos and quarks,  
God of rainbows and roly-polies,  
God of electricity and enzymes—  
    you created the earth and proclaimed it good.  
The galaxies and planets are known to you,  
    yet also the hairs on our heads.  
You cradle all things in the palm of your hand,  
    supporting us with love.  
We magnify your name for our creation

and for all the blessings of this life.  
Sustain in us a spirit of awe,  
for how you continue to be present in the world,  
and help us to act with love  
for all that you have created. Amen

## Hearing God's Word

**Children's Story:**

Shelly King

**Invitation to Listen:** VT 405 Listen to the Word

[Proclaiming - Section 2 | Worship materials for congregations | April 11, 2021 | AMBS - YouTube](#)

**Scripture Reading:** John 20:19-31 0.00-2:52 Rachel Miller Jacobs, Associate Professor of  
Congregational Formation, AMBS

**Sermon:** *Believing with Hope and Resilience* 2:53-13:11 David Boshart, President, AMBS

**Response Prayer:** VT 876

Gary

Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked,  
draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ and  
touch his wounds where they bleed in others. Amen

## Receiving God's Grace

**Response Song:** VT 345 *The Risen Christ*

Hedberg's

**Witnessing: God's grace and our need**

Gail Fisher

**Prayers of God's People**

## Sent in the Spirit's Power

**Sending Hymn** VT 588 *We Walk by Faith*

**Benediction** VT #1066

Gary

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet  
walk with you on the road.  
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands  
stretch out your hands to serve  
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart  
open your hearts to love.  
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,  
And may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.

**Postlude**

Denise Hedberg

**John 20:19-31 NRSV**

<sup>19</sup> 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." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> 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."

<sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> 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." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> 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."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe<sup>[b]</sup> that Jesus is the Messiah,<sup>[c]</sup> the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.