

many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold.³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.³⁶ There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement").³⁷ He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Hymn *God, Whose Giving...* 422

John 20:19-31¹⁹ 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."²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), 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

Notes

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."³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ 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.

Sermon Rev. Sharon Carter

Responding in Faith

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed, ecumenical p.14

The Service of Giving

Prayer of Dedication Offering Music

+Response *Give Thanks* STF2036

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Going into the World

+Hymn *God be With You...* #540

+Charge and Benediction

+Postlude

MISSION



FELLOWSHIP

WORSHIP



THE BODY OF CHRIST



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church

April 8, 2018

+Stand as you are able

Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold

Preparing Ourselves

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ candle

+Call to Worship

L: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

P: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

L: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

P: For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

+Opening Prayer

Let us pray: **Resurrecting God, as we worship you today, let us not forget that Easter is not over, but is only beginning; for our risen Lord is with us now and to the end of the age. May we see with our own eyes the wonder of our loving Lord each and every day, and know that we are Easter people. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray : Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your**

kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Hymn *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*
#123

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, with the shouts of “kill him!” ringing in our ears, we vow that we won’t be the ones who run away. And yet we are afraid of the crowds, afraid of being scorned as Jesus was, afraid that we are wrong to put our faith in the risen one. Have mercy upon us, O God, and give us the strength and courage to be witnesses to the resurrection and to the glorious kingdom that has come. (moment of silence.)

Do you feel that you speak the Word of God boldly? What would help you be bolder about sharing your faith?

Assurance of Forgiveness

L: We are blessed by the resurrection of Jesus the Christ that brings us the grace and forgiveness of God. Alleluia! Amen.

P: Thanks be to God for the grace that comes to us through Christ. Alleluia! Amen.

Response *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* (Refrain only, 2x) #106

The Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Anthem *We Know That Christ is Raised – Stanford - Hymn 495*

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

May these words and thoughts take hold in our being; and may we speak boldly about the message of Christ that we hear today. Amen

Scripture Readings

Acts 4:23-37 ²³After they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them, ²⁵it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant: ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples imagine vain things? ²⁶The kings of the earth took

What if you could see and touch Jesus today? Would it make your faith stronger? What could be a substitute for actually touching him?

their stand, and the rulers have gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.’ ²⁷For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, ²⁸to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. ³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as