**April 11, 2021**

**Pastor Phil Richards**

**Centering Music/Prelude**

**Three Steeples**  **“The Strife is O-er, the Battle Done”**

**Plattsburgh "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” - William J. Kirkpatrick**

**Greeting**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Christ has risen,

**All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

One: We gather to worship the risen Christ,

 Conqueror of death.

**All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

One: We lift up praise to the risen Christ,

 Redeemer of all life.

**All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

One: We give thanks to the risen Christ,

 Giver of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

One: Christ has risen,

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

**\*Hymn “Christ Is Risen” #307 (UM Hymnal)**

**All Verses**

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.**

**Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.**

**In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.**

**Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.**

**Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.**

**Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;**

**Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.**

**Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.**

**Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.**

**Tell its grim, demonic chorus: “Christ is risen! Get you gone!”**

**God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone.**

**Opening Prayer (to be said by all)**

**Resurrected Christ, the one who has overcome death and doors alike,**

**we recognize that any gathering of believers is sacred.**

**Fill this space with your abundant joy and send out any hint of scarcity.**

**God, we know that you meet us exactly where we are.**

**We thank you for coming to us in the way that we need.**

**When our faith is shaky, and we say, “unless I see...”**

**you come to us with outstretched hands.**

**Hands and sides which bear the marks of your sacrifice for us.**

**You give us unconditional love, unwavering presence, and abundant grace.**

**In return, we give you faith that is not perfect but enmeshed with our humanity. And even though this can never be enough, you take it gladly.**

**We offer you all that we have to give; take our lives, our finances, our time, our talents.**

**May we not keep anything behind closed doors from you. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Prayers of the People**

**Silent Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer (to be said by all)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Gospel Lesson**

 **John 20: 19-31 (Three Steeples)**

 **John 20:19–31 (a Dramatic Reading in 3 voices – Plattsburgh)**

**Voice 1:** Evening came on the first day of the week. It was the same day the tomb was found empty.

**Voice 2:** The disciples were terrified. They had locked themselves into the house, fearing those who might come in. They had been part of a movement that was supposed to change everything. They had hoped for a messiah; instead, their leader had died on a cross.
**Voice 1:** Jesus had suffered and died, and they had supported him. Would they be next? Would their fate be the same? They were frightened, unable to know what to do next.

**Voice 2:** Just then, Jesus came and stood among them. Inside the room where the doors were locked.

**Voice 3:** He said, “Peace be with you.” As they looked at him, astonished, confused, afraid, and in disbelief, he held out his hands and showed them his side. The marks from his ordeal were visible.

**Voice 1:** The disciples were amazed! It was Jesus!

**Voice 3:** Jesus said again, “Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you.”

**Voice 2:** Jesus took a deep breath and exhaled on them.

**Voice 3:** “Receive the Holy Spirit,” Jesus said. “If you forgive the sins of any, they will be forgiven. But if you are not able to forgive, not able to let go, then they will not be forgiven.”
**Voice 1:** Thomas was not there that night. This disciple who had been active in Jesus’ ministry was missing when Jesus returned to them.

**Voice 2:** The other disciples tried to tell him what they had seen. They wanted him to understand that what Jesus had foretold had come true. They kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord.” But Thomas didn’t believe them.

**Voice 3:** Thomas said, “Unless I can see the mark of the nails in his hands, I won’t believe what you have said. Unless I can see the side where they pierced him at the end, I can’t know for sure it was him. I want to touch him. I want the same proof you received.”

**Voice 1:** A week went by. The disciples still tried to convince Thomas, and he still would have none of it. They gathered together again in the house, and this time Thomas was there.
**Voice 2:** Again, the doors were closed, and Jesus appeared among them. “Peace be with you,” he declared. Thomas looked at him. Jesus looked at Thomas and said, “Here, touch the place in my hands where they drove the nails. Place your hand in my side where they pierced me with the sword. Don’t doubt, but believe. It is I.”

**Voice 3:** Thomas cried out to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

**Voice 2:** Jesus asked Thomas the question, “Do you believe because you have seen me? There will be others who will believe without seeing me. They will also be blessed.”
**Voice 1:** 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.

**Special Musical Offering**

**Three Steeples “Offertory” - by Nicholson**

**Plattsburgh “Precious Lord”**

**Morning Message Pastor Phil Richards**

Please read Pastor Phil’s sermon or you can go to Vimeo Worship each Sunday afternoon is available at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/user78676201>

**\*Closing Song “Thine Be the Glory” #308 (UM Hymnal)**

 **All Verses**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;**

**endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.**

**Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,**

**kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;**

**endless is the victory thou o’er death has won.**

**Lo! Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb;**

**lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom.**

**Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,**

**for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;**

**endless is the victory thou o’er death has won.**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!**

**Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.**

**Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;**

**bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;**

**endless is the victory thou o’er death has won.**

**\*Reminder of the Morning Offering**

**\*Community Announcements**

**\*Blessing (to be said by all)**

**May our lives reveal the Resurrection to the world,**

**and be a living testimony of the love of Christ.**

**May we walk in the overwhelming abundance of God’s provision.**

**May we live joyfully and love fully with your heart and soul.**

**Let us go now in the peace and presence of the Resurrected Christ.
Amen.**

**Departure Music/Postlude**

**Three Steeples “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**

**Plattsburgh “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” - Traditional**