

Covenant Congregational Church

Second Sunday of Easter

Service of Worship April 23, 2017 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Holy Is the Lord/We Bow Down* arr. Tornquist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Karsten Mohn

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired from Psalm 126)

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

When the LORD raised Jesus from the dead, we were like those who dream.

Now our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoice.

May all those who have sowed in tears reap with shouts of happy hilarity.

Hip hip hooray!

*HYMN *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* #11

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We believe in God, who made us in His image.

We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.

Our counselor, our guide, our motivator – He is our joy!

Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously,

when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours

as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN *If Anyone Is in Christ* #373

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

Amanda Gauthier

NIV (New Testament page 115)

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

NIV (New Testament page 232)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Response: The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

(Children K through 5th grade are dismissed to Junior Church at this time)

THE BROCKTON MEN'S CHOIR OF TEEN CHALLENGE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Converse

*Easter Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise him above ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.***

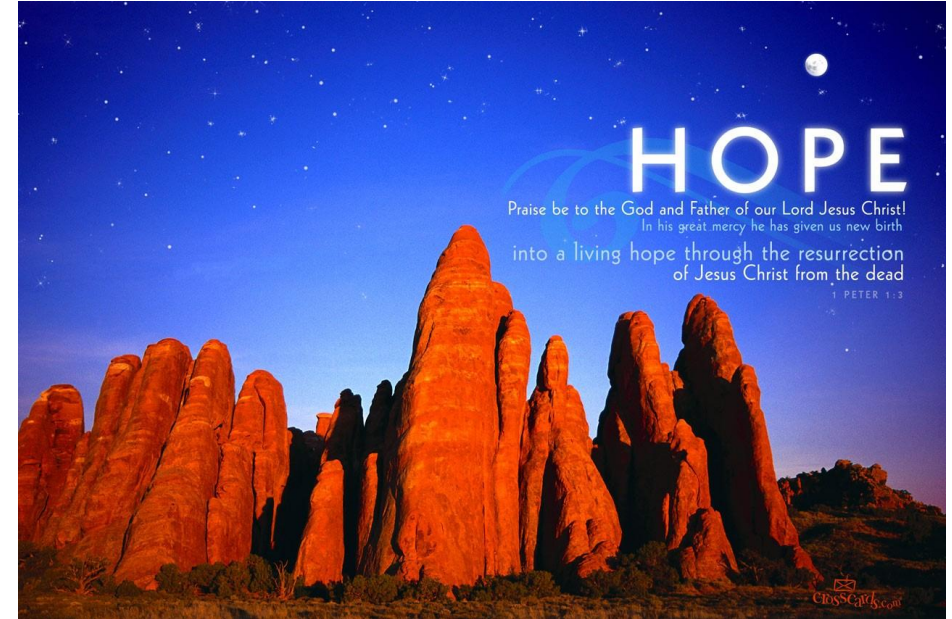
* Prayer of Dedication

*SENDING SONG *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* Insert

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee!* alt. Carter

*Please stand in praise to God, if able
ccli #982653



Welcome to this worship gathering! We are glad that you are here this morning and pray that this might be a meaningful faith-building experience for you and/or your family. To more deeply connect with this faith community, we invite you to stay following our worship gathering and enjoy a time of refreshments and fellowship in our Fireside Room and Narthex.

With great joy we welcome the Brockton Men's Choir of Teen Challenge New England to our worship service this morning. We rejoice in the great things that God is doing in the lives of these men and pray that through their testimonies, we might know anew the awesome life giving and redeeming power of our God in Jesus Christ. A freewill offering will be collected to support this important ministry as you depart the sanctuary.

Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church
204 Center Street, North Easton 02356 ☩ (508) 238-6423
www.ecovchurch.org