

Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada
Second Sunday of Easter

16th of April, 2023
The Incredulity of St. Thomas - Caravaggio - 1603

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April 16, 2023— Second Sunday of Easter

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Gathering Hymn # 425
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Greetingp. 185
Kyrie Eleisonp. 186

Collect of the Day: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st readingActs 2: 14A 22-32

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know - this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16 REFRAIN **God will not abandon me to the grave**

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other." All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.

God will not abandon me to the grave

But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied. Their libations of blood I will not offer, nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

God will not abandon me to the grave

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot. My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

God will not abandon me to the grave

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

God will not abandon me to the grave

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the Pit.

God will not abandon me to the grave

You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

God will not abandon me to the grave

2nd reading 1 Peter 1: 3-9

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith - being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 233

He Rose

Gospel

John 20: 19-31

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

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. JOHN 20:1

Sermon:

Tommy had never seen his friends so excited. Pete's eyes were shining, and he could hardly contain his impatience. John was always quieter than Pete, but even he seemed full of barely suppressed eagerness. They were both tugging at Tommy, while at the same time dancing round him.

Tommy reluctantly agreed to go to the cave with them, although he continued to think they were mad. "If there was nothing there last week, how can it have changed now?" he kept asking.

The other two dismissed his reservations with some impatience. "Come and see! When you've seen it for yourself, you'll know!"

The three of them had been visiting the cave for years. They'd kept it secret, and it had become a sort of gang headquarters for them, as with the help of flashlights, they'd explored every inch of it. It was quite a small cave fairly high up on the cliff face, and very dark. The friends kept blankets and some food there. They were pretty sure no-one else knew of the cave, for the entrance was just a narrow fissure in the cliff face, very difficult to spot from the sea, and only accessible to the boys at low tide.

Yesterday, Tommy had gone shopping with his parents, so Pete and John had visited the cave without him. When Tommy returned from the city, they were waiting on his doorstep, bursting with excitement. They told Tommy they'd found a tunnel at the rear of the cave, leading to another much larger cave, full of stalagmites and stalactites. Tommy had laughed. He knew it was impossible, for he'd meticulously examined all the walls of the cave himself, and there had been no gap anywhere. Tommy had always loved going to the cave. It had become a very special place for him, where he could be alone with his thoughts even when the others were around. But now, he found himself strangely reluctant. His feet dragged as Pete and John tried to coax him along. Part of him had caught their mood of excitement, and hoped for their tale to be true, but most of him was certain they were wrong, even though he didn't want them to be wrong. He wanted to find a tunnel and another cave to explore, and try as he would, pictures of treasure kept filling his mind. But he was so very afraid he'd be sadly disappointed, and there would be nothing worth while. And if that happened, somehow it might be the end of all his dreams.

Tommy wanted to keep the cave as somewhere special. Pete and John kept telling him it was even more special now, in a different sort of way, but he wasn't convinced. And if he went expecting something terrific from the cave, but it didn't happen, Tommy knew the cave would be forever spoilt for him. He'd never feel the same about it again. Somehow, he'd be plunged into the next stage of growing up, and he didn't feel quite ready for that.

When the three of them reached the cave after the usual long climb up the cliffs, Tommy felt kind of shivery and expectant. He could feel his heart hammering inside his chest as he followed the others into the cave. Tommy shone his flashlight onto the far wall as Pete and Johnny felt carefully along it.

Tommy couldn't see anything except rock, and the other two seemed to be having some difficulty finding whatever it was they were seeking.

Tommy's spirits began to sink even lower as he watched his friends. Then Johnny cried out: "It's here! Here it is!"

Tommy immediately shone his flashlight in Johnny's direction, but he could see nothing other than rock. He moved over to Johnny, and noticed his friend had his hands high up on the rock, and was feeling all round a little outcrop of stone. Then Tommy gasped, for a narrow gap had appeared in the wall from nowhere, just wide enough for a boy to squeeze through.

The three boys slid silently through the gap, and crawled along a low tunnel. It was scary and a bit suffocating and pitch black except for the flashlights, and for a moment Tommy felt real fear. But all thoughts of fear vanished as the tunnel widened into a huge cave, faintly lit by a shaft of sunlight entering from high up in the roof.

The cave was astonishing. There was a little river running along the floor, and crazy rock formations at various points.

Stalagmites grew up from the floor, some of them meeting stalactites which were growing downwards from the roof. The sunlight was glistening on different minerals in the rocks, which sparkled and shone like jewels. The three boys stood gazing, awe-struck.

Then Tommy moved off by himself. With his flashlight he inched slowly around the perimeter of the walls, and to his amazement, discovered the walls were covered in what looked like ancient paintings of birds and animals. Tommy was captivated. He thought he'd never seen anything so exciting and so beautiful, with a strange far away sort of beauty. He felt a deep urge to learn more about the people who had painted the cave, who they were, where they came from, how long ago they'd lived, who they'd worshipped.

He also knew instinctively this was an important find, and couldn't be kept secret. The three boys would have to reveal their cave to the authorities, which would mean they'd never be able to use it again just for themselves. For just a fleeting moment, Tommy was sad about that. He'd dreaded losing the cave in some way, but now it was happening, he became aware he felt alright about it. He knew he'd taken a big step out of childhood, but strangely, it felt good. Suddenly, Tommy was ready - because he knew now what he was going to do with his life. He'd never seen anything as marvellous as those cave paintings before, and he knew now he was going to spend the rest of his life exploring paintings just like them. He was going to be an anthropologist, and learn everything there was to learn about ancient peoples.

A little bit of Tommy died in that cave, the part that belonged with childhood memories. But as a whole new world opened up before him, he was able to lay those childhood memories to rest. He had a glimpse of a vast, new future, and he looked, and saw that it was very good.

Almost 2000 years ago there was another Tommy - Thomas who was one of the disciples of Jesus. When some of the others came to him to share their witness about the resurrected Christ he first doubted what they were telling him .

I wonder exactly what it was Thomas had such difficulty in believing .Perhaps not the resurrection. He may have been perfectly able to accept that someone had stood in the midst of the disciples. But perhaps he needed to be certain the one who was raised from the dead on the Sunday was the same one who was crucified on the Friday. Perhaps Thomas wanted to verify that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus wasn't some cruel hoax perpetrated on a desperate humanity. Perhaps he wanted to make sure the risen and glorified Christ was also the suffering and dying Jesus.

And maybe we need that too. Show us the marks, Jesus. We need to know you're not just a God who stands above it all. We need to know you're one who knows our pain. Who suffers and dies the same way we suffer and die. We need to know resurrection isn't just some game, but is truly the way through death and darkness. Show us the marks, then we'll believe.

Is it fair to make those sorts of demands on God? Maybe not, but most of us make them every day! And Jesus responds in the same way he responded to Thomas. He comes to us in our suffering and pain, because He's been there. He knows what it feels like.

People outside make this demand not only of Jesus, but of us, his church. "Show us the marks!" they say. They challenge us to demonstrate Christianity isn't just a fairy tale religion of sweetness, light

and happy endings. Because life doesn't work that way. Being a Christian isn't about being nice, but is about love and justice. About dying and rising again.

St. Thomas was transformed from “the doubter” to “Thomas the Believer,” tradition claims that he went all over the world proclaiming the Good News of Jesus the Christ who had conquered death and who is as Thomas said “our Lord and our God.”

My prayer for all of us is that when we have times when we are having a lack of faith, or are experiencing doubt that we will be moved from our doubt to a greater sense of belief and that we too like Thomas will bring the message of the Risen Christ to a hurting and unbelieving world.

The Apostles' Creed p. 189

Prayers of the People

Let us pray in the Spirit of the One who is risen. Our response is, “*God of love, hear us.*”

For the community of believers in Jesus' resurrection, that it will remain strong in love and faithful to the gospel of salvation. We pray:

God of love, hear us.

For newly baptized adults, that they will continue to draw on the life of the risen Christ who abides among us in word and sacrament. We pray:

God of love, hear us.

For those who doubt the good news of salvation, that the Spirit will guide them into the truth of faith. We pray:

God of love, hear us.

For those who continue to suffer for the faith, especially in areas hostile to Christianity, that they will be guarded with God's saving power. We pray: **God of love, hear us.**

For persons confined by fear, that God's freeing love will lead them to the peace of the risen Christ. We pray:

God of love, hear us.

For those who are in the need of healing and wholeness, may the healing power of Christ give them strength and peace. We pray:

God of love, hear us.

For those who have believed in Christ's resurrection and have died, that they will be counted among the blessed in the reign of glory (particularly _). We pray:

God of love, hear us. Amen.

Prayer for a Renewed Church: Almighty God, give us a new vision of you, of your love, of your grace and power, and then, give us a new vision of what you would have us do as your Church in this nation and at this time, and an awareness that in the strength of your Spirit, we can do it to your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Confession and Absolution p. 191

The Peace

Offertory Hymn # 84

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour

Offertory Response Doxology (sung)

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts: God of grace, you have freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Accept all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer # 5p. 204
The Lord's Prayerp. 211
Breaking of the Bread # 8p. 213
Communion

Prayer After Communion:

Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

Glory to God & Blessingp. 214

Mission Hymn # 383

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sung Benediction ***Howard's Blessing***
(in the back of the blue Hymn book)

***The Flowers on the Altar today are given to
the glory of God, and in loving memory of Garry,
a gift of Seonaid and family.***

Please enter names in the **Intercessions Book** each week to be read in the service.

News and Events

Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by **11:00 a.m. Tuesday** of each week.
Call: 519-344-9531 or E-mail: canondavis@gmail.com.

If you would like a home visit with Communion or know of someone who would, please let Rev. Ray know as he and/or a Lay Visitor will be available in the coming weeks.

Please join us for **Coffee Hour** after service for a time of fellowship in the parish hall.

Wednesday April 19, is Meat Loaf Dinner night here at Canon Davis. Please call John at 519-384-1926 or Karen at 519-344-9531 to reserve for in-house dining or to order Take-Out. Cost \$20.00.

Sew Day Saturday April 29, from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm. Cost \$20.00. lunch included. Bring your projects for a show and tell Sew Day.

Reminders

April 19 Meat Loaf Dinner

April 26 Parish Council 10:00 a.m. in the Boardroom

April 29 Sew Day